

# *Nevada Recreation & Park Society*

## *Newsletter*

**ESTABLISHED 1967**



*it  
Always  
seems  
impossible  
until it's  
Done.*

- Nelson Mandela -

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# President's Corner

Angela Summers

Hello NRPS Members-

I'd like to start off by wishing you all a very happy holiday season! 2018 has been a great year for the Nevada Recreation & Park Society and we have accomplished a lot. I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of the large achievements made by our organization, as we prepare to kick off a new year!

- City of Henderson and City of Reno became the first NRPS Silver State Premier Members
- We added 227 new members to the society.
- The second year of the L.E.A.D.ership institute began with over 35+ participants and mentors
- NRPS added two new committees -Young Professional and the Legacy Committee

If you haven't had a chance to check out the updates we've made to our website and social media accounts, please take a minute to visit them at [www.nrps.org](http://www.nrps.org). We'd love to hear your feedback!

We are getting very excited to host the 2019 Annual NRPS Conference in South Lake Tahoe, April 8-11, 2019. Speaker registration and award nominations are still open! Please visit our website for more information and make it a New Year's resolution to join NRPS this year! NRPS provides invaluable resources, tools, advocacy and events that strengthen Nevada's public park and recreation industry and its professionals.

NRPS membership benefits include: Northern and Southern Districts business luncheon/networking meetings, the Annual State Conference, weekly updates and news briefs, discounts on most conferences and training opportunities (most of which offer affordable CEU's) statewide membership directory, scholarships and awards. Lastly, members are encouraged to become involved in leadership positions within the organization. The Board of Directors is comprised of elected members throughout the state, who volunteer time to provide leadership and direction for the Society.

# President's Corner

Angela Summers

Your agency can now enroll in our Silver State Premier Agency Package, an all-inclusive membership package provides agencies with maximum value and convenience to NRPS's exceptional tools and resources. With the Silver State Premier Package, your entire team can make the most of both the individual membership benefits and the exceptional premier membership benefits. Agencies will now have the ability to purchase memberships for their employees, or can simply send out a code and employees have the option to purchase their own discounted memberships.

We wanted to sincerely thank you for your support of NRPS throughout the years and look forward to seeing you in 2019! Wishing all of you and your families, a safe and joyful holiday season!



*Angela Summers*  
NRPS President

"Don't just be an identity,  
be a story."

# 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Why don't we step*  
**OUTSIDE?**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2019 NRPS CONFERENCE**

*April 8-11, 2019*  
*South Lake Tahoe*

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT COULD HAPPEN OUT OF THE BLEU

*Thank you to Exhibitors for supporting NRPS*



THIRD DEGREE RECREATION





# 2019 NRPS AWARDS

NRPS Awards are presented to individuals and agencies to recognize their professional and personal efforts in the fields of parks and recreation. The Awards Committee receives and distributes all submissions which are then carefully reviewed by a panel of NRPS members from around the State. Their responsibility is to select the most outstanding nominations for recognition. Awards will be presented at the 2019 NRPS Conference Awards Banquet the MontBleu Resort in South Lake Tahoe. Award submissions are due by Thursday, March 1, 2019.

This year, we will be taking submissions online. We recommend you gather all your submission material and write any descriptions or narratives prior to visiting the awards submission form online. You will not be able to stop and restart your submission, it must be completed in one sitting.

## **2019 Award Categories:**

Nomination timeline is January 4 - March 1, 2019.

### **Park Related Awards:**

- Elmer H. Anderson Park Excellence Award
- Silver State Legacy Park Award

### **Program Related Awards:**

- Program Excellence Awards

### **Professional Related Awards:**

- Fellowship Award
- Citation Award
- Dundee Award
- Young Professional Award

**VISIT [WWW.NPRS.ORG](http://WWW.NPRS.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION**



# JOIN US FOR TWO NIGHTS OF FUN!

2019 NRPS CONFERENCE



## OPENING NIGHT SOCIAL EVENT

MONDAY, APRIL 8 FROM 7-9PM

HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED THE OLYMPICS, SEEN CURLING AND THOUGHT...

**"I COULD EASILY BE AN OLYMPIAN!"**

WELL, HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE YOUR STUFF AT THE ANNUAL NRPS CONFERENCE.



**TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED.**  
VANS PROVIDED BY CITY OF RENO AND DOUGLAS COUNTY



**RSVP ON YOUR REGISTRATION IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING.**



**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE ICE ARENA**  
1178 RUFUS ALLEN BLVD.  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150



## CLOSING NIGHT SOCIAL EVENT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 FROM 6-9PM

COME SOCIALIZE AND NETWORK WITH YOUR FELLOW RECREATION PROFESSIONALS INSIDE THE BLU NIGHTCLUB AT THE MONTBLEU RESORT!

WE WILL HAVE KARAOKE, POP-A-SHOT, CORN HOLE AND OTHER FUN GAMES/ACTIVITIES AFTER THE CONFERENCE.



**MONTBLEU RESORT**  
55 HIGHWAY 50  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, NV 89449

**REGISTER TODAY AT:**  
[WWW.NRPS.ORG](http://WWW.NRPS.ORG)

# Collaborating for the Community

by Gabi Lopez - City of Henderson

The Whitney Ranch Recreation Center has recently partnered with Three Square to help meet the needs of the youth in the area. The facility is sandwiched in between two elementary schools and one middle school. All three schools are within a 0.3 mile radius of the facility and all three are Title I schools where over 62% of the students are receiving free lunch. Because of economic factors in the service area, there are many parents who cannot afford to pay for afterschool care at the schools thus the facility attracts anywhere from 75 to 100 children a day.

In order to help close the achievement gap, Three Square has brought its Kid Café program to the Whitney Ranch Recreation Center where these children can be fed. Kids Café is designed to ensure children without access to regular nutrition receive a healthy meal after school because inadequate nutrition in childhood has been shown to have a deliberate effect on a child's cognitive function which often leads to lower academic achievement. The program has had great success so far and is feeding 75 children daily. This is just one small step Whitney Ranch is taking to service its community and is part of a greater City of Henderson initiative that will soon be implemented in 2019 where the overall goal is to facilitate equitable educational opportunities for Henderson students.



# *Fish Stories: How to tell the stories of your successes*

*By Pat O'Mara, MBA, CPRP*

For the last two years, I have been a member of the Awards Committee for the Nevada Recreation and Parks Society. During that time, I have seen some amazing programs, parks and facilities come through that we as members have submitted for awards. As recreation professionals, we are not just programmers, maintenance staff and supervisors, we also council staff, provide customer service, and generally MacGyver equipment into submission so we can do our jobs.

When the recession hit many years ago, Nevada was hit extremely hard, so many of us have a lot to do with very little resources. The focus of our time is providing the programs and services we are charged with, leaving little time for us to tout our successes. Fortunately, when we appear in front of a commission, council or board, there is a simple process we can use to develop our presentation. Just think about telling your fish story. If you have ever gone on a camping trip, and fished for your food, you know that everyone wants to hear the story of how you caught it over the campfire. So think of that experience, and tell your story... Now, I don't know you all, so let me just tell you that I have an odd, and often sarcastic sense of humor, so bear with me here.

Think about showing off your catch. What do people look at? The fish. They see the hook, the head, the body, and the tail. These are the four sections your presentation.

**HOOK** your audience on the information you are there to share. This is the thesis statement of your presentation. In this section, tell your audience just how much of an accomplishment this was – with just a few details. In this section, you will also include the necessities, such as introducing yourself to the board for the record.

The **HEAD** of the presentation is where you will give your audience the road map of the details you will present. In this section, you will lay out the case for what specific information you will be giving the audience. Don't give them the narrative of the camping trip you took, you took to run the program to such a success, tell them what stops you made along the way. For this section, you tell your audience what you are going to tell them. For instance, tell them that you did the review of best practices – not the results of the review. Let them know that you had planning sessions – not how you planned or who you planned with. Finally, tell them you hosted the event/program beginning on a certain date - not how the event turned out.

The BODY of the presentation is where you get to the ‘meat’ of your information. Go into the details you talked about in the HEAD section. Tell them what you found in the best practices review, what you did in planning this program, what resources you used, and how the program turned out. How many people came to the program? What was the financial impact of the program? Just as the body is the most important part of the fish when you’re out camping, this section is the most pertinent part of the presentation. A word of caution here... Do not exaggerate on your presentation like you would with the story of your actual fish. Tell them the truth, but don’t be modest. You did a great thing, and had great results – Let them know.

The TAIL of your presentation is to wrap everything up into a nice little summary. Recap the information you just shared with them so they remember the key points of the presentation. Our goal with presentations to our boards, commissions or councils is to sell ourselves and our programs to those who need to remember us when it comes time for budget discussions. Leave them with a memorable thought about you and your programs. Just as the HEAD tells the audience what you are going to tell them, and the BODY tells them what you are telling them, the TAIL tells the audience what you just told them. As humans, we don’t always take information in on the first attempt, so tell them using this method three times.

Our organizations do great things for the citizens of Nevada, and often with little resources. Celebrate your successes. Get recognized for your hard work. One way to do this is to submit your programs and coworkers for awards and recognition when available. The Nevada Recreation and Parks Society has annual awards. They recognize the parks, programs and professionals in our state doing great things for our citizens. The nomination timeframe is January 4, 2019 - March 1, 2019, and the award categories and criteria can be found at [www.nrps.org](http://www.nrps.org). Look into them. Submit yourself or a co-worker and their programs and parks, and get the state-wide recognition you deserve, so you too can tell your fish story.

Life and fishing, are very similar you never know what's at the end of the line.

- David Humphries



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# **Collaboration Parks and Rec Style**

**By Priscilla Smith - City of Las Vegas**

So many times in Parks and Recreation we see amazing programs by amazing staff and think it is unattainable. The truth is many of us create programs with vast potential yet we become our greatest obstacle and detriment. About a year and a half ago shortly after my son was born, I was looking for a playgroup or mommy group that could accommodate my family and I could only find a private organization that charged a hefty price. It was in this program that I saw where my facility and programs were lacking. We didn't have any programs to fit my own family demographic. I started researching and building a program. After it was approved, I had so many responsibilities that I kept putting it off. My supervisor added it into an upcoming brochure and I was mortified since I hadn't finished a curriculum. I kept relying on the fact that I had a little bit of time. As someone who grew up in City programs and has been working in this role for quite some time, I oversee some high priority programs. As we got closer and closer to our start date, I still had other priorities.

When my supervisor reassigned my program to one of our newer coworkers I was so worried. I was the kid on the playground with all the toys playing alone. Her taking one of my "toys" and giving it away was so scary. Would this new employee care about it? Would she do it right? Does she know what she's doing? Every time she asked me a question, I silently cringed and played every scenario out in my head of her killing my program. Then I realized I wasn't giving my teammate the tools and resources that I had to help her succeed. At this rate, I was the one killing my own program yet making her the fall guy. I shifted and started giving her ideas, sending her videos and answering her questions. She worked hard at developing a curriculum and finding suitable staff. She spent hours rearranging equipment and the room. We did test runs with staff and their children, including mine. Not only did I provide feedback, but staff and other supervisors did as well. The beauty was she was so open to feedback and willing to learn. She had contagious positive energy. When the program launched we heard nothing but positive feedback. Now it continues to grow and the best part is that I no longer worry about it. She is successfully on her own. True collaboration and growth occur when we stop worrying about ourselves and start helping one another. It is the responsibility of more seasoned staff to pass along useful information and mentorship to rookie staff for the success of our programs.

fun!



# Get Outside and Explore!

**By Kate Bloomfield - Clark County**

Busy season for most park and recreation facilities both private and public begins Memorial Day and ends with Labor Day. Park and recreation departments throughout the Las Vegas valley provided recreation opportunities for thousands of residents this Summer. Day camps, swimming, sporting leagues and classes for all types of skills ranging from crafts to hobbies were available to the community. Give yourself a pat on the back Recreation professional and take a deep breath, Fall looks like it might be busy, too.

After looking through many of the program schedules for Fall, fall programming will provide many of the same opportunities for the valley residents to recharge after hectic school or work schedules. For those of us living in the desert Fall means cooler weather, but still pleasant weather for outdoor activities. As park and recreation professionals we know the benefits of spending time in our urban green spaces, even as little as 10 minutes can reduce stress and lower blood pressure, but how many of us allow ourselves time outdoors? Like the rest of the residents of the valley we need to recreate to rejuvenate. Fall and Winter are perfect times to get outdoors. A refreshed park and recreation professional are more prepared to create quality programming for the community they serve.

Cooler weather combined with a less hectic schedule makes Fall the perfect time to rediscover your own facility or explore the valley for your new favorite place to refresh. I can count on a walk through the Nature Preserve of the Clark County Wetlands Park to reboot my creativity. The Wetlands Park is the valley's best kept secret. Along the Las Vegas Wash the park is 7 miles long providing 14-miles of multi-use trails, a 210-acre Nature Preserve, with 3 miles of ADA accessible trails and interconnecting dirt paths. The Wetland Walkers Program rewards you for the miles you log while enjoying the park. After each visit, add your distance on-line and earn cool Wetland Park swag like hats, pedometer, or tote bag. The programs goal is for all participants to

collectively walk the distance that the focus species migrates each year. This year's species the Black-necked Stilt, migrates 2,500 miles each direction for a total of 5,000 miles. Fortunately, I work at this beautiful piece of nature. I only need to walk out of the building to find my inspiration and log miles. Many of my best program ideas seem to come just after a walk on the trails and many creative blocks disappear after some time outdoors. I encourage you to find your inspiration place and visit it often.

Kate Bloomfield works at the Clark County Wetlands Park where she leads Young Explorers, Nature Tales, and crafts for kids. She developed and leads the Curious Cottontails program and also supports the rest of the Wetlands team in all the wonderful programs, school field trips and events offered.

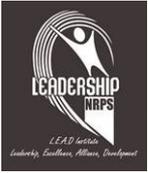


GET LOST  
IN NATURE  
AND YOU  
WILL FIND  
YOURSELF

A graphic featuring three stylized evergreen trees of varying heights on the left. To the right of the trees, the text "GET LOST IN NATURE AND YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in five lines.

Explore

The word "Explore" is written in a black, elegant cursive font. A vertical line extends from the bottom of the letter 'o', ending in a simple arrowhead pointing downwards.



# LEAD INSTITUTE



The Nevada Recreation & Park Society's LEAD Institute is a new annual leadership development program for early, mid-career and seasoned professionals. Leadership development is critical to both public and parks and recreation employees. It provides participants and agencies with skill sets, competencies, and a growing expertise that improves leadership ability and fosters individual and organizational success.

This three-year program will enhance individual organizational leadership skills, specifically addressing leadership styles, philosophies, and competencies. In addition, the program explores and introduces emerging approaches of integrating leadership development and personal growth.

The course is designed to provide participatory and collaborative leadership and allows participants to learn from instructors and their fellow classmates. The intent is to prepare leaders with essential skills that will better prepare them for future challenges that require strategic thinking, collaboration, systems thinking, and leading change.

## **Why should I attend the NRPS LEAD Institute?**

- To prepare for current and future organizational leadership roles.
- To strengthen your personal knowledge base about leadership and its relationship to organizational success.
- To strengthen your knowledge base about leadership principles and activities.
- To reflect a personal commitment to the parks and recreation profession.
- To demonstrate an awareness and commitment to personal and professional growth.
- To be a part of succession planning for yourself and your organization.

**For more information: Angela Summers, LEAD Institute Coordinator**

**702-267-5806**

**[angela.summers@cityofhenderson.com](mailto:angela.summers@cityofhenderson.com) or visit [www.nrps.org](http://www.nrps.org)**

# Certification Guide



## **Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) Certification**

The Certified Park and Recreation Professional certification is the national standard for all parks and recreation professionals who want to be at the forefront of their profession. Attaining the CPRP designation shows that you have met education and experience qualifications, and illustrates your commitment to the profession as well as your knowledge and understanding of key concepts within parks and recreation.



## **Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) Certification**

The Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) establishes a national standard for managerial, administrative and executive parks and recreation professionals. This mastery-level credential focuses on the practical knowledge and current real-world skills necessary in today's changing park and recreation environment



## **Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) Certification**

The National Recreation and Park Association offers the industry leading certification program in playground safety, the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) Certification program. The CPSI certification program provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety issues including hazard identification, equipment specifications, surfacing requirements and risk management methods.

For more information please visit [nrpa.org/certification](http://nrpa.org/certification)

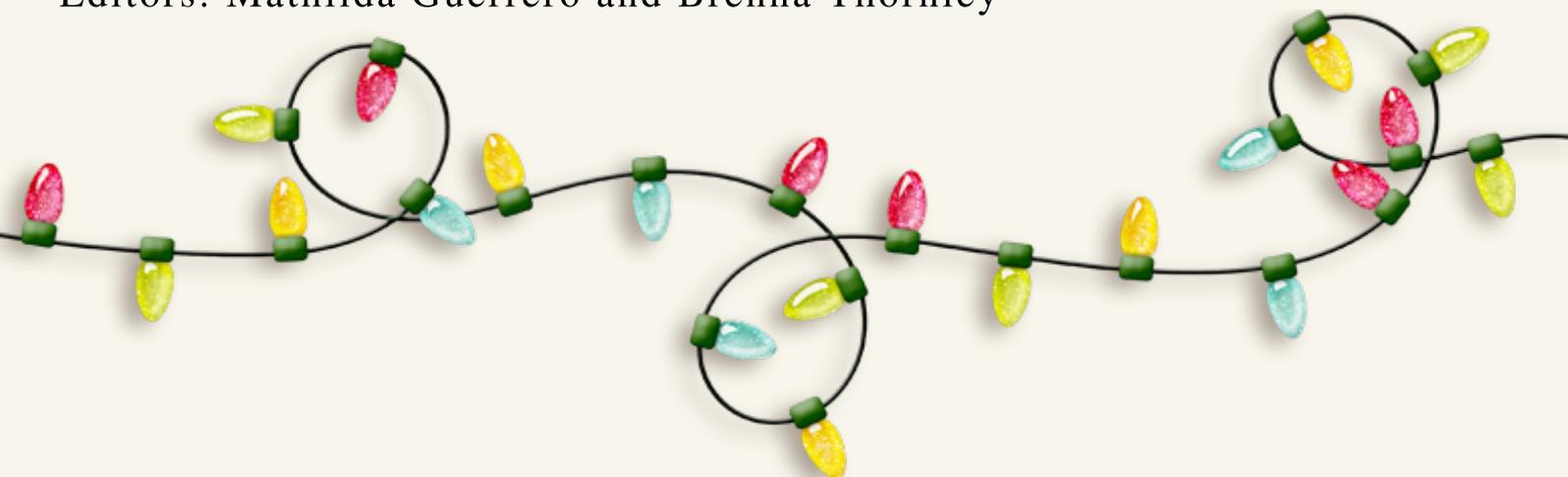


# Want to submit in the newsletter?

**Article Requirements:** At least 250 words, but no longer than 500. Please submit your article with your name, title, organization and photo. Articles must be PROOFREAD and free of typing/grammatical errors! Please include at least 2-3 pictures for your articles in jpg or png format.

Please send your articles to Mike Freeman at [mfreeman@carson.org](mailto:mfreeman@carson.org) or Dave Castle at [david.castle@cityofhenderson.com](mailto:david.castle@cityofhenderson.com)

Editors: Mathilda Guerrero and Brenna Thornley





# **YOUR NRPS EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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