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PHS Top Spots names best places for families with special needs

Third annual resource list includes accessible, inclusive options in Minnesota

St. Paul, Minn. – Pediatric Home Service, PHS, has released its 2019 Top Spots list with help of [patient advocate, Maisy](#). This third 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.

“At Pediatric Home Service we know that taking care of the child means taking care of the whole family,” said Cameo Zehnder, PHS CEO. “We strive to provide resources beyond just caring for physical needs, so that families with special accommodations feel empowered to get out and take advantage of what our great community and state offers.”

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 2019 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:** [Gillette Special Needs Support Group](#)
- **Museum:** [Science Museum of MN](#)- St. Paul, MN
- **Public library:** [R.H. Stafford Library](#)- Woodbury, MN
- **Entertainment venue:** [Target Field](#)- Minneapolis, MN

Top Getaways:

- **State park:** [Gooseberry Falls](#) – North of Two Harbors, MN
- **Family overnight getaway:** [Edgewater Hotel and Waterpark](#)- Duluth, MN
- **Summer camp:** [True Friends Camp Friendship](#) – Annandale, MN
- **Place to recharge:** A lake or up north

11 year-old Maisy, a former PHS patient, assisted in delivering trophies this year.

“We brought a patient advocate into the mix because who better to distribute awards than someone who directly benefits from these amazing places?” said Zehnder.

Click [here](#) to see PHS patient advocate Maisy distributing a few of the 2019 PHS Top Spots awards.

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

About Pediatric Home Service

Based in St. Paul, Minn., with an office location in Pewaukee, Wisc., 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 nearly three decades to deliver compassionate, specialized, high-quality care to children with special medical needs.

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