

## Participants with Special Needs

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We can accommodate almost all special needs. However, we need to know the details of their needs beforehand in order to prepare. Some special needs (such as a wheelchair rappel for example) require specific gear to be shipped in addition to our regular gear. Please note that some rappels with special needs take up more than 1 rappel spot. Here are some general guidelines.

### **WHEELCHAIR**

If an individual would like to rappel in a wheelchair, we need to know at least 30 days out. Special considerations need to be made regarding rigging beforehand. Most wheelchair rappels have been performed off davit arms or scaffolding. They can be done from our tripods, but there are several factors which need to be addressed prior. Easy access to the roof/edge as well as egress options (once the rappel is completed), are also considerations. Obstacles such as a high parapet, cobblestone roof or ladder hatches can slow things down. A wheelchair rappel requires additional rigging time since extra ropes need to be hung and extra personnel are needed in aiding the participant. Please note that most wheelchair rappels take up several rappel spots.

### **LIMITED USE OF LIMB/PROSTHETIC**

If the individual has limited use of an extremity, they may still be able to lower themselves under their own power. If that is the case, this may only require a small modification to equipment or rigging. This can also hold true to individuals who are missing a limb or have a prosthetic. Prosthetics need to be secured to ensure there is no chance that they can come off the individual during the rappel. In special circumstances, the prosthetics can be tethered. In the event the individual has limited mobility, considerations will need to be made regarding access, edge negotiation and egress. This may or may not require an additional Edger spot.

### **INDIVIDUALS WITH PHYSICAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

We have had fantastic experiences on rope with individuals with different kinds of physical and intellectual disabilities. Our experience has been that either the individuals themselves, or their caregivers, know exactly what they need in order to be successful. Usually the process starts with a conversation to clearly outline expectations. Oftentimes individuals only require some additional coaching. Other times, one of our technicians may choose to rappel with the individual to give them coaching or assist during the rappel. This may or may not require an additional Edger spot.