



## Advantages of Membership...

Membership in the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc. is more than just membership to a group. Membership provides you with the information and support you need to maintain a cost efficient and legally compliant department. It can help to increase employee efficiency, loyalty, and retention, all contributors to a stronger bottom line.

To help with this, CRPA provides access to **education, advocacy, networking, discounts, and scholarships** to its over 650 individual members, which encompasses over 78% of Connecticut's municipal park and recreation departments.

### Education:

CRPA offers a wide variety of educational opportunities providing our members with a chance to stay informed on growing trends and issues pertinent to the park and recreation field. **We offer education opportunities for every level of your department from directors to full time, part time, and seasonal staff.** Members also receive **discounted rates** to all of these programs!



- **CEU Tracking:** CRPA is an approved NRPA CEU provider and even tracks our members CEU's!
- **Annual Conference:** This two-day event with over 30 educational sessions and 80 exhibitors is a great education and networking opportunity.
- **Aquatics Facility Operator (AFO) Certification:** This NRPA certification is offered by CRPA and is a two-day training program designed to educate individuals on the systematic approach to pool operations including pool chemistry, management, pool safety, and risk reduction.

- **Aquatics Training:** This one-evening educational event gives aquatics staff from across the state the opportunity to come together and learn from one another as well as from some of the industry's leading aquatics professionals.
- **Camp College:** This all day Saturday training is offered to prepare camp staff for the upcoming season. Staff will have fun while attending the over 25 sessions offered to learn the latest in teambuilding activities and programing ideas, all while networking with other counselors. Epi-Pen and Med Admin certification is also provided.
- **Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI):** This important NRPA certification is offered annually through CRPA. The three-day course trains individuals to identify hazards on public playgrounds and playground equipment and how to apply the ASTM standards and CPSC guidelines to playground environments.
- **Quarterly Educational Sessions:** CRPA offers four of these one-day educational sessions annually. Session topics are on current issues facing park and recreation departments, such as wage and hour law, social media policy, ADA requirements, supervisory and communication skills, marketing, and much more. Members can attend at discounted rates and can even attend **two free per year!** That's a **cost savings of \$90 per person!**

### Advocacy:

Through CRPA's Legislative Committee and Government Relations Firm, CRPA has helped to shape legislation that can directly effect your organization or town, which **translates into cost and time savings** to member organizations.

- **Legislative Lobbying:** Recently CRPA has influenced legislation involving: pool safety, youth athletics and concussions, camp policy, criminal background checks, IPM, playground safety, program licensing, and pool design and maintenance standards.
- **Agency Lobbying:** CRPA works closely with all state agencies with an emphasis on DEEP, OEC, DPH, and DCF.



## Networking & Resources:

CRPA provides a connection where professionals can **share resources, ideas, and collectively solve problems.**

- **Listserv:** CRPA's members-only listserv allows you to email all members at once with questions and concerns. This is a great resource to ask in-state colleagues for resources. Examples include: sample RFP's, policies, salary and wage data, etc.
- **Website:** [www.crpa.com](http://www.crpa.com) CRPA's website is a comprehensive collection of industry resources all in one location. Members can access our member's only section for additional resources, such as training handouts and PowerPoints, legislative bill tracking, a membership directory, and much more!
- **Job Posting:** CRPA members may **post open positions, free of charge**, for full, part time, and seasonal positions on the career opportunities section of our website.
- **Buyers Guide (Commercial & Entertainers Directory):** Looking for a service provider, such as playground surfacing or a band for your next concert series? Search our two online buyers guides!
- **Aquatics Section:** Need information on current aquatics regulations, have questions about staffing levels and wage scales? Attend our bi-monthly aquatics round table. Get answers to your questions while networking with your peers!
- **Camps Committee:** Need information on current camp issues and trends, have questions about inclusion, program ideas, or group outing locations? Attend our camp committee round table. Get answers to your questions while networking with your peers!
- **Entertainment Showcase:** This annual event features over 70 entertainers, including everything from musicians to magicians. There is something for events of all sizes and age groups! This is a great event to network with entertainers and view their performances prior to booking their services.



## Consignment Ticket Discount Programs:

CRPA's discount program translates into direct cost savings for member departments, by negotiating bulk rates with the hottest recreation destinations in the area, such as the CT Science Center, Lake Compounce, and Six Flags.



- **Good Any Day:** CRPA members can sell tickets to town residents at a substantial discount and upcharge tickets to cover administrative costs or generate money for your department! Your residents can save up to \$19 a ticket based on the destination site.
- **Group:** CRPA members can book group outings to any of these destinations for a savings of up to \$5 per person based on the destination site. *For example booking a trip to Six Flags for 50 people through CRPA could save your department \$250!*
- **Discounted Group Rates:** CRPA members enjoy up to a 19% discount on CT Sun Basketball games.

## Scholarship & Awards Programs:

- **Scholarship Program:** Each year CRPA awards **\$1,500 in scholarships to members** in good standing for both CRPA and non CRPA professional development opportunities.
- **Awards:** Each year CRPA members in good standing may nominate individuals, programs, organizations, students, and citizens for outstanding service to the parks and recreation field in 13 award categories. Through this awards program CRPA awards **\$2,500 in scholarships annually.** This is a **great public relations opportunity for member departments!**

