



Educator Nominee Scoring Criteria 2025 Nomination Cycle

3/6/25

Minimum Requirement

Educator must have served as a parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field educator **OR** has had experience in a high-level administrative position(s) related to parks, recreation, tourism, and/or related professions for a combined period of not less than 15 years as of January 1st of the year nominated. They must hold full professor rank or its equivalent. Successful candidate must have a history of excellence in teaching, research, and service in parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field. They must be active, continuous, and influential a leader in local, state, regional, national, and/or international professional organizations/associations. Consistent with their academic rank, successful candidates must have made significant contributions to knowledge through the scholarships of discovery, integration, and/or application in parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field. Their scholarly contributions must be through quality and influential publications and contributions to professional and scientific meetings.

Definition of Significant Impact

Through the nominee's direct and ongoing performance in teaching, research, and service, the nominee's record demonstrates continuous contributions that have advanced knowledge and/or informed policy and technique in parks and recreation at the local, state, regional, national, and/or international level.

Point of Note: For professional experience, significance of the impact should be reviewed based on their respective college/university and the type of institution. Carnegie classifies institutions by type: doctoral universities, master's colleges and universities, baccalaureate colleges, baccalaureate/associate colleges, etc. Each of the colleges/universities has different expectations regarding research, service, and teaching. For example. A nominee from a doctoral university will typically be more focused on research, than a nominee from a master's college as the typical focus is on teaching and services. The overall goal is to ensure that educators being selected have made a significant impact to their respective college/university and the profession.

Minimum Membership Criteria with Scoring Matrix

Professional Experience

The nominee may presently hold a faculty or administrative position at a university in a parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field program; **OR** has had experience in high-level administrative position(s) related to parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field. Must have attained the rank of full Professor (or similar level at the respective college/university) **OR** served as an administrator and as a recognized educator for a combined period of not less than fifteen (15) years as of January 1 the year nominated. Professional experience is defined as career path, years of service, and positions held.

Has made one or more **contributions of significance** to the institutions where they have worked, which is evidenced by:

- A national reputation
- Achieved tenure
- A history of significant contributions to curriculum development
- Courses created and/or significantly modified
- Extension of pedagogy to presentations and workshops
- Grants and contracts awarded

- Active role in the professional accreditation of their academic program
- Evidence of impact on students through advising on projects, theses, dissertations, and non-thesis projects
- Held significant service roles in departments, colleges or schools, and institutions of higher learning

Weight: 25%

Rank: 1-5

- 5= The nominee has made a **very significant contribution** to the institutions where they have worked, which is evident by a minimum of **three** of the items identified above.
- 4= The nominee has made a **very significant contribution** to the institutions where they have worked, which is evident by a minimum of **two** of the items identified above.
- 3= The nominee has made a **very significant contribution** to the institutions where they have worked, which is evident by a minimum of **one** of the items identified above.
- 2= The nominee has 20+ years of experience in administration and/or leadership in service roles in higher education with limited significant accomplishments for their institution.
- 1= The nominee has 15 years of experience in administration and/or leadership in service roles with limited significant accomplishments for their institution.

Education

The nominee’s education will include significant study of parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field. Nominee will hold, at minimum, a master’s degree (e.g., MS, MA, MPRTM, MBA), the minimum requirement for teaching at a 2- or 4-year college or university.

Weight: 5%

Rank 3-5

- 5= Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree
- 4= Master's degree in parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field, or specifically related to the job function
- 3= Master's degree in any other field

Professional Certifications:

Nominee must hold professional certifications that are expected of individuals who have their role, authority, and responsibility.

Weight: 5%

Rank: 1-5

- 5= Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE); Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS); Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP); ASLA (registered Landscape Architect); AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners); CPM (Certified Public Manager); Certified Forester (Society of American Foresters)
- 4= AFO, CPO, or CPSI
- 3= Graduation from a university program accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism, and Related Professions
- 1= Other related professional certification
- 0=No Certifications

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI)

The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) is committed to a culture of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) in the parks and recreation profession. The nominee shall demonstrate a commitment to JEDI through their efforts at their respective college/university and throughout the profession.

Individuals seeking nomination into AAPRA are required to agree to the AAPRA Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion [pledge](#) at the start of the nomination form.

Metric: The educator has made a **contribution of significance** to JEDI at their respective college/university and throughout the profession.

- Developed research and/or made presentations addressing JEDI as it relates to the administration of parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sport management or related field.
- Implemented courses and/or course curriculum related to JEDI in parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sport management or related field
- Advocated for issues related to JEDI at their respective college/university and throughout the profession, which resulted in demonstrative change
- Facilitated student involvement advocating a culture of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) in the parks and recreation profession
- Developed and implemented resources (research into practice) for the parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sport management or related field to address JEDI challenges/opportunities in their respective communities

Weight: 10%

Rank 1-5 (see spreadsheet for score tabulation)

- 5= The educator has made a **very significant contribution** to their respective college/university and throughout the profession which is evident a minimum of **three** of the items identified above:
- 4= The educator has made a **very significant contribution** their respective college/university and throughout the profession. which is evident a minimum of **two** of the items identified above:
- 3= The educator has made a **significant contribution** their respective college/university and throughout the profession. which is evident a minimum of **one** of the items identified above:
- 2= The educator has made a moderate contribution in the areas of JEDI their respective college/university and throughout the profession.
- 1= The educator has made limited impact in the areas of JEDI their respective college/university and throughout the profession.

Professional Leadership and Involvement

Nominee must have demonstrated leadership in professional organizations/associations at the local, state, regional, national and/or international levels and display a broad commitment to interpreting ideas, knowledge, and innovation to others.

Metric: The nominee has made one or more **contributions of significance** through demonstrated and **active leadership of professional organizations/associations**. Very significant contribution is defined as:

- Leading these organizations/associations (Chair/President positions) through impactful change
- Addressing and solving significant challenges (e.g., financial, staffing, facility)
- Developing and implementing a vision and strategy
- Increasing the capacity of the organization/association
- Facilitating the improvement of communication with the membership
- Developing certification and/or accreditation materials (e.g., manuals, tests)
- Leadership in state and national organizations/associations must relate to the direct functions of the nominee's job and career path (e.g., parks, recreation, natural resources, tourism, conservation, stewardship, health/fitness, golf, aquatics)

Weight: 15%

Rank: 1-5

- 5= The nominee has made two or more **very significant contributions** through demonstrated and **active leadership of multiple professional organizations** at the **national and/or international level** through the challenges listed above.
- 4= The nominee has made one or two **very significant contributions** through demonstrated and **active leadership of multiple professional organizations** at the **state, and/or regional levels**, through the challenges listed above.
- 3= The nominee has made a **significant contribution** through demonstrated and active leadership at the **local/state level**. Significant contribution is defined as assisting these organizations at the Committee Chair, Committee member levels through the challenges listed above.
- 2= The nominee has made **significant contribution** through demonstrated leadership at the **local level**. Significant is defined as assisting these organizations as a committee member through the challenges listed above.
- 1= The nominee has not made **significant contributions** through demonstrated leadership with professional organizations. They have participated as a committee member level without addressing the challenges listed above.

Publications and Major Presentations

Nominee must have a history of continuous peer reviewed scholarship that has a positive impact on the knowledge base of the discipline.

Metric: Evidence will include an evaluation of type, quality, and number of presentations and publications including breadth of impact. Productivity indices, such as Hirsch's "H index" and the i10 index should be a prominent consideration. Be specific with date, topic of presentation, name of organization/event, or publication name, title, and date.

Weight: 20%

Rank: 1-5

- 5= The nominee has made more than two **very significant contributions** to the body of knowledge and is recognized as an authority in a well-defined area of inquiry in parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field. Peer reviewed publications and presentations should number **25 or more**. each. Publications appear regularly in publications that influence parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field practices, such as *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*, *Leisure Sciences*, *Journal of Leisure Research*, *SCHOLE*, *Journal of Sport Management*, *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*. Presentations are given at conferences such as ANZALS, NRPA, NRPA Schools, Athletic Business, and The Academy of Leisure Sciences.
- 4= The nominee has made more than one **very significant contributions** to the body of knowledge and is recognized as an authority in a well-defined area of inquiry in parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field. Peer reviewed publications and presentations should number **minimally at 20**. Publications appear regularly in publications that influence parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field practices, such as *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*, *Leisure Sciences*, *Journal of Leisure Research*, *SCHOLE*, *Journal of Sport Management*, *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*.. Presentations are given at conferences such as ANZALS, NRPA, NRPA Schools, Athletic Business, and The Academy of Leisure Sciences.
- 3= The nominee has made a **significant contribution** at the **national and/or state level** and strong impact on the field of parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field through publications and presentations (**15+ publications, presentations**). Publications appear regularly in publications such as Parks and Recreation, Recreation Business, Athletic Business. Presentations are given at conferences such as State Parks and Recreation Association Conferences, Regional Parks and Recreation Workshops.
- 2= The nominee has contributed at the **regional and/or state level** and impact on parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field through publications and presentations (**10+ publications, presentations**). Publications appear regularly in publications such as State Parks and Recreation Association

Publications, Web Publications. Presentations are given at conferences such as State Parks and Recreation Associations Conferences, Local Parks and Recreation Workshops.

- 1= The nominee has made a **limited contribution** at the **local level** and very limited impact on parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field through publications and presentations (**5+ publications, presentations**). Publications appear regularly in publications such as local newspapers and agency newsletters. Presentations are given at local events such as planning workshops, etc.

Honors and Awards

The nominee has been formally recognized for excellence and/or innovation through awards from professional organizations/associations, and/or from the college/university where they are employed. Although all awards are recognized, the Academy is particularly interested in those that specifically pertain to contributions to parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field.

Weight: 5%

Rank: 1-5

- 5= Nominee has received **multiple awards of national and/or international significance** including but not limited to:
 - Teaching awards (e.g., TALS Innovation in Teaching, TALS Outstanding Teaching)
 - Research awards (e.g., NRPA Roosevelt Award, TALS Fellow)
 - Service (e.g., TALS President's Award)
- 4= Nominee has received **multiple awards of state or regional significance** including but not limited to:
 - Teaching awards
 - Research awards
 - Service awards
- 3= Nominee has received **an award** or recognition of **national and/or international significance** including but not limited to:
 - Teaching awards (e.g., TALS Innovation in Teaching, TALS Outstanding Teaching)
 - Research awards (e.g., NRPA Roosevelt Award, TALS Fellow)
 - Service (e.g., TALS President's Award)
- 2= Nominee has received **an award** of state or regional significance including but not limited to:
 - Teaching awards
 - Research awards
 - Service awards
- 1=Nominee has received **an award** at the university level including but not limited to:
 - Teaching awards
 - Research awards
 - Service awards

Nominee's Statement

The Academy's goal is to make innovative contributions to the advancement of the parks and recreation field. Nominee is to provide a written statement outlining their interest in Academy membership as well as their impact on the field by addressing the following areas.

- Why are you seeking Academy membership?
- Provide five (5) examples of the significance of your scholarship, teaching, and/or service to the field of parks and recreation and the impact of that work at the local, state, national, and/or international level.
- What contributions can you make as an Academy member? How will you actively become engaged through investment of time, energy, and expertise to advance the mission of the Academy?

Weight: 10%

Rank: 1-5

- 5= The nominee has demonstrated through the statement a **very significant impact** on and **contribution to** parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field at the local, state, regional, national, and/or international levels.
- 4= The nominee has demonstrated through the statement a **significant impact on** and **contribution to** parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field at the local, state, and/or regional levels.
- 3= The nominee has demonstrated through the statement an **impact on** and **contribution to** parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field at the local and state level.
- 2= The nominee has demonstrated through the statement a **limited impact** on and **contribution to** parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field.
- 1= The nominee has **not demonstrated** through the statement an impact on and **contribution to** parks, recreation, conservation, tourism, sports management, or related field.

Nominator's Statement

Nominator should state why and how this individual will contribute to the goals and objectives of the Academy. Nominator should clearly point out the contributions that the nominee may potentially offer to further the Academy's work. This statement should not re-tell the nominee's accomplishments but should share insights into their professional attitude and impact. This statement is critically reviewed by the Membership Committee and should be as specific as possible reflecting your nominee's qualifications for membership.

Weight: 5%

Rank: 1-5

- 5= The nominator has developed a very compelling statement about the nominee that provides specific evidence the candidate is willing and able to make a **highly intensive commitment** (leadership, time/effort) to the Academy.
- 4= The nominator has developed a compelling statement about the nominee that provides evidence the candidate is willing and able to make **an intensive commitment** (leadership, time/effort) to the Academy.
- 3= The nominator has developed a statement about the nominee that provides evidence the candidate is willing and able to make **a commitment** (leadership, time/effort) to the Academy.
- 2= The nominator has developed a statement about the nominee that provides information about the candidate and their interest in the Academy.
- 1= The nominator has developed a limited statement about the nominee.

Reminder:

The nominee must also submit two letters of support from a current Academy member. The nominator may assist the nominee in identifying members. NOTE: Members of the Academy Board of Directors and the Membership Committee are not eligible to write a support letter or nominate an individual for membership.