



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

MRPA Mentorship Program

Are you an early career professional who wants to connect with other parks and recreation professionals to expand your knowledge and develop a framework for career advancement?

Are you a mid-level professional who wants to make connections to enhance your skill sets for your current position and the position you aspire to achieve?

Are you a seasoned professional or retiree who wants to give back to the profession, develop future leaders, and explore new ways to connect to your own agency's team?

Then the MRPA Mentorship Program is for you!



Mentorship Program Mission: To provide MRPA members with a formal mentorship program which fosters mutual career development through education, service and networking opportunities with committed industry professionals.

The MRPA Mentorship Program:

The purpose of the mentorship program is for both the mentors and mentees to give and grow in the process by developing special partnerships based on a commitment to common goals and expectations, as well as mutual trust and respect. Early career, mid-career, and seasoned professionals will be partnered in triads to strengthen knowledge and skills, provide invaluable networking opportunities and enhance the personal and professional growth of participants at all career levels. Mentors and mentees will begin their partnership at the Annual Conference and continue their involvement throughout the year, hopefully building a relationship that will continue long after the year concludes.

The Role of the Mentor:

Mentors encourage and advise emerging recreation professionals by sharing their own experiences and knowledge of the recreation profession. Successful mentors will help foster their mentees' knowledge and guide them to local and national resources and contacts. Mid-career participants will mentor the new professional as well as be mentored by the seasoned professional.

The Role of the Mentee:

The benefit of being a mentee is building relationships with colleagues who can give insight to the recreation profession. As a mentee, you will have someone to go to with questions and concerns who will provide support and guidance. Your mentor is a great networking contact and someone who can help guide you as you develop your career as a recreation professional.

The Process:

Those interested in participating in the mentorship program will need to submit the application to MRPA and, if selected, will be asked to pay a nominal fee to help cover a portion of the costs. Applications will be used to create up to 10 mentorship teams taking into consideration compatible characteristics, individual objectives, and geographic location. **A series of five events will be scheduled to provide each mentor team time to set goals, build relationships, and share experiences. Please see the schedule of events below. Attendance at all five events is mandatory in order to participate in the program. CEU's will be available for applicable education sessions. The formal part of the mentoring program will conclude with a celebration to recognize all participants. Mentor teams will be encouraged to continue to meet informally to hone skills and grow professionally.**

If you would like to participate please complete the application attached and return it by January 27, 2018 Deb Smith at executivedirector@merpa.org. Participants will be notified of their acceptance by February 10, 2018. **At that time a fee of \$75.00 will be charged to each participant. This will cover the cost of the program for the participant. MRPA will be partially subsidizing the cost of the program.**

Mentorship Program Schedule: would recommend we schedule 3 events for 2018

* Specific dates to be determined. Event times are approximate, and subject to change.

MRPA Mentorship Program Application

All mentors and mentees must be MRPA professional members and have at least part time status at current employer.

Part 1: PROFILE

Applicant Name: _____

Agency: _____

Agency Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Years in Recreation Profession: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____

Supervisor's Phone: _____

Supervisor's Email: _____

I prefer to be contacted by:

Office Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Part 2: EDUCATION

College/University Attended: _____

Major(s): _____

Additional Credentials: _____

Part 3: MENTOR/MENTEE PREFERENCES

What are you hoping to get out of this program? Please rank 1-6 (1 being the most important).

- Promotion/Job Advancement
- Networking
- To improve my performance in my current position
- To receive support and advice from professionals outside of my current agency
- To mentor others
- To become a leader within the profession and/or NJRPA

I prefer to be paired with someone in my district. *We cannot guarantee placement.

YES NO NO PREFERENCE

Part 4: BACKGROUND

Please type responses to questions below and submit answers with your application.

1. Why do you want to be a mentor/mentee?
2. What are your career goals for the next five years?
3. Please list your job titles and locations for the past five years.

Part 5: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (Please initial and provide signatures)

- I will attend all five Mentorship Program events.
- I am a current NJRPA member.
- I am a full-time employee.
- My agency supports my participation in the Mentorship Program.

Supervisor Signature: _____

Fee: \$75.00 payable upon acceptance; includes CEUs. Participants are responsible for their own travel costs.

I understand the requirements and commitment needed to be a participant in the MRPA Mentorship Program.

Applicant Signature: _____

Please return completed form to:
 Deb Smith, Executive Director
 PO Box 6728
 Scarborough, ME 04070
 OR by email: executivedirector@merpa.org