

Recreation and Autism

[The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990](#) requires recreation programs to make accommodations and supports for people with disabilities, providing the same access to recreation as those without disabilities. Yet, an accessible program means more than allowing people with disabilities to participate in the same activities. Teamwork from all parties involved is needed to create a welcoming and accommodating environment that results in the development of friendships and sharing of experiences between people. Through the development of relationships, the stereotypes and stigmas associated with disabilities can and will be eliminated.

Recreation or parks programs run by townships, park districts, municipalities, counties, school districts, and the state must adhere to the ADA law. In this section, Make Friends with Autism has provided reference and resource materials to aid in the adoption of the ADA law. We have also provided you with sample welcome statements, invitation to participate language, communication guides and tips from professionals. Make Friends with Autism encourages you to review your current program(s) and adopt the changes necessary to make sure the environment is inclusive and fun for everyone.

www.childrens-specialized.org/KohlsAutismAwareness

For more information about this program contact: KohlsAutismAwareness@childrens-specialized.org