10 Things Social Organizations and Associations Can Do To Include Youth with Disabilities:

♦ Orient new youth members as they join to assure that they understand the purpose and the goals of the group as the group changes and grows.

♦ Consider providing a mentor or mentors to new members.

♦ Find meaningful roles and specific activities for the youth to do.

♦ Keep accessibility in mind when planning trips and activities. Work with the youth and family to develop accommodations.

♦ Consider breaking the large group into small, assigned groups for some activities, to encourage interaction across members.

♦ Personally invite youth with disabilities to join clubs or organizations. Don’t rely on the standard recruitment tools: flyers, sign-up forms, etc.

♦ Ask in advance if you can assist with arranging for accommodations or accessible transportation to meetings and other gatherings or events.

♦ Consider universal design elements that can be used with all members, such as large print for all hand-outs.
Pay attention to each youth’s strengths and interests when planning activities, and encourage each youth to share what they are good at with the group.

Ask youth with disabilities what your group can do to be more welcoming of other youth with disabilities.