

I P R A T O D A Y

2010 Fall IPRA Workshop



Plans for the 2010 edition of the IPRA Fall Workshop are quickly coming together as staff from several Des Moines suburban parks and recreation departments collaborate for three days of fun and education. Clive, Johnston, Urbandale, Waukee, and West Des Moines will host the workshop September 14-16 that will feature some of the newest and innovative facilities and programming in the area. This year's theme is "It Starts With Us", which will hopefully help us remember a lot of people start their recreational and leisure habits with us, so it is extremely important for us to offer the best we can each day.

Our host hotel is the Jordan Creek Holiday Inn and Suites which is located at 60th and Mills Civic Parkway in West Des Moines. The hotel, a half mile off Interstate 35, is located in the heart of one of the best shopping, dining, and entertainment districts in the state of Iowa. Room rates for the workshop are \$86 for a double, and reservations are now being accepted at 515-309-3900. Just ask for the Iowa Park and Recreation Association room block to get the workshop pricing. Reservations need to be made by August 20, 2010. (See photo of hotel at right.)

The workshop will feature a wide variety of educational sessions and social functions to provide a great opportunity to learn and grow with fellow professionals. Featured speaker Skye Arthur-Banning from Clemson University will provide a general session keynote address to start the workshop and will also provide several sessions on topics looking at the impact of high level competitive sports and the youth of our country. There will be many other sessions ranging from how to find sponsors for events to learning about your IPERS options. Offsite tours will tout the best of our host agencies.



This year's golf outing will be held at the Legacy Golf Club in Norwalk. The Legacy Golf Club is a golf course that can be enjoyed by players of all abilities. Golfers will be impressed by the manicured bent grass fairways, tees and greens in addition to thick, lush green Kentucky blue grass rough areas. All carts have GPS to provide you with accurate distances for your shots.

Our Wednesday evening social will be held at the Blue Moon Piano Bar in West Glen. The evening will feature a full meal along with a hilarious and fun evening with Brad Heron and friend who are two of the most talented musicians/entertainers in the business. Get ready to laugh until you cry!

Get ready to START WITH US and attend what is sure to be a great three days in the western suburbs of Des Moines!

Submitted by Todd Seaman, Superintendent of Recreation, West Des Moines Parks and Recreation, and Fall Workshop Chair.



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Job Postings

Program Supervisor—City of Muscatine

This position performs supervisory work in the planning, programming and budgeting of various parks and recreation activities to include community leisure and aquatic programming, various special events and the direction of associated staff. Assigns, schedules and directs the work of subordinate personnel engaged in seasonal recreation and aquatic programming. Assists in various recreation and aquatic activities for the department. Compiles and maintains required reports of departmental programs, activities, services and properties for approval. Assists in the preparation of budgets and supporting materials including financial evaluation of operative costs. Assists in planning, public relations and promotion of department activities. Performs personnel functions, including recruitment, selection, supervision, performance evaluation and training of seasonal personnel.

A Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation Administration or a related field is required. A combination of training and experience that provides comparable knowledge, abilities and skill will be considered. Possession of a current driver's license is required. CPO and life guard certification are required within six months of employment, and all supervisory employees of the city are designated as critical employees and shall reside in Muscatine County. The selected candidate must pass physical and drug screenings.

Annual salary: \$41,004 minimum starting salary plus full-time benefits. Applications are available online at <http://ci.muscatine.ia.us>. Send resume to City Hall, 215 Sycamore Street, Muscatine, IA, 52761. Application deadline is July 7, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.

Recreation Assistant Programmer City of Mason City

The city of Mason City, Iowa is taking applications for the part-time position of Assistant Programmer in the recreation department. The person should have recreational staff experience; knowledge of recreation philosophy, planning and administration and knowledge of equipment, facilities, operations and techniques used in a comprehensive recreation program. Must possess valid Iowa driver's license and provide a copy of driving record prior to employment. The selected candidate must have achieved First Aid and CPR certification and obtain NYSICA Clinician status within six months of hire. Hours will vary including weekend hours as needed; 30 to 35 hours per week. Hourly pay range: \$10 to \$12.50, based on experience, in addition to IPERS benefit

Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on July 7, 2010. Application and complete job description available at www.masoncity.net.

Adjunct Instructor—University of Wisconsin

The University of Wisconsin—La Crosse's Recreation Management and Therapeutic Recreation Department is seeking qualified candidates to teach one or more classes in Recreation Management or Therapeutic Recreation. Examples of classes include: Recreation Management—finance, marketing, pools and facilities, leadership or outdoor activities and Therapeutic Recreation—cognitive or physical disabilities, youth, geriatrics or corrections. Related Masters Degree (or higher) preferred. Preference is given to those with prior teaching experience and course knowledge. Accepted candidates are retained in an "on-call" instructor pool for two years and on every two-year anniversary will have the option of reapplying.

Electronic submission of application materials is required. For additional information about this position and to apply, please visit <https://employment.uwlax.edu/>. Employment requires background check.

Additional Job Posting

Parks and Public Property Supervisor—City of Council Bluffs

This position supervises the maintenance and care of parks, streetscapes, athletic fields, cemeteries, right-of-way vegetation, urban forestry functions, and recreational trails and does related work as required. Areas of accountability include directing and coordinating the activities of groups of subordinates to assure the completion of assigned tasks; overseeing the care and maintenance of city parks, public property and recreation complex; overseeing the city's urban forestry functions; maintaining effective working relationships with subordinates, the city staff and the public and maintenance contractors; maintaining proper records; advising and making recommendations to the Assistant Director of Parks, Recreations and Public Property regarding improvements and modifications needed in operations, priorities, staffing, departmental policies and personnel actions affecting employees and contractors and other duties as assigned.

The selected candidate will have two years of college in horticulture, turf maintenance, agronomy, urban forestry, outdoor recreation or a closely related field and three years experience in performing park maintenance, athletic field maintenance, urban forestry practices or horticultural maintenance or graduation from high school and six years experience performing park maintenance, athletic field turf maintenance and urban forestry practices. A valid Iowa's driver's license is required, and an Iowa Pesticide Applicator's license is preferred.

Application deadline is July 12, 2010. A complete job description, as well as application information, is available on the city's website: <http://www.councilbluffs-ia.gov/cbpage1.asp>.



Does your agency sell consignments? More over, does your agency sell Adventureland Park? If not, you should really think about it. There is no obligation, no up-front costs, pay for just what is sold and generate additional income!

Adventureland Park has created an incentive program for those IPRA agencies selling its tickets. Not only can you earn \$1 per ticket but qualify for one of three opportunities to receive 10 complimentary guest passes for the 2011 season.

This year's recipients, based on 2009 sales, are:

- Most sales by a new group—Coon Rapids
- Largest percentage increase in sales from 2008—Springville
- Most tickets redeemed from July 2 to 5—Coralville

The other parks IPRA has agreements with are: Blank Park Zoo (Des Moines), Lost Island Water Park (Waterloo), Noah's Ark Water Park (Wisconsin Dells), Six Flags Great America (Gurnee, IL), Six Flags St. Louis, Valleyfair (Shakopee, MN) and Worlds of Fun (Kansas City).



If you would like to learn more, please contact Steve Jordison at jordison@pcpartner.net or call 515.291.4917.

IPRA State Fair Day

Join your fellow park and recreation professionals from all over the state of Iowa for a fun-filled day of activities for all ages. **IPRA State Fair Day is Thursday, August 19.**

Many fun activities including Big Wheel Races, Spot-Shot Basketball, Pie Eating contests, a State Fair Scavenger Hunt, Sidewalk Bowling, Bozo Ball, Arts and Crafts projects, and a Bubble Gum Blowing Contest are offered for all ages and your volunteer help in keeping these activities running smoothly is needed!

This is 'THE' day that many families plan to attend the fair, so that they can participate in the fun activities. All IPRA day volunteers get free admission and parking passes; send your agency's ticket order to:

nschenck@adeliowa.org by July 25.

We are looking for an agency to help split the arts/crafts activities portion of IPRA Day with the fine folks from Norwalk Park and Recreation Department. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out in that area. Thanks!



Nick Schenck, Director, Adel Park & Recreation
301 S. 10th Street, Adel, IA 50003
Phone 515-993-4525
nschenck@adeliowa.org

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NRPA Agency Accreditation - It's For You!

Each of our local departments is special in so many ways. This is simply one additional avenue to elevate the professional importance of parks and recreation to local city government and its residents. Is the process easy? Not necessarily; otherwise, everyone would be accredited. States bordering Iowa have the following accredited agencies: Illinois - 1, Minnesota - 3, Missouri - 2, Nebraska - 0, and Wisconsin - 0. On a national level there are currently 90 accredited agencies. Preliminary work has begun in bordering states Illinois - 2; Minnesota - 2, Missouri - 2. One IPRA agency, Davenport, has taken preliminary steps to become the first accredited department in Iowa.

Accreditation is a distinguished mark of excellence that affords external recognition of an organization's commitment to quality and improvement. Accreditation has two fundamental purposes; to assure quality and to assure improvement. The National Recreation and Park Association administratively sponsors two distinct accreditation programs. **ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION** - The [Council on Accreditation \(COA\)](#) provides quality assurance and quality improvement of accredited academic programs throughout the United States. COA is the only accreditation of recreation, park resources and leisure services curricula recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. **AGENCY ACCREDITATION** - The [Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies \(CAPRA\)](#) provides quality assurance and quality improvement of accredited park and recreation agencies throughout the United States. CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation agencies and is a valuable measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. CAPRA assures the public's interest in as much as the agency meets national standards of best practice.

NRPA trumps the **Benefits for the public:**

- Assurance and validation of well-administered services in accord with approved professional practices
- Potential for external financial support and savings to the public
- External recognition of a quality governmental service
- Holds an agency accountable to the public and ensures responsiveness to meet their needs
- Improves customer and quality services

Benefits for the agency:

- Public and political recognition
- Increased efficiency and evidence of accountability
- Answers the question, "How are we doing?" through extensive self evaluation
- Identifies areas for improvement by comparing an agency against national standards of best practice
- Enhances staff teamwork and pride by engaging all staff in the process
- Creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement
- Forces written documentation of policies and procedures

To learn more about national accreditation, please visit the NRPA website direct link www.nrpa.org/CAPRA/



Special Thanks to:



GOLF OUTING and AUCTION



FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2010
 First tee time: 12:00 noon
WAVELAND GOLF COURSE
 4908 UNIVERSITY, DES MOINES

RYDER CUP FORMAT

(2 person team)

- 6 HOLES BEST SHOT
- 6 HOLES ALTERNATE SHOT
- 6 HOLES BEST BALL



ENTRY FEE: \$60.00 PER PERSON

Includes: golf, cart, cookout, 2 drink tickets and prizes

Auction to include Ryne Sandberg autographed baseball, Behind the scenes tour of Kinnick, multiple golf and hotel packages, golf equipment and many more great items!

 IOWA FOUNDATION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION, GOLF OUTING
 NAME _____ TEAMMATE _____

E-MAIL _____ Questions, call (515) 238-2906
 To confirm your tee time and follow up with hotel and local entertainment options for a weekend stay.

OR, Sorry I cannot attend this year, please accept my contribution.

RETURN TO:

Chris Page, President
 Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation
 3547 S.W. 29th Street, Des Moines, IA 50321

BY JULY 16, 2010
Fee payable to: Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation

I P R A T O D A Y

Iowa ASA Association Profile



(This interview is reprinted from the July edition of "Balls and Strikes Softball" magazine).

Iowa ASA Commissioner Tom Topping has represented ASA in a leadership position since 1993; eight years as Assistant Chief Deputy Commissioner and as State Commissioner since 2001. However, it was 1983 when Topping first got involved with ASA as an umpire of which his best memory of umpiring came when he made history umpiring the inaugural World Cup of Softball in 2005. Topping is married to Lisa and they have two sons. Although Iowa is one of the smallest states in population, they have emerged as a top association. Topping shares reasons on why he feels his organization is so successful.

What sets Iowa ASA apart from other associations? Tom's reply: "I would say we still have quite a few divisions of play and classes within those divisions that is a little unusual for a smaller state with just 3 million people. We host over 35 state tournaments in Men's Class A, B & C Fast Pitch; Men's B, C, D & E Slow Pitch; Women's C & D Slow Pitch; Co-ed Slow B & C Pitch; Men's Major, Class A & B 16-inch Slow Pitch; Men's Major, Class A & B 14 inch Slow Pitch; Men's Masters Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch and Youth 8 U Coach Pitch; 10 U A, B, C; 12U A, B, C; 14U A, B and 16u and 18. Iowa is one, if not the only, state that has high school state-sponsored softball during the summer, so our greatest participation is in the 10 and 12-year-old divisions of play, as many of the others are playing high school ball. We also have a nice number of teams that travel and play in national tournaments, with over 75 teams participating in 2009."

What is your biggest asset as an association?

Tom's reply: "With any non-profit it is, of course, the quality of people who make up our volunteer staff and relationships with our local parks and recreation departments. We are fortunate to have many good 'softball minded' people that have played the game or are very good administrators and ambassadors of the game. We also have a very unique relationship with the Iowa Park and Recreation Association in which we share office space, office staff and equipment, and it has worked very well for over 40 years. We have an outstanding administrative assistant in

Cathy Shutts, who does a super job keeping everyone organized. We used to have one Executive Director for both associations, but now have separate Executive Directors for each."

I was on your website and saw that you host surveys. How do you use this to benefit your organization? Have you changed anything due to the surveys? Tom's reply: We try to do a few each year and survey our teams following each tournament for their input. Whether it is seeking input for rule changes or how we can do things better, surveys seem to create a simple and fun avenue for players and coaches to let us know what they think (and see how others feel about the same subject). There have been several rule proposals we have written s requested by players, and we also try to listen and change things where we are able."

Any best practices you would like to share? Tom's reply: "We have quite a few things that we try to offer that I don't know are all that unique, but these are a few of the things we do:

- Sell softballs at a reduced rate to parks and recreation departments and receive a product rebate for total sales the following year.
- Sell used softballs on eBay
- Online tournament surveys for coach feedback and evaluations following tournaments.
- Adult teams chose their own All-Tournament Teams and each team gets a certain number of selections based on their finish in the tournament. Certificates are mailed to coaches and teams are posted online with tournament stats.
- Update all tournament brackets while the tournament is in progress and post final team stats following the tournament along with team award and action photo galleries.
- Fund scholarship to college student majoring in parks and recreation field, exhibit booth and co-sponsor conferences and workshops for the IPRA.
- Bid state tournaments out much like national tournaments.
- Umpire merchandise discount for new umpires.
- Provide bat testing for tournament and league play.

(Continued on Page 8)



ANNOUNCING THE IPRA ROOM BLOCK!

Deadline – August 1*

IPRA has been assigned our room block for the 2010 NRPA National Congress. We are staying at the **Crowne Plaza Northstar** (www.cpmnneapolis.com) – located six (6) blocks from the Minneapolis Convention Center (www.minneapolisconventioncenter.com). Room rate will be \$167 (single or double) plus applicable taxes. Rooms have been set aside for Monday, October 25 through Friday, October 29.

Here is a listing of our allocated rooms*:

Monday, October 25	10
Tuesday, October 26	20
Wednesday, October 27	20
Thursday, October 28	28

Thanks for posting this
information for all to read!

If you are planning to attend the National Congress, reserve your room(s) on-line now! Follow these simple steps...

- Go to www.wynjade.com/nrpa10/states
- This will bring you to the State Block Housing reservation options sheet
 - ☞ chose "online"
 - ☞ State Blocks Hotel Reservation
 - ☞ Click here to reserve your hotel room
- You will now be directed to login
 - Username: **IOWA**
 - Password: **PARKS**
- You will now be forwarded to our IPRA room block page
- Complete your on-line reservation. Note, your credit card will be charged a one night stay to guarantee the room
- Once completed, you will be assigned a Web ID number. Please print the acknowledgement page as well as write the Web ID down for future reference should you wish to change your reservation.

Have questions or need assistance, please contact Steve Jordison at 515-291-4917 or jordison@pcpartner.net

* *Crowne Plaza Northstar Reservations – IPRA cannot guarantee the quantity of available rooms on each night of our room block or the request for additional rooms. Do not delay – reserve yours today! After August 1st, all unreserved rooms will be released to the general public for re-sale.*



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Grinnell, IA 50112

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Iowa ASA Association Profile

(Continued from Page 6)

- Bring in National Umpire Staff Member as clinician for state clinics.
- Sell umpire merchandise to umpires and instructional videos for teams.
- Offer mailings to teams running invitational tournaments. Teams send approved-of sanctioned tournament flyers with postage paid, and our staff adheres labels and sends out. Tournament is also posted online on our invitational page."

The NRPA Congress in Minneapolis is approaching fast! Many of you were volunteers last year for Congress in Salt Lake City. The volunteer site will be up and functioning in early July, and there are many opportunities to volunteer this year, especially for room hosts, for which CEU's can be earned. Below are the available packages for volunteers and you can always add extras for additional cost.

- 1 to 6 hours = Expo Hall Pass only
- 7 to 12 hours = Expo Hall Pass and 1 Day Educational Pass (for the day you are volunteering)
- 13 to 16 hours = Educational Pass
- 17 plus hours = Full Package

IPRA

Calendar of Events



July—Parks and Recreation Month!

5	State office closed—Independence Day holiday
14	IPRA Board Meeting—state office
14	Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Board meeting—state office
16	Foundation Golf Outing deadline
22	Tennis in Parks state finals—Des Moines

August

6	Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Golf Tournament
9	CEU/Aquatic Update—Des Moines
10-11	Certified Pool Operator's Course—Des Moines
19	IPRA State Fair Day