PRPS Recognition and Awards Program
AWARD CRITERIA

The following items will be considered by the Committee in making their selections.

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 of 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

- Requirements:
    - Current PRPS professional membership
    - Minimum of 10 years of 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

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 5, 2027.