



We exist to provide outstanding opportunities through recreation for children and adults with disabilities.

March 17, 2020

Dear Part-Time Team Members:

Like you, NWSRA has been closely monitoring the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation; taking into consideration the guidelines and safety information released daily by local, state and national subject matter experts. While our mission is to provide outstanding opportunities through recreation for children and adults with disabilities, we are also firmly committed to the health and safety of staff, participants and families. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, NWSRA made the difficult decision to suspend all programs and services and close all program sites to the public starting Friday, March 13 through and including Sunday, March 29. Unfortunately, the subject matter experts are communicating that these suspensions and closures may need to last well beyond March 29; their length is just simply unknown.

NWSRA truly values each and every team member. When operating, we rely on our approximately 190 part-time staff to help individuals with disabilities make friends, have fun, go new places, learn new things, be included and celebrate their lives. Unfortunately, these are unprecedented times in our nation and throughout our communities. The COVID-19 virus is having a negative impact on us all, personally and professionally. We recognize these program suspensions due to COVID-19 mean you, as a part-time team member, are not able to be scheduled to work. NWSRA relies in part on revenues generated from its programs to ensure financial sustainability. Due to the unprecedented impact of these revenue losses, coupled with an uncertain return date for programming, NWSRA must make tough decisions to ensure the viability of future programming. At this time, we just cannot responsibly pay our approximately 190 part-time team members for hours not actually worked. Please trust, these difficult decisions are not taken lightly, and your understanding of the overall situation is greatly appreciated.

Be aware, the Illinois Department of Employment Securities (IDES) has advised under emergency rules instituted by Governor Pritzker an individual temporarily laid off due to the COVID-19 situation could qualify for unemployment benefits. To learn more, please visit ides.illinois.gov.

Again, know NWSRA truly values you, our approximately 190 part-time team members. It is important to remember, these program suspensions are temporary in nature. We thank you for your understanding during this difficult and stressful time, and look forward to the future when we can get you back to work at NWSRA.

Sincerely,

Tracey Crawford, CTRS, CPRP
Executive Director



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