



The American  
Academy for Park &  
Recreation Administration

*Dedicated to Research,  
Knowledge, Education  
and Service.*

[www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org)  
217-586-3360

## Purpose

The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration is a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) IRS educational organization created in 1980 by fifty founding members.

The Academy was formed to:

- **Advance knowledge** related to the administration of parks, recreation and conservation
- **Encourage scholarly efforts** by both practitioners and educators that would enhance the practice of park and recreation administration
- **Promote broader public understanding** of the importance of parks, recreation and conservation to the public good
- **Conduct research**, publish scholarly papers, and sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration
- **Provide services** either directly, indirectly or in partnership, that advance the profession

## Who are the Academy Members?

**Membership in the Academy is made up of practitioners and educators** who have served for at least fifteen years or more, either in a high level of administration in parks, recreation, and conservation or as a recognized educator in the field. Members must have demonstrated leadership contributing to the advancement of these fields and be willing to participate in Academy projects. Membership is limited to 125 practicing professionals at any one time, of which no more than 25% may be educators. In addition, members can hold emeritus status after they retire. For a complete list of members go to [www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org).

## Select Projects of the Academy

1. The **Journal of Park and Recreation Administration**, in partnership with Sagamore Publishing, Inc. is an official publication of the Academy. The Journal was established to bridge the gap between research and practice for administrators, educators, consultants, and researchers.

The Journal publishes distinguished original manuscripts that:

- Move theoretical management concepts forward in the field of park and recreation administration; and,
- Provide clear implications of theory and research for problem solving and action in park and recreation organizations.

2. **Professional Services** to park and recreation agencies and institutions are provided through certain **Consultation** and **Other Services**. The **Consultation Services** are offered in related disciplines free of charge, except for expenses, to provide public agencies and institutions with guidance to help with problems and opportunities that enhance the quality of park, recreation, and conservation services around the country. **Other Services** can provide Speeches, Lectures, Open Discussions, Various Workshops, and more, also free of charge, except for expenses. Occasionally services may be provided in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the principal membership organization for professionals and citizen advocates at all levels in these fields.

3. **The National Gold Medal Awards Program** is a program of the Academy in cooperation with NRPA and sponsored by Musco Lighting. The Gold Medals honor communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development, and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials. Awards are presented annually in conjunction with the NRPA Congress for Parks and Recreation.

4. The Honorable Cornelius Amory **Pugsley Medals** are the most prestigious awards which recognize individuals at all levels who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion and development of services and resources that constitute public parks and conservation practices in the United States. Each year at the annual Academy Banquet, up to three Pugsley Medals honoring extraordinary service are awarded. The Academy identifies candidates and selects recipients for the medals in association with the National Parks Foundation who produce the medals.

5. The Academy and NRPA oversee the selection of members for the **Robert W. Crawford Recreation and Park Hall of Fame**. The leaders recognized in the Hall of Fame serve as icons for future leaders in guiding the recreation and park movement into the 21st Century.

6. **The Legends of Parks and Recreation Videotape Library** consists of videotaped interviews with distinguished administrators and educators who have been selected to be honored for outstanding contributions to the field of parks and recreation. The interviews record their personal background, professional insights, advice and philosophical beliefs and are available for educational and other uses.

7. **The Park Practices Publications** is now an official program of the Academy. This highly respected and reputable series of publications originated years ago through the National Park Service and a predecessor organization of the current NRPA. That series ended in the 1990s, but in recent years a renewed interest within the profession to revive this program led to this response by the Academy. Working primarily with Sagamore Publications, Inc. of Illinois, and Clemson University, of South Carolina, the Academy is offering an electronic subscription series of publications to include treatments of subjects such as the former *Trends*, *Grist*, and *Design* periodicals of the old program. This new effort will again target professionals in the parks, recreation and conservation fields, and involve them in providing its content. It will seek to present the "Best Practices" from the professions in today's world. NRPA also plans participation in the program through services-in-kind.

8. **The Young Professional Externship Program** enables outstanding young professionals 35 years of age and younger in the park and recreation field to interact with and learn from members of the Academy and other individuals who attend the NRPA Congress and its associated meetings. Up to four Externs are selected each year, two of which are part of the Academy's goal to expand diversity.

*For more information about the Academy or detailed information about any of the projects mentioned above, go to [www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org) or call 217-586-3360.*



The American  
Academy for Park &  
Recreation Administration

[www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org)

217-586-3360



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOY INK.