



PRPS Recognition and Awards Program NOMINATION FORM

Welcome to the PRPS Recognition and Awards Program for 2026! The PRPS Recognition and Awards Committee hopes that this streamlined process for submitting nominations facilitates your participation in the program. By focusing on excellence in recreation and parks, we hope to recognize a broad range of achievements of heroes in our field as well as in public parks and recreation organizations of all kinds – from large, established departments to those that are small, or just starting out. **This form should not be used to nominate for the Agency of the Year Award.**

All nominations must be received by January 7, 2026.

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name of Individual, Program Leader, Publication or Group being nominated_____

Title of Individual, Program, Publication or Group being nominated (as it would appear on an award plaque)_____

Agency_____

Please choose an award:

- ☐ Outstanding Achievement Award in Honor of Fred M. Coombs*
- ☐ PRPS Distinguished Member Award in Honor of Robert D. Griffith*
- ☐ Outstanding New Professional Award*
- ☐ Community Champion Award*
- ☐ Excellence in Recreation and Parks**

Is the nominated individual or agency a member of PRPS?

- ☐ Yes (Active)
- ☐ Yes (Retired)
- ☐ No

Is the nominee a compensated professional in the parks and recreation field?

- ☐ Yes - Number of years in full-time employment as a parks and recreation professional: _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A (nominee is an agency or group)

AGENCY INFORMATION

Name of Agency_____

Director _____

Municipality _____ County _____

Telephone _____ Website _____

Note that the Committee reserves the right to move any entry to a more appropriate category based upon the information provided.



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SUBMITTED BY

Name and title of person submitting nomination _____

Affiliation to Nominee _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

REASON FOR NOMINATION

Please provide a one paragraph summary stating the reason(s) for nomination. This summary will be used in the Awards Program. We encourage you to write this information in a word document and then copy and paste into this area.

***FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, DISTINGUISHED MEMBER, OUTSTANDING NEW PROFESSIONAL, AND COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS (SOCIETY AWARDS)**

Please provide a detailed narrative which describes the reason for the individual or group's nomination **based on the Awards Criteria described below**. Be sure to highlight the nominee's accomplishments, career experience, community involvement, and contribution to the recreation and parks profession. The nomination should provide examples of the nominee's success in demonstrating the POWER principles, where applicable, and indicate the nominee's level of involvement with PRPS committees, leadership, and initiatives (or leadership in the community project or initiative for Community Champion Award nominations). The narrative should include specific references to the requirements for the award as described in the Awards Criteria below. Additional material may be included within the guidelines detailed in REASON FOR NOMINATION above. ***We strongly encourage submitting a resume for individual awards.***

****FOR EXCELLENCE IN RECREATION AND PARKS AWARDS (PROGRAM AWARDS)**

Please provide specific information on how the nomination demonstrates the following POWER principles. The nomination be rated on a scale of 1-5 for each principle.

It is important to emphasize in the nomination the size of the agency (number of employees), the population and/or number of people served, and the available resources of the agency and how those resources are utilized in an effective and creative manner.

Positions public recreation and parks as an essential community service

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Tell how the nominated program or publication advances the role and importance of public recreation and parks, shows the benefits of parks and recreation, and improves the quality of life in the community.

Outcome based

Describe the problem, issue, or opportunity and how the nominated program or publication provided a solution to it.

Wow factor

Explain how the nominated program or publication advances recreation and parks in the community through a major accomplishment, innovation, or a creative approach to managing and/or providing public recreation and parks. Describe how the nominated program or publication demonstrates creativity and innovation. This can range from start-up efforts made to establish recreation and parks, or a small but mighty effort to make something happen where recreation and parks are struggling, to the initiative of a well-established parks and recreation organization.

Effects change

Address how the nominated program or publication deals with an important issue in the field of recreation and parks such as environmental stewardship, connecting people to nature, active healthy living, or social equity. Describe how it demonstrates strategies, resources, and outreach methods to increase public awareness, or other means that produce results.

Resourcefulness

Present how the nominated program or publication used creative resources and outreach methods to generate support from a variety of sources, including partnerships in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, the use of private funds, lands, facilities, and expertise, or secured support from policy makers or elected officials.

When was this program or publication offered or produced? _____

Has this program or publication previously received a PRPS award?

☐ No

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☐ Yes (Please attach an explanation of how the nomination has changed)

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PRPS Recognition and Awards Program AWARD CRITERIA

The following items will be considered by the Committee in making their selections. A full list of award criteria is available at

Outstanding Achievement Award in Honor of Fred M. Coombs

- This award focuses on significant achievements that served to advance public recreation and parks and produced substantial enduring positive impacts on the quality of life in Pennsylvania through recreation and parks, including:
 - Candidate's work experience
 - Awards and special recognitions
 - Elected or appointed offices held
 - Committee work
 - Speeches, writing, research, and professional development
 - Community involvement
 - Demonstration of POWER principles
 - Level of involvement with PRPS committees, leadership, and initiatives
- Requirements:
 - Current or retired PRPS professional member
 - Minimum of 20 years compensated experience
 - Strongly encourage submitting a resume

Distinguished Member Award in Honor of Robert D. Griffith

- Service to PRPS and the level of involvement with PRPS committees, leadership, and initiatives
- Candidate's work experience
- Service to related associations or groups
- Improvements to a recreation and parks or related curriculum at the undergraduate or graduate level
- Volunteer efforts within recreation and parks
- Initiation of new recreation programs
- Development of new methods of parks operation or maintenance
- Contributions to the expansion of the recreation and parks profession
- Advocacy or legislative contributions
- Enthusiasm for the profession
- Demonstration of POWER principles

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PRPS Recognition and Awards Program AWARD CRITERIA

- Requirements:
 - Current PRPS professional membership
 - Minimum of 10 years compensated experience
 - Strongly encourage submitting a resume

Outstanding New Professional Award

- Candidate's work experience
- Contributions to the advancement of PRPS, affiliated organizations, or the recreation and parks profession
- Service to the candidate's employing agency
- Service to PRPS and the level of involvement with PRPS committees, leadership, and initiatives
- Volunteer community service
- Demonstration of POWER principles
- Requirements:
 - Less than 11 years of full-time, compensated experience in the recreation and parks profession
 - Current PRPS professional membership
 - Strongly encourage submitting a resume

Community Champion Award (available to individuals or groups)

- Volunteer contributions to recreation and parks having a stimulating local, state, regional, or national effect
- Continuing interest in recreation, parks, and leisure
- Leadership in the conduct of some project or area of service related to recreation and parks
- Volunteer contributions in support of recreation and parks
- Donation of funding, materials, or human resources toward building or renovating a facility or program
- Ongoing major commitment of resources to the enhancement or maintenance of a facility or program

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PRPS Recognition and Awards Program AWARD CRITERIA

Excellence in Recreation and Parks

- Demonstration of the POWER principles
- Requirements:
 - Current PRPS membership (of sponsoring agency or person from agency submitting the award)
 - The entry must have been offered or produced during the current PRPS membership year
 - The entry may not be a recipient of a previous PRPS award unless there have been substantial changes to the content or format
 - It is important to emphasize in the nomination the size of the agency (number of employees), the population and/or number of people served, and the available resources of the agency and how those resources are utilized in an effective and creative manner.
 - **Limit to two nominations per Department.**

All nominations must be received by January 7, 2026.