



Advantages of Membership...

Membership in the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc. is more than just belonging 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 over **800 individual members** and **136 municipalities**, which encompasses over **80%** 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!

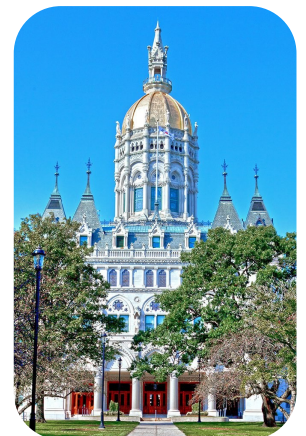
- **CEU Tracking:** CRPA is an approved NRPA CEU provider and even tracks our members' CEU's!
- **Annual Conference:** This two-day event with more than 20 educational sessions and 100 exhibitors is a great education and networking opportunity.
- **Aquatics Facility Operator (AFO) Certification:** This 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 15+ sessions offered to learn the latest in teambuilding activities and programing ideas, all while networking with other counselors.
- **Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI):** This important NRPA certification is offered annually through CRPA. The 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.
- **Parks Field Day:** This one-day, outdoor event offers a dose of fresh air in addition to **networking**, **equipment demonstrations**, and **product testing** with the leading providers of products and services for the parks profession.
- **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, marketing, ADA requirements, supervisory and communication skills, sustainability, succession planning and much more. Members can attend at discounted rates!
- **Webinars:** CRPA offers virtual professional development opportunities and roundtable discussions from the convenience of your office or home. From Epi-Pen to Med-Admin to QPR and our section meetings, we have it all!



Advocacy:

Through CRPA's Legislative Committee and Government Relations Firm, CRPA has helped to shape legislation and regulations 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: AccelerateCT Grant funding, the state budget, youth athletics and concussions, wage and employment, camp policy and Care4Kids requirements, program licensing, criminal background checks, IPM, artificial surfacing, playground safety, pool and aquatics safety, pool design and maintenance standards and much more.
- **Agency Lobbying:** CRPA advocates for its members at the state level by also working with the Executive Branch and its state agencies, i.e. DECD, DEEP, OEC, SDE, DPH. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CRPA worked to draft, summarize, and ascertain clarification on Executive Orders, Sector Rules, DPH guidance and OEC memos. Post pandemic, we worked to ensure municipal camps were not excluded from state grants



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 CRPA's website is a comprehensive collection of industry resources all in one location. Members can access our members-only section for additional resources, such as legislative bill tracking and testimony, member surveys, training handouts and PowerPoints, 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 Committee:** Need information on current aquatics regulations? Have questions about staffing levels and wage scales? Attend our bi-monthly aquatics roundtable. 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 roundtable. Get answers to your questions while networking with your peers!
- **Director's Section:** Want to connect with other directors to troubleshoot issues and learn from each other? Attend our one of our quarterly Director's roundtables.
- **Parks Committee:** Need information on park or facility maintenance, IPM, irrigation, or the latest trends in equipment? Get answers to your questions while networking with your peers!
- **Therapeutic Recreation Section:** Need information on current therapeutic recreational services? Attend our TR committee roundtable, get answers to your questions while networking with your peers!
- **Young Professionals Network:** Need information in the parks and recreation field, such as: career growth, trends in recreation, tips for working and/or transitioning into the field, and managing work-life balance? Join our YPN roundtable, get answers to your questions while networking with your peers!
- **Entertainment Showcase:** This annual event features over 80 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, through negotiated bulk rates with area recreation destinations such as Lake Compounce, Mystic Seaport, and more!



- **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 \$26 a ticket** based on the destination site.
- **Group:** CRPA members can book group outings for their camps to many of these destinations for a **savings of up to \$8 per person** based on the destination site.
- **Discounted Group Rates:** CRPA members enjoy discounts 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 program CRPA **awards \$2,000 in scholarships annually**. This is a **great public relations opportunity for member departments!**

CRPA also honors professionals and special individuals who have made outstanding, unique, lasting, and extraordinary contributions through recreation and park services in Connecticut through induction to our Hall of Fame!

