



National Awards

The National Recreation and Park Association offers eleven National Awards annually. NRPA recognizes outstanding programs and exceptional people who remind us daily of the work that is being done in parks and recreation to improve Americans' quality of life. NRPA award winners are an inspiration to their profession and to the parks and recreation movement nationwide. NRPA award winners include park and recreation professionals, volunteers or organizations and agencies.

The National Awards recipients are selected by the NRPA Awards and Scholarship Committee. Each award has specific eligibility criteria. All applicants must be current NRPA members.

Robert M. Artz Citizen Advocacy Award

The Robert M. Artz Award recognizes a citizen, an elected or appointed official, or volunteer who has demonstrated outstanding efforts to forward public parks and recreation through education and activating the public in their community, state or at the national level.

Robert W. Crawford Young Professional Award

The Robert W. Crawford Young Professional Award is presented to an individual who has shown qualities and skills needed to attain positions of leadership in the field through their contributions to advancing the field, their creativity in creating or managing programs, and their participation in professional organizations, such as NRPA. Nominee must be 35 years of age or younger (at time of nomination due date) **OR** have 5 – 7 years of experience in the park and recreation field.

RWJF – NRPA Award for Health Equity

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)-NRPA Award for Health Equity recognizes an individual, or team of no more than two individuals, who has successfully implemented a systems change approach¹ to reduce health disparities in his/her community within the past two years. The award supports RWJF's Culture of Health initiative that seeks to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to live in healthy environments. The awardee will receive a \$3,000 prize and an opportunity to be recognized nationally both at the NRPA Annual Conference and at an annual RWJF ceremony.

¹ Systems change, or system-wide policies, refer to policies and strategies that reach and impact large population groups (e.g., an entire district, city, or state; across a park system)

Excellence in Inclusion Award

The Excellence in Inclusion Award recognizes and honors an agency or organization that has embraced its mandate to implement inclusive processes and practices. The agency or organization provides well-planned supports for inclusive participation by people with disabilities and diversity in all programs, services, and facilities. Further, the agency or organization provides leadership to other agencies, shares information, and advocates for inclusive services and practices.

Excellence in Innovative Programming Award

The Excellence in Innovative Programming Award recognizes and honors an agency/organization that demonstrates leadership through advanced, groundbreaking ideas in programming. The award highlights the efforts and impact an agency/organization has made in promoting or increasing the awareness of the benefits of parks and recreation in their community. This award will recognize the agency that best demonstrates innovation in at least three of five areas of consideration: arts and humanities, health and wellness, parks and conservation, recreation, and sports and athletics.

Facility or Park Design Award

The Facility or Park Design Award is presented to the jurisdiction that manages an innovative park or facility that serves as a model facility or park in its inclusiveness and responsiveness to the needs of the local community or region. The award will promote uniqueness, innovation, creativity and display a high degree of design quality for recreation usage.

Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award

The Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award recognizes a parks and recreation agency that has achieved excellence in environmental stewardship.

Kudos Marketing Award

The Kudos Marketing Award will be presented to the agency who has significantly contributed to the public's increased awareness and recognition of public parks and recreation through a marketing campaign and communications.

National Distinguished Professional Award

The Distinguished Professional Award is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the field through their leadership, research, advocacy, community outreach, and program development.

National Partnership Award

The National Partnership Award is presented to an agency/organization that has developed a successful partnership to create a project or program that benefits the community, region, state, or nation and increases awareness of the importance of parks, recreation, and leisure services in quality of life.

**Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Award for Excellence
in Recreation and Park Research**

The Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Award for Excellence in Recreation and Park Research is presented to an individual whose contributions to parks and recreation through research have significantly advanced the cause of the parks and recreation movement and whose dedication to the field parallels the same dedication and zeal toward parks, recreation, and conservation that was exhibited by the presidents after whom the award is named.