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## **PHS Top Spots names best places for families with special needs**

*Resource list includes 12 categories of accessible, inclusive options across Minnesota*

**St. Paul, Minn.** – Pediatric Home Service, PHS, has released its 2018 Top Spots list. This second annual statewide resource list makes it easier for families with special needs to find the best spots in Minnesota that are set up to accommodate the unique considerations regarding wheelchair, medical equipment accessibility, safety concerns and more that are factored into travel outside a special needs family's home.

“The PHS Top Spots list provides Minnesota’s special needs families a tool to get out in the community in a safe and more convenient way, by knowing the spots that are set up to accommodate their needs,” said Mark Hamman, president of PHS. “Here at PHS, we want all children to thrive and we hope the insights from other special needs families allows for everyone to get out of the house to enjoy new experiences and activities.”

In Minnesota, PHS supports over 5,000 children with medical complexities, their families and the community around these children, striving to make a meaningful impact on how they live and what they experience. The Minnesota Department of Health estimates children with special needs range from 160,000-200,000 statewide.

The PHS Top Spots list was compiled by surveying special needs families across the state. This niche community voted on organizations in 12 categories including family friendly and all-inclusive spots for an active lifestyle, adaptive sport organizations, getaways and more.

### **The PHS 2018 Top Spots winners include:**

#### Top Active Lifestyle Places:

- **Adaptive playground:** [Madison's Place](#) – Woodbury, MN
- **Adaptive/accessible sport organization:** [Minnesota Special Olympics](#)
- **Family support group/organization:** [HopeKids](#)
- **Indoor play space:** [Mall of America](#) – Bloomington, MN

#### Top Pastimes:

- **Parent blog/online group/podcast:** [Twin Cities Mom Blog](#)
- **Museum:** [Children's Museum of MN](#)
- **Public library:** [Woodbury Library](#)

- **Entertainment venue:** [Target Field](#)
- **Place to recharge:** A Lake or Up North

Top Getaways:

- **State park:** [Gooseberry Falls](#)
- **Family overnight getaway:** [Edgewater Hotel & Water Park – Duluth, MN](#)
- **Summer camp:** [Camp Odayin](#)

As a winner in the adaptive sports category for two consecutive years, Special Olympics MN says they are always working together to build inclusive communities.

“At Special Olympics Minnesota, we strive for much more than sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities,” said Mark Anderson, Director of Program. “Through our Unified movement, we have athletes with and without intellectual disabilities playing on the same teams and working together to build inclusive communities. Through the power of sports we’re breaking down barriers and helping us all make strides toward building a more inclusive community.”

You can find the PHS Top Spots list as a digital download at [PHSTopSpots.com](#)

### **About Pediatric Home Service**

Based in St. Paul, Minn., Pediatric Home Service is an independent pediatric home care company that helps children with medical complexities and technology dependencies live safely and successfully where they're most comfortable, at home with their families, rather than in a hospital. Pediatric Home Service has been partnering with health care professionals and family caregivers for more than two decades to deliver compassionate, specialized, high-quality care to children with special medical needs.

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