

### *YC Participant Eligibility Description*

Youth Challenge (YC) serves children and young adults with physical disabilities, including, but not limited to, orthopedic and neurological impairments, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy, amputation, and hearing loss or blindness. YC provides activities that are adapted to meet the needs of individuals who use assistive devices such as walkers, manual or power wheelchairs, or who have vision loss, or are deaf or hard of hearing.

Development of social skills is an essential component of YC's program activities, so YC participants must be able to engage with peers in age-appropriate activities. Safety for all participants, volunteers, and staff is critically important in all YC programs. As a result, YC participants must be able to both engage with and respond appropriately to directions from volunteers and staff.

YC retains the discretion to determine whether an individual appears to have, or continues to demonstrate, the ability to participate safely and appropriately in its programming.

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### *Supplemental Details*

A person having a permanent physical disability, which limits their participation in able-bodied sports or recreational activities, may participate in Youth Challenge activities. Please see below for specific eligibility criteria:

- Must be age 4 or older.
- Has physical impairment due to orthopedic, neurological, visual, hearing, or craniofacial medical conditions.
- Requires modification to participate in leisure and sports activities due to physical disability.
- Able to benefit from participation in group activities.
- Able and willing to interact socially with a volunteer, YC staff, and other participants.
- Able to follow directions, be alert and oriented.
- Free of disruptive behavioral issues that would create a danger to self or others.
- Cognitively able to participate in the program at an appropriate developmental level.

Other notes:

- Many YC participants can walk but are limited when competing against athletes without disabilities.
- In most cases, no physical disability is too severe to prevent a person from participating, but some athletic activities may be disability specific.
- YC sports and recreation programs can be fast-paced, challenging, and competitive. YC also offers recreational and artistic opportunities for individuals who prefer a more leisurely type of activity. The organization provides an opportunity to exercise, make new friends, develop social and teamwork skills, increase confidence, and have fun!
- All YC sports are co-ed.

