

# 10 Things Social Organizations and Associations Can Do To Include Youth with Disabilities:

- ◆ Orient new youth members as they join to assure that they understand the purpose and the goals of the group as the group changes and grows.
- ◆ Consider providing a mentor or mentors to new members.
- ◆ Find meaningful roles and specific activities for the youth to do.
- ◆ Keep accessibility in mind when planning trips and activities. Work with the youth and family to develop accommodations.
- ◆ Consider breaking the large group into small, assigned groups for some activities, to encourage interaction across members.
- ◆ Personally invite youth with disabilities to join clubs or organizations. Don't rely on the standard recruitment tools: flyers, sign-up forms, etc.
- ◆ Ask in advance if you can assist with arranging for accommodations or accessible transportation to meetings and other gatherings or events.
- ◆ Consider universal design elements that can be used with all members, such as large print for all hand-outs.

- ◆ Pay attention to each youth's strengths and interests when planning activities, and encourage each youth to share what they are good at with the group.
- ◆ Ask youth with disabilities what your group can do to be more welcoming of other youth with disabilities.

*Waisman Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Developed in collaboration with the Healthy & Ready to Work Youth Advisory Board members.*

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