

50 Ways to Celebrate...



July is Park and Recreation Month!

Celebrate, Advocate, Recreate!

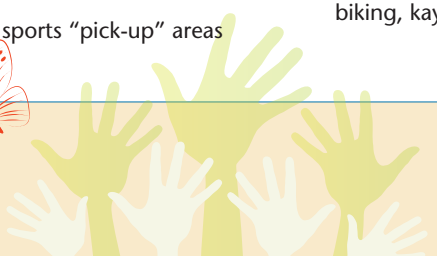
Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Recreation facilities and parks across the country kick-off summer programs, promote outdoor physical activities, and pull together community volunteers to make their outdoor space a better place for all.

This year's theme is "Celebrate, Advocate, Recreate!" NRPA encourages you to plan events and initiatives that remind your citizens and local decision makers of the exciting and vital role that parks and recreation play in the lives of Americans. Celebrate the field. Advocate for more support. Get out there and recreate!

Listed below are 50 ways among *thousands* to celebrate during "Park and Recreation Month."

- 1. Kick off!** Have your mayor or county executive proclaim July as Park and Recreation Month using the official proclamation (available in the 2010 July Tool Kit online), and invite your local citizens and the media. Send a copy of the signed proclamation to the district offices of your U.S. Representatives and Senators.
- 2. Social Media Magnet.** Take photos of yourself in any park in the U.S. (local, state, national) with NRPA's official July is Park and Recreation Month Poster. Post them all over the web with the header, "July is Park and Recreation Month!"
- 3. Visit a Park with Your Legislator Day (July 5-9)!** Invite your U.S. Congressmen and Senators to your park and/or recreation facility during the July Recess (July 5-9) (see the 2010 July Tool Kit for resources).
- 4. Visit NRPA!** Come and get to know us better, and allow us to get to know you better. Set up a visit—e-mail july@nrpa.org.
- 5. Whet Appetites.** Organize a canoe/kayaking trip down a local waterway or lake for a group of elected officials and/or community leaders. Encourage them to bring their families.
- 6. Happy Birthday America!** Hold a community festival with fireworks to celebrate Independence Day!
- 7. Dedication to Parks and Recreation.** Hold a dedication or ribbon cutting ceremony for a new park, facility, or feature.
- 8. Fun Run/Walk.** Organize a fun run/walk along a greenway or scenic trail.
- 9. Pick-Up Games.** Promote designated sports "pick-up" areas throughout your parks.
- 10. Corner the Office Picnic Market!** Package in a few free rental/admission vouchers for company raffles.
- 11. Be a Staycation Destination.** Offer family packages on admission rentals and recreation facilities.
- 12. National Therapeutic Recreation Week (July 11-17).** Celebrate the ways in which recreation restores and enhances the quality of life for Americans!
- 13. Game Day.** Have World Cup soccer viewing parties, and provide places for pick-up soccer or kids play before and after matches!
- 14. Park Clean-Up Day.** Hold a volunteer service day to clean and beautify a park or recreation facility. Check out Pick Up America at www.pickupamerica.org.
- 15. Create a Friends Group!** Invite community members to a special Action Advocacy Event to recruit for, and/or begin the formation of a friends group for your park(s). For more information, refer to NRPA's **Park Advocate Handbook** (see the 2010 July Tool Kit).
- 16. Children in Nature.** Organize youth nature walks and science demonstrations.
- 17. Movie with the Stars.** Show a movie outdoors in the evening. Invite attendees to bring picnic food and blankets!
- 18. Evening with the Stars.** Have a star-gazing event.
- 19. Extreme Safety!** Schedule safety classes for skate boarding, biking, kayaking, rafting, climbing, and other extreme sports.

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20. **Free Performances.** Schedule day-time performances by local youth and/or experts in music, voice, dance, martial arts, gymnastics, etc.
21. **Opinion Matters.** Write an op-ed and send it to your local paper, discussing the importance of public support for local parks and recreation facilities.
22. **Kids to Congress.** Organize a children's letter-writing campaign to members of Congress.
23. **Flying High.** Hold a kite festival.
24. **Good Sports.** Hold sports camps for young people, with classes in technique and sportsmanship.
25. **Portrait of a Lady (Bug).** Sponsor a children's photography contest in your park(s).
26. **Open Market.** Invite local farmer's markets to sell produce and organic foods on designated days.
27. **Recycling Day.** Have a recycling day, when families can drop off used materials, and kids can participate in classes and activities.
28. **Make A Splash!** Who doesn't love a swimming party?
29. **Arts in the Park.** Host art and music festivals.
30. **Take a Hike.** Organize a community hike for the whole family.
31. **National Hot Dog Day (July 17).** Cook out! Food, fun, and people go together in parks.
32. **Open Mic Night.** Invite community members to perform in an outdoor area or amphitheatre.
33. **Dig It!** Have a planting day in your park to put in species beneficial to the surrounding ecosystem and landscape.
34. **Little Sprouts.** Hold gardening clinics for children.
35. **Go Fish!** Promote your community fishing holes.
36. **Summer Feeding Program.** Organize a feeding program for qualified children combined with fun recreational and nature activities.
37. **Water Safety Day.** Offer swim lessons and water- and sun-safety seminars for youth.
38. **Conservation Day.** Have a conservation fair, and hold classes and demonstrations on recycling, clean water ways, the water cycle, and healthy ecosystems.
39. **Home on the Range.** Hold a driving range clinic and/or contest.
40. **Shape Up!** Offer a free fitness class!
41. **Art Contest.** Hold a community art contest. Make your parks and facilities the subject!
42. **Doggie Day.** Have a "Take Your Dog to the Park Day" or a doggie parade.
43. **Health Day.** Hold a health and wellness fair, and partner with a local clinic for free checkups.
44. **ADA Signing Day (July 26).** The 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Work with community organizations to provide a day of activities geared toward individuals with mental and physical disabilities.
45. **Behind the Scenes.** Set up tours of your local sports facilities, and promote programs and events.
46. **Tournaments!** From archery to bocce ball to tennis, start an annual community tournament.
47. **Scavenger Hunt.** Organize a formal scavenger hunt throughout your park. Award winning teams with prizes and certificates.
48. **Staff/Volunteer Appreciation Day.** Award your staff members and community volunteers with prizes or a fun event to show your appreciation for their hard work during July, and throughout the year!
49. **Be Seen and Heard!** Share stories and photos of your events with the local media.
50. **Wrap Up!** E-mail us with your success stories at july@nrpa.org.

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