



Virginia Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference
Oceanfront Hilton and Virginia Beach Convention Center
Virginia Beach, VA
November 7-10, 2015

Cultivate. Connect. Converge.



The Virginia Recreation and Park Society is busy planning our 2015 Annual Conference to be held in Virginia Beach, VA November 7-10, 2015. Sessions will be held at the [Oceanfront Hilton](#) and the [Virginia Beach Convention Center](#). We are seeking creative, interactive, informative speakers to create a unique learning experience that our conference-goers won't find anywhere else and we think you'd be an ideal presenter.

The Virginia Recreation and Park Society is a private, non-profit professional organization, founded in 1953 and incorporated in 1956. Its purpose is to unite all professionals, students, and interested lay persons engaged in the field of recreation, parks and other leisure services in the Commonwealth of Virginia, into one body. VRPS is an affiliate of the [National Recreation and Park Association](#). 2015 marks our 61st annual conference.

Our theme is ***Cultivate. Connect. Converge.*** The participants at the Annual Conference are Parks & Recreation Professionals and students from across the state. We are seeking intelligent, motivating, insightful speakers to fill our education schedule. Included in this packet, you will find a list of session topics and ideas for consideration.

If you are interested in speaking at the conference, please review the list of session ideas and submit the Session Proposal Form no later than **April 16, 2015** to Kari Diop with all attachment(s) to kdiop@vb.gov in order to be considered for the Conference. Speakers selected will be contacted with further information. Education sessions are typically one hour and fifteen minutes (1.25) or two hours and thirty minutes (2.5) in order to be eligible for continuing education units for the participants.

Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

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2015 Annual Conference Session Topics



Please use the following session topics and example sessions that have been offered at previous annual conferences (VRPS, NRPA, etc.) as inspiration for your session proposals. Please do not be limited to these topics, but consider your audience is recreation professionals- entry level, front line, mid management, and upper management. This includes administrators, planners, programmers, operators, students, etc.

Administration/ Management

Budget, Foundations, Business Practices, Dealing with Change, Innovation, Revenue Generation Strategies, Hiring Professional Services- architects, etc.

Athletics

Youth Sports, Safety, Volunteer Screening, Working with Coaches

Aquatics

Air Quality, Model Health Code, Swim Lessons, Hot Topics, Staffing, Inservice, Renovations

Cultural and Historic Resource Management

Resource Management, Re-enactments, Revenue Generating Ideas, Working with Friends Groups

Cultural Diversity

Exploring Youth Culture

Customer Service

Customer Service in the Digital Age, Convenience, Building your Brand

Facility/Recreation Center Operations

Branding, Theming, Improvements, User Groups, Health and Wellness Programs, Fitness

Golf

Maximizing Golf Revenue vs. Maintenance, Juniors, Ladies, Latent Golfers, Retention, New Programs

Marketing/Tourism

Branding, Social Media, Sponsorships, Partnerships, Email Marketing, Mobile Technology, Low Cost Marketing Ideas

Park Maintenance, Landscape and Turf Management

Natural Playgrounds, Skate Park Management and Programming, Ballfield and Park Maintenance, Meadow Management, Wildlife Management, Dog Park Management

Park Operations

Geocaching, Sustainability, Re-invigorating Older Parks

Partnerships/ Collaboration/ Advocacy

Citizen Engagement, Public/Private Partnerships, Friends Groups, How to Seek Citizen Input, 4-H programs, VA Wounded Warrior Program

Trails and Open Space/Urban Forestry

Bike Share Programs, Public Education on Bike Safety, Naturalist Programs, Natural Area Management, Environmental Stewardship

Personnel Management

Recognizing, Rewarding, and Retaining Staff, Staff Accountability, Managing Conflict, Succession Planning, Motivating Staff

Planning, Design and Maintenance

Preventive Maintenance, Design Build Procedures

Programming Ideas

Camps and Technology, Engaging Children in Nature Play/Outdoors, Family Recreation Programs, Cost Effective Programming Ideas, Art, Summer Camp, Program Evaluation, Re-invigorating Existing Programs

Risk Management

Risk Management for Pools and Facilities, Developing an EAP, Emergency Preparedness – P/R role in responding and recovering

Revenue Opportunities

Food and Beverage, Renovations, Special Events, Re-Branding

Active Adults/ Seniors

Revenue Generating Ideas for Active Adult Programs, Aging Society Issues, Key Trends in Aging

Special Events/Festivals

Business Plans, Risk Management, Event Operations, Sponsorships, Staffing Plans, Revenue Opportunities

Outdoor Recreation

Eco Tourism, Experiential Education, Ropes and Adventure Programming, Kayaking

Wellness and Fitness

Nutrition, Exercise, New Programs (Les Mills)

Students

Resume Writing, Internships, How to Take the Next Step

Therapeutic Recreation

Disability Awareness, Programming, Partnerships, Developing a TR Program, Current Trends

Youth and Teens

Employing Teens, Teen Program Ideas, Developing Emerging Leaders, Teen Volunteer Programs

Leadership

Coaching, Inspiration, Change

Professional Development

Networking, Personal Growth Plan, Time Management, National Certification Programs

VRPS

How to Get Involved, The Value of Membership, Round Table with Leaders

Volunteers

Volunteer Retention Ideas, Boomer Strategies, Resources, Recognition Programs

Your next step is to complete a Session Proposal Form and return to the Education Committee for consideration for the 2015 Conference. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Kari Diop

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James Mickle

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Guidelines and Standards



These standards and guidelines are intended to provide guidance to speakers at the Virginia Recreation Parks Society Conference.

VRPS desires that speakers:

Have a significant knowledge and expertise of the subject area,
Have sufficient presentation skills to effectively communicate,
Do not engage in excessive commercial presentations of their organization,
Be conscious of the time limitation of their presentation and
Note the recommendations (below) for preparation of PowerPoint presentations.

We hope this information is useful in helping you prepare your presentation. Please share it with all other presenters on your program. This will be updated frequently, so check back periodically for information that will assist you in the successful production of your presentation. We look forward to seeing you in Virginia Beach!

GUIDELINES

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

A link to the preliminary program will be made available online at vrps.com.

AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT

As noted in the Call for Proposals form, VRPS provides, at no cost, only the audiovisual equipment selected from the specified list at proposal submission (LCD projector, screen and flip chart/markers). Due to limited availability, VRPS would like to encourage speakers if they need to use a laptop they provide their own.

WIRELESS INTERNET

Internet access cannot be guaranteed for some rooms. Additional information regarding internet connectivity will be provided to speakers prior to conference.

MEETING ROOMS

A speaker preparation room will be available for your use to organize your presentation materials.

In most cases, the meeting room assigned to your session will be available 15 minutes prior to your scheduled start time. Please use this time to ensure that everything is in order and that you are ready to begin on time. If there is a problem, contact your room host. As a professional courtesy to other presenters, please begin and end your presentation on time.

Sessions are scheduled at the [Oceanfront Hilton](#) and the [Virginia Beach Convention Center](#) meeting rooms.

Nothing can be taped, stapled, or otherwise affixed to any wall or surface of the session rooms.

HANDOUTS

Most attendees are interested in practical application and how-to ideas that they can incorporate into their programs. An adequate amount of handouts of your presentation are highly recommended. In an effort to reduce print production VRPS will not provide copies during the conference sessions. If you run short of handouts, you can provide your contact information to delegates that request a handout.

During Q&A, please repeat any questions, so all attendees can hear before you answer.

SELECTION PROCESS

Sessions are reviewed and ultimately selected by the Education Committee. On occasion, submitters will be asked for further clarification. All submitters will receive email notification. The Virginia Recreation and Parks Society reserves the right to reject any proposal.

SPEAKER COMPENSATION

1. VRPS members or speakers from VRPS member agencies are not eligible to be compensated for speaking. VRPS does not reimburse for travel expenses, hotel costs, etc.

- a. We encourage speakers who are not registered for the conference to register for the day to attend conference sessions.
- b. Presenter not registered for the conference must purchase a ticket for any social or meal functions.

2. Speakers who are not VRPS members or from VRPS member agencies but work within the field of parks and recreation (i.e. from other states) are generally not compensated for speaking.

3. Speakers who are not VRPS members MAY be compensated for speaking and traveling. However, this is a decision that the steering committee must make. Factors the steering committee will consider before agreeing to compensate a speaker include:

- a. level of experience, the reputation, and the qualifications of the speaker,
- b. number of sessions the speaker is presenting,
- c. number of people likely to attend the session,
- d. amount the speaker is charging for a speaking fee,
- e. total of the travel costs the speaker expects to have covered,
- f. amount budgeted for all educational expenses.

STANDARDS

1. Knowledge of the subject. Speakers and moderators shall have both in-depth and broad knowledge of the presented subject, going beyond their personal experience or the experience of their organization or firm. This will help provide examples for participants that illustrate various points of view or methods of doing things, and allow more complete responses to questions. It is also valuable to incorporate a global perspective whenever possible on the topic of discussion.

2. Presentation skills. Speakers shall understand how to address and teach adults. This includes, at a minimum, good voice projection, coordination of oral and visual information, ability to interact positively with the audience, and ability to synthesize information into understandable segments and present them in an orderly and logical manner. One should avoid reading material from the slide presentation. Slide material should touch on key points of the presentation.

3. No commercials. No speaker will sell or promote any product, service, or publication during any presentation. Distributing or handing out a company's promotional literature is prohibited outside of the exhibit booth.

4. Consider the Bottom Line. Registrants attend conferences to gather information that can help them do their own jobs more effectively. Speakers should attempt to relate information keeping in mind how it can be used by members of the audience and the specific focus of the event.