

The Pacific Northwest: Creating Career Connections for the Future!

2006 Young Professionals Externship Seattle, Washington

Sponsored by the

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

Program Goal: The externship program enables outstanding young professionals under 35 in the park and recreation field to interact with and learn from members of the Academy and other individuals who attend the NRPA Congress and its associated meetings. Participants in the program are referred to as “externs.” An "extern" is a professional who is connected to an agency, but is undertaking learning experiences in another setting. For the second year two additional externs will be selected as part of the Academy's goal to expand diversity.

Program Content: Selected participants will be paired with two Academy members, each of whom will serve as his/her mentor during parts of the two days of the externship program. An orientation session involving mentors and participants will be held on the first day of the Congress. Externs will attend selected meetings, socials, and educational sessions with their mentors, with the opportunity also provided for activities on their own depending on their interests. Mentors will be responsible for introducing externs to their contacts and widening the young professionals’ networks. At the conclusion of the Congress, externs will be asked to write a minimum two-page evaluation report including 1) an overview of the activities they were involved in during the Congress; 2) what they have gained from the program; and 3) strengths and weaknesses of the program, along with suggestions for future improvement.

Extern Support: Selected extern(s) will receive 1) up to a \$500 scholarship to help cover conference expenses and travel, if the participant’s home department cannot cover costs or can only cover a portion of the costs; 2) a ticket for the Academy’s annual dinner; and 3) a 2006 Congress registration fee.

Application Procedures: Eligible applicants should submit the enclosed application form and supporting materials no later than Friday, June 30, 2006.

Applications must be submitted with a letter of recommendation by either their Department Head or an Academy member.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

- 1) Age 35 or less;
- 2) Degree in the field or a related field;
- 3) At least three years of full-time experience in the parks and recreation field or in a related field;
- 4) Current position of at least the specialist or coordinator level with responsibility for program planning, administration, or supervision;
- 5) Involvement with state, regional and/or national park and recreation associations/societies, and related field organizations;
- 6) Hold designation as a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) or be a registered professional under an approved certification program.
- 7) Previous Academy externs are not eligible.

Deadline: To be eligible for consideration, *applications and support materials must be received no later than **Friday, June 30, 2006***. Please include 7 copies of all materials. Submit completed applications to:

Alice L. Conkey, Chairman
AAPRA Externship Committee
33545 Westhampton Lane
Ocean View, DE 19970
Aconkey@aol.com
302-541-4913