



American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration



OUR VISION

To Inspire, Influence
and Advance the Park
and Recreation
Profession

OUR MISSION

An Academy of distinguished park and
recreation administrators and scholars
committed to research, professional
development and the use of best practices

6 Tips to Nominate a Future Academy Member

Welcome: Becky Benna, Membership Committee Vice Chair

Presenters: Edwin Gómez, Urban Director Committee; Jane Adams, Executive Director

- * Provide relevant information to submit a successful nomination
- * Discuss the elements of the nomination form
- * Identify critical dates in the nomination process

NOTE: Members may nominate two (2) individuals for membership each year. Members of the Board of Directors and the Membership Committee are prohibited from nominating or writing a letter of support.

Goal: 100% Capacity

Academy is limited to 137 members

100 practitioners/professionals

25 educators

12 urban directors

Membership renewal period ends 3/31/25 which will set the 2025 number of openings. We annually have members transition to the Emeritus category; at a minimum we will have: 9 practitioners/professionals; 6 educators; 3 urban directors

NEW Criteria for Urban Director Fellows

Types of Agencies:

Regional / Special District

County / Parish

City

Population Served:

Urban population center of **200,000+ people OR from the most populous City, Regional/Special District, County (or Parish) in THAT state**

Minimum Experience:

3 years experience in THAT Director / Chief Operating Officer position

Urban Directors Nominees

Nominated by the Urban Directors Committee directly to the Board of Directors

Nominations to be sent directly to Edwin Gómez, Chair, Urban Directors Committee

gomez17@ecu.edu

757-636-8699

Tip #1 – its #1 as it's the most important!

With your candidate, critically assess their background to ensure they meet the membership requirements with a particular attention to the required 15 years of **high level of administrative*** experience as of **January** of the year nominated (Bylaws, Article IV, Membership)

* Defined as “...significant experience and oversight in a majority of the following areas: parks, recreation, conservation, personnel, training, budgeting, planning, capital improvements and marketing,” OR as a recognized educator in the field of parks and recreation; obtaining the rank of full Professor OR served in a high level of administration and as a recognized educator for a combined period of fifteen (15) years.

Tip #2

Each nomination criteria is weighted and scored separately

NOTE the different weights

Criteria & Weight	Practitioner/Prof	Educator
Professional Experience	25	25
Education	10	5
Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Efforts	10	10
Professional Certifications	5	5
Professional Leadership & Involvement	20	15
Publications/Presentations	10	20
Honors & Awards	5	5
Nominee Statement	10	10
Nominator Statement	5	5
TOTAL	100	100

Tip #3

Collaborate WITH your nominee on their nomination form and review it before it is submitted.



NOTE: (1) There are separate forms for educators, practitioners/professionals, and urban director nominees. (2) The nomination criteria will be posted on the website shortly as a PDF so you review it with your nominee.

Tip #4

Help your nominee answer “**why**” they are seeking Academy membership, and how they will **contribute to advance** the profession once a member.

Encourage they visit the Academy website to learn our history and current programs / services.

Tip #5

Write an impactful letter of support for your nominee and carefully select who else to write support letters.

Don't reiterate the nominee's background; focus on why YOU think they would be an excellent member.



Tip #6

Nominees are asked to articulate their efforts in advancing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.

Familiarize them with the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion pledge, noting they are asked to support the pledge when they submit their nomination.

<https://aapra.org/About-AAPRA/Justice-Equity-Diversity-Inclusion>



2025 Critical Dates

March 14	Newsletter Announces Nominations Open March 20th
March 20	Nominations Open
May 16	Nominations Close 9:00 pm PDT
July 16	Board of Directors Receives Committee Recommendations
July 17-23	Nominators Notified of their Nominee's Status Nominators Notify their Nominee
Aug TBD	New Member Self Introduction Videos Submitted
Sept TBD	New Members Formally Inducted into the Academy (Membership Meeting; NRPA Conference, Orlando)

Important Information

Number of openings will be known after 3/31/25:

Educators +/- 9

Practitioners +/- 6

Urban Directors +/- 3

Focus on under-represented states (members by state listed on the website)

Focus on diverse candidates!



Send Questions to info@aapra.org