

— CPRA —

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Guide



A guide on CPRA involvement to help you take full advantage of your membership and give back to your association

GET MORE FROM CPRA

www.cpra-web.org

INTRODUCTION

CPRA's mission is to promote excellence in the Parks & Recreation Industry through connection, education, and recognition.

This coming year, we hope you invest in your personal excellence by taking full advantage of the wide variety of opportunities afforded to you by your association.

With so many options for how to engage as a CPRA member, we hope this guide helps you begin a new leg of your journey toward personal and professional growth in this exceptional industry.

Get more from your membership!



With Sections, Committees, Task Forces, and a multitude of general member benefits, the sky is the limit for CPRA Professionals! Get more out of your career and your association this year.

New year, new you, new CPRA too!



— CPRA —

CPRA OVERVIEW

CPRA was established in 1951 as a 501c4 trade association for Parks and Recreation professionals in Colorado. In 2015, CPRA became a 501c3 charitable nonprofit providing the Association with more tools and resources to better serve its members. CPRA has offered continuing education, professional networking, and resources for Parks & Recreation professionals since its establishment.

Join the Celebration!



SHARE YOUR CPRA
MEMORIES >



CPRA BOARD MEMBERS

Your 2026 CPRA Executive Board

- **President:** Ali Rhodes, rhodesa@bouldercolorado.gov
- **President-Elect:** Mark Snow, mark.snow@coloradosprings.gov
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Nicole Reeves, nicole.reeves@gjcity.org
- **At-Large:** Mari Steinbach, mari@montroserec.com
- **At-Large:** Amy Hodge, ahodge@windsorgov.com
- **At-Large:** Kyle Parker, kparker@prospectdistrict.org
- **At-Large:** Sara Heisdorffer, sheisdorffer@wheatridge.gov

Learn more about the exceptional professionals of your
CPRA Executive Board on the CPRA website!



GET INVOLVED IN SECTIONS

CPRA Sections Overview

CPRA Sections offer a wide selection of educational and peer networking opportunities designated by specified areas of the Parks & Recreation industry. All Section events and meetings can be found on the [CPRA calendar](#). Learn more about each Section below:



AAPS

Active Adult Programming and Services (AAPS) section is composed of those persons who work within adult programming and services including, active adults, seniors, baby boomers, and any person 18 years and older, both in the recreation and therapeutic settings.

AAPS Meetings are held the quarterly at various recreation and therapeutic centers around the state.



Aquatics

The main purpose of this section is to increase the knowledge and professionalism of those involved in all aspects of aquatics through workshops, meetings and special training events.

Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am at various recreation/ aquatic centers around the state and with a virtual option.



GET INVOLVED IN SECTIONS



CARA

Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics (CARA) promotes the development of athletics and encourages the standardization of rules and classifications in games and competition. CARA holds local, regional, and state competitions in youth athletics throughout the state.

The CARA Section caters to any and all Parks & Recreation Professionals working in areas related to youth sports and programming. Meetings are held for CARA Section members on the third Wednesday of each month at various recreation centers around the state and virtually.



Directors

The Directors Section is open to any CPRA member in good standing. This section promotes the profession of parks and recreation through mentoring and professional support of fellow members: by sharing knowledge, best practices, innovations and trends, and by providing educational opportunities.

Meetings are held quarterly, typically on Thursdays in a variety of locations. All section and CPRA members are invited.



GET INVOLVED IN SECTIONS



EPiC

Formerly ELN, or the Emerging Leaders Network, Engaging Professionals in CPRA (EPiC) is an interest group and a subsection of the Directors Section for CPRA. We are open to any CPRA member in good standing. We work in conjunction with the Directors Section to provide networking and career growth opportunities for professionals looking to become stronger leaders in their field.

We host quarterly networking events and run the mentorship program.



Facility Management

The CPRA Facility Management Section is committed to the development of recreation facility professionals through education, networking, collaboration, and idea-sharing.

We meet quarterly dates, times & locations varying throughout the front range.



GET INVOLVED IN SECTIONS



Fitness

The mission of the Fitness Section is to provide education for professionals and the community through Fitness in the Rockies, share program ideas and industry trends, understand the industry through membership support, and enhance fitness/wellness representation within CPRA through networking meetings.



Parks

This section provides educational workshops and activities for professionals involved with all phases of park maintenance and operation. This section is well known for its Parks Workshop and Trade show in the spring. Virtual roundtable-style meetings are held monthly.



GET INVOLVED IN SECTIONS



PLAaY

Preschool Licensing Activities and Youth Section (PLAaY) provides recreational and development opportunities for children, youth and teens through a collaborative effort of agencies throughout the state. PLAaY also addresses the unique issues of licensed childcare programs, shares program ideas and provides educational opportunities for professionals. The PLAaY Section meets quarterly and anyone interested in pre-school and school age programming is invited.



TRSC

The Therapeutic Recreation Society of Colorado (TRSC) serves therapeutic recreation specialist, those programming for special populations and inclusion through professional workshops and regular meetings throughout the year. TRSC strives to provide resources and opportunities for TR practitioners in both community and clinical settings in Colorado. TRSC hosts quarterly events and meetings.



GET INVOLVED IN SECTIONS

2026 CPRA Section Chairs

Officially joining a Section can be as easy as adding the group to your Lists/Committees from your CPRA Member Hub. However, you may also want to connect directly with the leadership of your Section of interest. Section Chairs are happy to help you learn more about engaging with their Section.

- **AAPS Chair:** Michelle Stout, michelles@apexprd.org
- **Aquatics Chair:** Maggie Sherrill, msherrill@avon.org
- **CARA Chair:** Sam Low, lowsamuel@wsd3.org
- **Directors Chair:** Amanda Hobson, hobsona@pueblocounty.us
- **EPiC Chair:** Jules Sheldon, jules@fraservalleyrec.org
- **Acting Facility Management Chair:** Scott Hickman, shickman@cvprd.com
- **Fitness Chair:** Suzi Shankweiler, sshankweiler@cvprd.com
- **Parks Chair:** Sarah McAfee, smcafee@fhprd.org
- **PLAaY Chair:** Megan Krabbe, mkrabbe@c3gov.com
- **TRSC Chair:** Ronja Vaitaitis, rvaitaitis@erieco.gov

Learn more about how to officially join a Section from your Member Hub on the following page!



MEMBER BENEFITS

— Don't Leave Anything on the Table —

- Stay Connected



Utilize peer connections to make your mark on the industry and break into specific areas of growth. Ask questions, get guidance, and tap into career expertise from professionals just like you.

- Stay Informed



Stay up-to-date on important Industry trends through timely and relevant webletters, the Colorado Byline Magazine, social media, and learning opportunities.

- Advance Your Career



Take control of your personal professional development by staying tuned to current career advancement and CEU opportunities from a direct connection to the industry.



YOUR MEMBER HUB

- **Manage Your Account & Directory Listing**



Add a photo and bio to your account and spice up your listing! Peers can view your directory listings and visit your profile, so show off introduce yourself!

- **Plan your PD Calendar**



View all upcoming Section and Professional Development events with the Events tab right from your Hub. Register and view reminders of all upcoming opportunities.

- **Join Sections & Committees**



Stay connected by officially joining all relevant Sections, Committees, and Interest Groups. Just click the plus icon on Lists/Committees from your My Info tab! Learn more with the guide below.

View the full Account Management Guide Here



WAYS TO ENGAGE

- Utilize the Member Forum



CPRA's Connected Community now has a Reddit-style format. Be sure to join all relevant Lists/Committees to access specific threads, or engage with the membership as a whole through General Discussion. Stay connected and up-to-date on current trends, issues, and conversations with your peers. Ask questions and get feedback too, all from one, simple platform. Check out the Forum User Guide to learn more!

CLICK HERE 

- Get Published in the *Byline*



Get yourself a byline in the *Byline*! Who doesn't want to add published author to their resume? The *Byline* Magazine is a publication from members for members. Bring us your updates and ideas in a full article or as a concept and we'll be happy to help you create something of value to share with your peers in print and online. Learn more at www.cpra-web.org/publications.



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Advance your career and volunteer!

Veteran CPRA members will tell you, volunteering in Sections and on CPRA Boards, Committees, and Task Force groups often leads to career advancement in ways you might not have imagined! Giving back to your association is a surefire way to bolster your resume, prove your dedication to the industry, make vital connections, and get back even more than you give.

1

Conference Committee

CPRA is always looking for volunteers to assist with our biggest event of the year — The CPRA Annual Conference. As we prepare to bring together the brightest minds and innovators in parks and recreation, we welcome dedicated individuals to join our Conference Committee. As a committee member, you will play a pivotal role in curating the Conference program, selecting speakers and ensuring that the conference is a dynamic platform for learning and networking. This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute your expertise, expand your network, and make a meaningful impact at the Annual Conference. If you're ready to be part of something exciting, we want to hear from you! Please fill out the interest form on the next page, and a member of our team will follow up with more details about the committee.



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

2

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee will assist in streamlining the CPRA Awards process. This committee will review Columbine Awards applications and rank them according to a scoring rubric. Fill out the form below if you'd like to be added to the communication list!

3

CEU Committee

CPRA is putting together a CEU Approval Committee. This committee will be made up of seasoned professionals who have experience in submitting and reviewing sessions to meet the criteria to be approved for continuing education units. Fill out the form below if you'd like to be kept in the loop to assist with this opportunity!

Want to get involved? Click the button below to fill out an interest form!

INTEREST FORM >

TESTIMONIALS

— How CPRA Involvement Can Benefit Your Career —



I Would Not Be Where I Am Today

"I remember my first CPRA Conference in Grand Junction. I kept telling myself: 'These are my people. These are the professionals that I want to learn from and work with.' CPRA has enabled me to do just that and I have zero doubts that without the relationships I've built through CPRA and the resources they have offered throughout the years, I would not be where I am today."

Luke Bolinger, CPRP | Former CPRA Board Member | Director of Parks & Recreation | Town of Erie



Networking Has Been Invaluable

"I truly feel that I am where I am today in my career today due to the many professional growth opportunities that CPRA has provided me over the years. The opportunity to network with other professionals and build my circle of mentors has been invaluable.

I think often when we work within our organizations we find what is comfortable. As we get involved with CPRA and the various sections it opens our eyes and minds to how other people work and to their amazing programs and services they provide to their community. That, at least for me, makes us want to go back and analyze what we do and see if we can do better. That serves us well as a profession and enhances the programs and services we provide to our communities."

Clay Shuck | Former CPRA Board President | Director of Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services | City and County of Broomfield

TESTIMONIALS

— How CPRA Involvement Can Benefit Your Career —



CPRA is a Vehicle for Developing

“There is almost no issue that just one agency faces – regular round tables with these groups helped develop a network of leading practices and resources that continues to serve me well today.

With public health regulations changing daily and the challenges of leadership very, very heavy, weekly calls with leaders across the state supported my mental health. In summary: CPRA is a vehicle for developing:

- Friendships and professional relationships to support your success;
- Professional skills to ensure you’re bringing the latest and leading practices to your organization;”

Ali Rhodes | CPRA Board President | Director of Parks and Recreation | City of Boulder Parks & Recreation



Energize Your Career

“You will meet and interact with numerous people who work in the parks and recreation industry, which can be extremely valuable. There is a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experience amongst individuals across the state, and building connections with those individuals will give you the opportunity to seek advice, brainstorm, and acquire resources. You may also find an experienced professional to mentor you, which is advantageous both personally and professionally.”

Nicole Reeves, CPRP | CARA Board Secretary/Treasurer | Manager | City of Grand Junction Parks & Recreation

— CPRA —

→ THANK YOU ←

YOUR CPRA STAFF!



GET THE MEMBER APP



720-588-0943

www.cpra-web.org

P.O. Box 1037, Wheat Ridge, 80034

cpra@cpra-web.org