

# Resources/Links

## Professional and Trade Associations

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### General

[National Recreation and Park Association:](#) The main professional organization for the recreation, parks, and leisure services field. Includes branches for students, therapeutic recreation, municipal recreation, resource management, and military recreation. Includes numerous links to state associations and local parks and recreation departments. Information about subscribing to the NRPA job list.

[California Park and Recreation Society District IV:](#) Professional association of North Dakota's recreation, parks and leisure service personnel.

[California Park and Recreation Society:](#) Professional association of Minnesota's recreation, parks and leisure service personnel.

[Canadian Park/Recreation Association:](#) Professional and advocacy organization for recreation, parks and leisure services in Canada.

[American Association for Leisure and Recreation:](#) Recreation and leisure branch of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

[World Leisure and Recreation Association:](#) International organization for the study of recreation and leisure.

[YMCA of the USA:](#) The YMCA's national web site. Includes information on how to subscribe to the YMCA position vacancy list.

[American Camping Association:](#) For resident camps. Accredits camps, promotes organized camping, and certifies camp directors. Publishes a job list available by e-mail.

[International City Management Association:](#) Municipal government management.

[Academy of Leisure Sciences:](#) Honorary organization of outstanding leaders and scholars in recreation, parks and leisure.

[American Humanics:](#) An organization dedicated to the development of leadership for nonprofit organizations.

[Canadian Association for Leisure Studies:](#)

[Recreation, Tourism and Sport Speciality Group:](#) Of the Association of American Geographers.

[Partners for Livable Communities:](#) Partners for Livable Communities is a national, nonprofit organization working to restore and renew our communities. Partners has over twenty-five years of experience in solving community problems by providing information, leadership and guidance that help communities help themselves. We welcome the opportunity to bring our experience to your community.

## **Therapeutic Recreation**

[American Therapeutic Recreation Association:](#) Professional organization for therapeutic recreation practitioners. Includes an on-line job listing.

[National Council on Therapeutic Recreation Certification:](#) The organization that certifies therapeutic recreation professionals. Includes latest guidelines and applications.

[Child Life Council:](#) Organization which fosters and promotes health and well-being of children and their families in health care settings.

[National Correctional Recreation Association:](#) An organization for recreation directors in prisons and other correctional settings.

[Aquatics Resources Network:](#) (Aquatic Therapy): Group committed to preventing aquatic therapy practitioners from re-creating the proverbial (water) wheel.

## **Outdoor Recreation**

[Land Trust Alliance:](#) An association of numerous conservation and preservation land trusts.

[Student Conservation Association:](#) Provides volunteer opportunities in the national parks, wildlife refuges, and similar areas around the U.S.

[National 4-H Council:](#) Information about national programs of the 4-H.

[National Association of State Park Directors:](#) State park information.

[Association for Experiential Education:](#) For people who operate outdoor adventure and similar experiential programs.

[Outdoor Industry Association:](#) Serving the commercial sector businesses related to outdoor recreation. Includes information on research and a job list.

[American Camping Association:](#) For resident camps. Accredits camps, promotes organized camping, and certifies camp directors. Publishes a job list available by e-mail.

[National Association for Interpretation:](#) Inspiring leadership and excellence to advance natural and cultural interpretation as a profession.

[National Association for Interpretation-Heartland Region 5:](#) Our regional chapter of NAI.

[Natural Areas Association:](#) Advancing the preservation of natural diversity. Works to inform, unite, and support persons engaged in identifying, protecting, managing, and studying natural areas and biological diversity across landscapes and ecosystems.

[Adventure Travel Society:](#) Dedicated to promoting natural resource sustainability, economic viability and cultural integrity through sustainable tourism development.

[National Outdoor Leadership School \(NOLS\):](#) Organization devoted to training of outdoor adventure

leaders.

[The Ecotourism Society:](#) An organization dedicated to serving the ecotourism industry and professionals.

[American Trails:](#) An organization intended to lead the nation in the creation of trail systems by fostering communication and complementary action.

[Wilderness Education Association:](#) Providing training and certification for outdoor adventure leaders.

[Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education:](#) Provides opportunities for professionals and students in the field of outdoor recreation and education to exchange information, promote the preservation and conservation of the natural environment, and address issues common to college, university, community, military, and other not-for-profit outdoor recreation and education programs.

[National Association of Recreation Resource Planners:](#) Comprised of outdoor recreation professional and others interested in recreation resource planning. Nationwide organization with members in nearly every state, representing state and federal agencies, land managers, consultants, and academic institutions.

### **Commercial Recreation and Tourism**

[Club Management Association of America:](#) Country clubs and similar private club management.

[Adventure Travel Society:](#) Dedicated to promoting natural resource sustainability, economic viability and cultural integrity through sustainable tourism development.

[International Festivals and Events Association:](#) Managers of fairs, festivals and large special events. A certification program and annual international conference is sponsored. An on-line job list.

[International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions:](#) For the amusement park industry.

[Resort and Commercial Recreation Association:](#) An organization of recreation directors at resorts.

[Employee Services Management Association:](#) Organization of professionals providing employee recreation, social and fitness programming. (formerly NESRA)

[American Recreation Coalition:](#) Coalition of businesses related to the recreation industry. Commercial recreation in orientation.

[The Ecotourism Society:](#) An organization dedicated to serving the ecotourism industry and professionals.

[Travel and Tourism Research Association:](#) Organization of researchers in the travel and tourism industry.

[World Travel and Tourism Council:](#) Creating jobs through travel and tourism. Includes link to EcoNet and rural tourism resources.

[World Waterpark Association:](#)

[World Tourism Organization:](#) Leading international organization in the field of travel and tourism. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a practical source of tourism know-how and statistics.

## **Fitness and Sports Management**

[National Alliance for Youth Sports:](#) Leading advocacy organization for health, positive and safe sports programs for children.

[Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association:](#) Trade organization for manufacturers of sporting equipment. Nice collection of sports trends information and research. Links to sports organizations.

[National Association of Sports Commissions:](#) Organization composed of groups formed to bring sports events/teams to communities. Excellent information on how to start a sports commission.

[YMCA of the USA:](#) The YMCA's national web site. Includes information on how to subscribe to the YMCA position vacancy list.

[National Intramural Recreational Sports Association:](#) For intramural sports and recreation sports programmers at colleges and universities.

[National Sporting Goods Association:](#) Retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers in the sporting good industry. Includes research on trends in participation and purchase of equipment for sports.

[Wellness Councils of America and Canada:](#) North America's premier resource for worksite wellness, the Wellness Councils of America is dedicated to helping member organizations build and sustain results-oriented wellness programs.

[Employee Services Management Association:](#) Organization of professionals providing employee recreation, social and fitness programming. (formerly NESRA)

## **Agencies**

[National Park Service:](#) The agency that manages our nation's national parks, national recreation areas, monuments, historic sites, and memorials.

[U. S. Forest Service:](#) Learn about our nation's forests and grasslands.

[Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, U.S. Dept. of Commerce:](#) The federal government's tourism promotion division.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, [Economic Research Service](#). Includes Rural Development Perspectives magazine which often has articles related to recreation, tourism, and land management in rural settings.

[Federal Recreation Guide:](#) Check out recreation participation opportunities throughout the federal system. Includes national parks, national forests, BLM lands, Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, other federal agencies.

Dept. of Health and Human Services, [Office of the Asst. Sec. for Planning and Evaluation:](#) A variety of statistics and research on youth issues. Includes "Trends in America's Children and Youth".

Dept. of Health and Human Services, [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration:](#) Information about programs, services, and research on substance abuse and mental health.

[North Dakota Parks and Recreation Dept.](#)

[Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources](#)

## **Resources**

[Therapeutic Recreation Directory:](#) A variety of useful resources for therapeutic recreation professionals and students. Includes job listing and internship information.

[Parks and Recreation Resources:](#) Useful resources for parks and recreation professionals and students. Includes jobs and internships.

[Leisure Information Network:](#) Site developed for the collection, dissemination, and exchange of information among leisure service professionals.

[At-Risk Youth Programs \(P. Witt\):](#) Information about at-risk youth programs developed by Peter Witt at Texas A & M University.

[Acadia University \(Canada\) Recreation and Leisure Program:](#) Includes a lot of good links. Also includes Ph.D. finder program for locating doctoral programs in parks, recreation and leisure.

[U. of Connecticut, Lab for Leisure, Sport and Tourism:](#) Reference lists on a wide variety of topics related to leisure, recreation, sport and tourism.

[Therapeutic Recreation Resources :](#) On the web, from University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse.

[Project Adventure:](#) Adventure education and ropes course information and services.

[Wildland Recreation and Urban Cultures Unit,](#) U.S. Forest Service: Information on research on wildland areas located near urban centers. Includes much research on Hispanic and other minorities.

[Recreation, Wilderness and Urban/Wildland Interface Research,](#) U.S. Forest Service.

[Urban Parks Online:](#) The Lila Wallace- *Reader's Digest* Urban Parks Institute is a pilot project to help improve the quality of urban parks, especially in underserved neighborhoods, by educating public, private and non-profit sector leaders about best practices in urban park development.