Oppurtunities 2022

Founded in 1980, the American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration (AAPRA) is pleased to share these opportunities open to all park and recreation professionals and agencies! Additional information is available at www.aapra.org.

AAPRA commits to promote, nourish, and embody an inclusive and equitable environment, strengthen our commitment to promote justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, combat systemic and structural racism, and promote a culture of equality for all, through our knowledge advancement, research, education, and scholarly efforts.

Nominations for Academy Membership

Individuals must be nominated for AAPRA membership by a current member, and they must secure two letters of support from additional Academy members. Requirements for membership include minimum of 15 years of experience at a high level of administration and a BS or BA degree. High level positions may be general manager, executive director, director, deputy director, superintendent with significant experience and oversight in parks, recreation, personnel, training, budgeting, planning, capital improvements, and marketing. Educator nominee must have attained the rank of full professor or served in a high level of academic administration. Practitioner and educator nominees must also be recognized as a leader through professional involvement, publications, major presentations, and honors and awards.

Accepting nominations April 6 – June 8, 2022
Extern Program

Enables young professionals 35 years and under in parks and recreation to interact and learn from AAPRA members and other individuals at the 2021 NRPA Annual Conference. Up to four (4) Externs are chosen annually of which two are Ernest T. Atwell diversity externs. Candidate must be a NRPA member; 35 years of age or younger; 3 years of FTE; involved in their state, regional or national association; and professional certification is preferred. Externs receive NRPA conference registration (member rate) & up to $1000 for travel expenses.

Accepting applications through April 15, 2022

Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal

The highest award bestowed for parks and conservation leadership. Nominee must have a long history of preservation, facilitation, enhancement and/or creation of parks/conservation lands. This award is for a lifetime of achievements and accomplishments, it is not to recognize a single effort. Academy membership is NOT required for the Pugsley nominee or the nominator.

Accepting nominations April 6 – June 8, 2022

Legends in Parks & Recreation Program

This program creates and shares video interviews of administrators, educators, citizen advocates, and policy makers who have made outstanding and impactful contributions to parks and recreation. Each interview is 30 minutes and is designed to inspire innovation, promote professional development and foster leadership in parks and recreation. Themed videos are being created to share excerpts from individual interviews. Academy membership is NOT required for the Legend nominee or the nominator.

Accepting nominations March 1 – June 8, 2022

Best Paper Award / Doctoral Dissertation

This award is for a doctoral dissertation written in partial fulfillment for the requirement of a doctoral degree. The submission must have been completed within the previous two (2) calendar years including the 2022 spring semester. The subject must make a contribution to the improved practice of park and recreation administration. One award of $1,000 plus $500 to support travel to NRPA Conference is given plus two Certificates of Merits. Academy membership is NOT required to submit an entry.

Accepting applications April 6 – May 27, 2022