The Academy’s Externship Program enables outstanding young professionals 35 years of age and younger in the parks and recreation field to interact with and learn from American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration members, and other individuals who attend the NRPA Conference and its associated meetings. Up to four Externs are selected each year, two of which are Ernest T. Atwell diversity externs.

Externs are paired with Academy members who serve as mentors during the NRPA Conference as well as past externs who serve as buddies and assist in making the most out of the experience. Externs may attend selected NRPA Conference meetings, socials, and educational sessions with their mentors or on their own. Mentors introduce Externs to their contacts and expand the young professional’s networks. After the NRPA Conference, Externs must write a brief evaluation report including:

1) an overview of activities they attended during Conference;
2) what they gained from the program; and
3) strengths and weaknesses of the program, including suggestions for improvement.

To fully participate in the program applicants should be prepared to make the externship experience a priority at the Conference.

Eligible applicants should submit an application form and supporting materials on-line no later than Friday, May 3, 2024 (12 midnight PT).

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be a current member of NRPA.
- Must be 35 years of age and younger *, with a degree in parks and recreation or a related field.
- At least three (3) years of full-time experience in the parks and recreation field, or parks and recreation academia. Must be a full time-employee at an agency.
- Current position of at least the specialist or coordinator level with responsibility for program planning, administration, or supervision; or doctoral student.
- Involvement with state, regional and/or national park and recreation associations/societies, and related field organizations.
- Professional certification is preferred e.g., Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) or Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) or be a certified/registered professional under an approved certification/credentialing program.
- Previous Academy Externs are not eligible.

*Age as of the closing day of the NRPA Conference
2024 Externship Program
Sponsored by American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration Applicants
are encouraged to review and use this worksheet prior to applying on-line at
https://aapra.org/Programs/Extern-Program

NAME: ___________________________________________ AGE: ____________

ADDRESS: ____________________________ CITY: __________ STATE: _____ ZIP: ____________

PHONE OFFICE: __________________________ PHONE CELL: __________________________

EMAIL: __________________________

NPRA MEMBERSHIP #: __________________________ Eligible for Ernest T. Atwell Diversity Externship?  □ YES  □ NO

EDUCATION:
College/University  Degree:  Major:  Year Earned:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

FULL-TIME WORK EXPERIENCE: IN PARKS AND RECREATION OR RELATED FIELD
Position:  Agency:  Dates:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

DESCRIBE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR CURRENT POSITION:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
Membership and leadership positions held in local, state, regional, and/or national organizations. Give date(s), organization(s), and position(s) held. List your most recent experience(s) first.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS: (check all that apply)
- Certified Park and Recreational Professional (CPRP)  Expiration Date: 
- Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE)  Expiration Date: 
- Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS)  Expiration Date: 
- Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) Aquatics Facility Operator (AFO)  Expiration Date: 
- Other  Expiration Date: 

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
- Up-to-date resume
- Two (2) letters of recommendation (one from the Director of your agency and one from a parks and recreation professional). If possible, letters of recommendation should not be from AAPRA Externship Committee members.
- Essay (Typed 500-600 words – 12 pt. Arial Font) indicating your motivation in seeking the Externship experience and how attending the 2022 NRPA Annual Conference will specifically help you achieve your career and personal goals. What do you plan to accomplish with the contacts you may make at the conference?

If selected as an AAPRA Extern for the 2024 NRPA Conference in Atlanta, you agree to provide an evaluation report by email, no later than November 4, 2024, which will include:
- Overview of the activities in which you were involved during the NRPA Annual Conference
- What you gained from participation in the Extern program
- Your ideas about the strengths and weaknesses of the program, including suggestions for future improvement.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:  DATE:

Optional Question: The Academy is committed to improving the diversity within the field of parks and recreation administration. You may choose to assist in these efforts by identifying what ethnic/racial group or groups apply to you:

Applications and recommendation/support letters must be completed no later than Friday, May 3, 2024, online at the link as follows: https://aapra.org/Programs/Extern-Program

QUESTIONS?
Bill Foelsch
AAPRA Externship Chair
bfoelsch@morristwp.com | 973-326-7371