



Recreation Specialist

Area of Concentration: Inclusion (Placement & Partner Agency Relations)
(Full-Time, Exempt)

At NSSRA, we believe that everyone deserves the chance to play. Formed in 1970 with that goal in mind, we were the first Special Recreation Association in the country, offering programs and services for children, teens, and adults with disabilities. We are similar to a park district; however, we only serve residents in our partner communities with special needs.

Fifty years later, we serve approximately 1,800 individuals throughout the year in the northern suburbs of Chicago. We're all about creating an environment of belonging through play, and we want you to be a part of our team!

ABOUT THE JOB

Members of Team NSSRA are dedicated individuals with enthusiasm and initiative. The Recreation Specialist is responsible for the coordination and implementation of safe, high-quality recreation services for individuals with disabilities of all ages.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Direct leadership of recreation programs and overnight trips for individuals with disabilities of all ages.
- Supervise individuals by utilizing behavior management, transferring and other skills necessary for the overall independence and participation of individuals with disabilities.
- Develop, implement, evaluate, and follow through on participant plans.
- Drive agency vehicles, transport program participants and assist in care and maintenance of NSSRA vehicles as required.
- Assist in the daily management of programs through planning, paperwork and record keeping systems.
- Recruit, hire, train, supervise and evaluate part-time seasonal employees and volunteers.
- Conduct program and participant observations as requested and complete all necessary observation forms.
- Under the supervision and direction of the Recreation Manager, work as a team to coordinate, supervise, implement, and evaluate the Inclusion services provided by NSSRA.
- Develop comprehensive knowledge of Inclusion to serve as the key liaison to new and current participants and families, employees and partner agencies in this area.
- Attend meetings and conduct disability-specific educational sessions for partner agencies.
- Respond to inquiries about Inclusion, and evaluate the need for Inclusion support.
- Assist with participant challenges at Inclusion sites by conducting onsite training, offering program adaptations, or creating behavior management tools.
- Secure and assign part-time/seasonal employees for requested Inclusion placements based on the schedule and determined needs of the participant.
- Communicate status of Inclusion requests on a weekly basis with partner agency employees and families.

- Comply with safe work requirements and customer service standards, and encourage other staff members to do the same.
- Perform other duties as assigned necessary for the efficient and effective operation of NSSRA.

ABOUT YOU

- Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation, recreation administration, special education, adaptive physical education, or a related field.
- Ability to sit for the NCTRC (National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification) or comparable certification within six (6) months of employment.
- Demonstrable knowledge of disabilities and the recreational needs of persons with disabilities without exclusion.
- Knowledge and/or training in the area of therapeutic recreation, recreation, special education, adaptive physical education or a related field.
- Must have reliable transportation to visit other NSSRA locations as needed to accomplish position responsibilities.

SCHEDULING & PAY

This is a full-time, year-round position that requires evening and weekend work. Salary is \$47,500 to \$53,500 a year, dependent on qualifications.

BENEFITS WE OFFER

NSSRA offers a generous benefit package which includes: medical, prescription and dental coverage, vision reimbursement, life insurance, pension plan, and paid time off.

JOIN THE TEAM

Complete an online application at www.nssra.org/jobs to schedule an interview.

The position is open until filled. Please apply early as recruiting and interviewing will begin immediately.

NSSRA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.