



Activity Participant Info

Our students have one or more of the following: High-functioning Autism, ADHD, and learning disabilities. Due to this, many of our students do not understand certain social cues. They may do or say things that are inappropriate at times. However, they are adults and understand when they're treated less than such. The primary service you are offering to our students is the opportunity to learn from individuals their age that have similar life experiences. This protocol is to help you understand what to expect and how to act, so that all parties involved may have a positive experience. In order for the students to best learn from their interaction with you, please keep in mind the following:

- You will not abuse our students in any way, including physically, verbally, sexually, or mentally.
- You will be required to keep all information of students confidential. Please don't share their names or photographs or any stories revealing their identities to anyone.
- You may not be alone with any student. Time spent with students should be in groups only. Please visit with a recreation therapy staff if you have questions regarding this.
- Please do not exchange any personal information with our students, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, cell phone numbers, and addresses.
- Please be a positive role model. Our students are learning from you, so if you act inappropriately, then you are signaling that it is okay for them to do the same.
- Remember that this is for the SVA students – **not you**. If the students are not being assertive, please don't take over. Instead, help the students take initiative.
- Let the students know if they are making you feel uncomfortable – and state **why** – they cannot correct a behavior if they don't know what it is.
- As a general rule, please don't be sarcastic. Most of them take things literally, so sarcasm comes across as mean-spirited and rude.
- As a general rule, please don't touch the students. Many of our students have sensory sensitivities. Touching may be overwhelming to them. In addition, it may send wrong messages. Once you get to know the students and they are comfortable with touch, then you can go ahead with appropriate touch like: high-fives, fist bumps, pat on the shoulder, etc.
- Don't use your "baby voice" – using a "baby voice" is belittling. It also makes the students feel like a service project. **They are adults, so please treat them as such.** Be aware that "bubbiness" may come off as condescending. The best way to interact with the student is to match their vibe. If they are feeling enthusiastic, be enthusiastic. If they are more laid-back, then be more laid-back.
- Please don't use our equipment and resources without permission and please don't abuse the privilege if you are granted access.
- This document was not created to prevent meaningful friendships and relationships with our students. If you and a student have genuine connection and interest in each other, please visit with a Recreation Staff regarding an exception to this agreement.

Thank you for coming to socialize with our students. If you are planning to volunteer frequently, please speak with a recreation therapist to sign necessary paperwork.

Sincerely, ScenicView Academy