

Missouri Park and Recreation Association  
Code for Awards (Revised 6/24)

The Missouri Park and Recreation Association (MPRA) recognizes the desirability of honoring certain members, citizens, and organizations in the state that have rendered outstanding service to recreation and/or parks in the state of Missouri.

The Citation and Awards Committee shall be composed of not less than five (5) or no more than nine (9) MPRA members and is charged with the responsibility of selecting the individuals and organizations to receive the honors.

**I. AWARD CATEGORIES:**

- A. Distinguished Fellow** - This award shall be made annually to not more than one (1) member of the association, except where in the estimation of the committee, special circumstances warrant multiple awards.
- B. Associate Distinguished Fellow** - This award may be made annually to not more than two (2) members of the association, except where in the estimation of the committee, special circumstances warrant multiple awards.
- C. Citation Of Merit** (Recreation and/or Parks) - This award may be made annually to not more than four (4) within the "Citation" categories.
- D. Retirement Service**
- E. Public Official Achievement Award** - This award may be made annually to not more than one (1) individual from each of the following four (4) levels of government: Local, County, State, and Federal.
- F. Support Staff** - This award may be made annually to not more than one (1) individual.
- G. Give-Back Award Sponsored By Musco Lighting** - This award may be made annually to not more than one (1) individual or group each year.
- H. Agency of the Year** - This award may be made annually to not more than (1) agency from each of the following three (3) categories of communities each year: Class 1, Class 2, Class 3
- I. Achievement In Partnership** - This award may be made annually to not more than one (1) agency.
- J. President's Award** - This award may be made annually to not more than one (1) individual, project or organization.
- K. Member's Choice** - This award may be made annually to not more than one (1) winner of an MPRA Showcase Award for the same year.

**II. QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES**

- A. Distinguished Fellow**
  - 1. Membership In MPRA (Professional or Associate)

2. Experience - At least ten (10) years' experience as a leader, instructor, supervisor, director, administrator, or a combination of same in the field of recreation and/or parks. Candidates must be certified by a certifying board recognized in the field of parks, recreation, and leisure services.
3. Service
  - a) Contribution primarily demonstrated outstanding and continual service to the association.
  - b) Distinctive and innovative leadership in administration, management, promotion, organization, legislation, and development in the provision of parks and recreation services.
4. Evidence Of Leadership - Candidate shall have met at least a total of four (4) items listed below:
  - a) Office Holder
    - (1) An elected member of a National Recreation and Park Association Regional Council,
    - (2) An elected officer of MPRA,
    - (3) An elected director of MPRA,
    - (4) A member of the MPRA Executive Board.
  - b) Committee Work
    - (1) Chair of any standing MPRA committee,
    - (2) Chair or member of any NRPA branch committee,
    - (3) Chair of any NRPA regional council,
    - (4) Chair of any special MPRA committee.
  - c) Professional Research - Writing – Speeches
    - (1) Numerous addresses or appearances to groups over the radio or TV held in the interest of recreation and parks,
    - (2) Original articles in newspapers or magazine on recreation and/or parks,
    - (3) Research which has helped advance the profession,
    - (4) Author or co-author of a book(s) on recreation and/or parks,
    - (5) Original contribution to profession which has affected philosophy or practices.

**B. Associate Distinguished Fellow**

1. Membership in MPRA
2. Experience - At least three (3) years' experience as a leader, instructor, supervisor, or a combination of same in field of parks and recreation. Certification of candidate by a certifying board recognized in the field of parks, recreation and leisure services is preferred.
3. Evidence of Contribution and Leadership - Candidate shall meet at least two (2) items listed below:

- a) Service on any standing or special committee or section of MPRA,
- b) Active in student park and recreation clubs or organizations,
- c) Published articles in parks and recreation related publications,
- d) Numerous addresses to public groups in the interest of parks and recreation,
- e) Outstanding contribution to the field of parks and recreation evidenced by innovative ideas or programs.
- f) Other contributions to MPRA or NRPA.

**C. Citations of Merit**

1. Individual - Any person not fully employed in parks and recreation but associated with the leisure service field that has made an outstanding contribution to recreation and/or parks. This contribution may have been in the form of:

- a) Preparing and sponsoring recreation and/or parks legislation,
- b) Promotion recreation and/or parks on all levels,
- c) Serving as a member of a citizens committee, working for recreation and/or parks programs securing funds, etc.,
- d) Providing a grant of cash, land, bequest, or such other contribution of considerable magnitude in the furtherance of parks and recreation in the state of Missouri.

2. Organizations - Any not-for-profit or business organization that has made an outstanding contribution to recreation and/or parks as follows:

- a) Preparing and sponsoring recreation and/or parks legislation,
- b) Promoting recreation and/or parks on all levels,
- c) Providing a grant of cash, land, bequest, or such other contribution of considerable magnitude in the furtherance of parks and recreation in the state of Missouri.

**D. Retirement Service**

- 1. Retirement
- 2. Membership in MPRA for at least ten (10) years
- 3. Experience
  - a) At least ten (10) years in the state of Missouri in parks and recreation prior to retirement.
- 4. Significant service and contribution to MPRA - Candidate must meet at least three (3) or the eight (8) items listed:
  - a) An elected officer of MPRA,
  - b) An elected executive board member of MPRA,
  - c) A member of the MPRA executive board,

- d) Member or chair of a MPRA committee,
- e) Numerous addresses or appearances to groups in the interest of recreation and parks,
- f) Original articles in magazines, newspapers, or journals on recreation and parks,
- g) Research which has helped advance the profession,
- h) Author or co-author of book(s) on recreation and parks.

**E. Public Official Achievement Award**

- 1. Must be an elected public official.
- 2. An individual who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to recreation and/or parks. This contribution may have been evidenced in the form of:
  - a) Preparing, sponsoring, supporting, and handling of recreation and/or parks related legislation,
  - b) Public promotion and support voiced on behalf of recreation and/or park interests and issues,
  - c) Public addresses to groups in the interests of recreation and/or parks,
  - d) Counsel and advice rendered to MPRA and/or its constituency on issues, concerns and/or interests of recreation and/or parks.

**F. Support Staff**

- 1. Must be employed by a member agency.
- 2. Must be employed in a position such as clerical, maintenance, program leader or other support position.
- 3. Must have been employed by the agency for 10 or more years
- 4. Must have demonstrated exemplary service above and beyond the normal duties of the job such as:
  - a) Longevity of service
  - b) Sustained outstanding service
  - c) Distinctive customer service
  - d) Creation of new and/or innovative service

**G. Give-Back Award Sponsored by Musco Lighting**

- 1. Individual
  - a) Membership in MPRA.
  - b) Service: Noteworthy contributions in the area of serving the underserved in the community or reducing barriers to access. This may include, but is not limited to, a specific program or facility, or any other unusually noteworthy effort to achieve one or more of the following goals through parks and recreation services:

- (1) Increased access to programs and facilities
- (2) Addressing environmental impacts
- (3) Engaging underrepresented groups

2. Public Agency or Organization

- a) Membership in MPRA
- b) Service: Noteworthy contributions in the area of serving the underserved in the community or reducing barriers to access. This may include, but is not limited to, a specific program or facility, or any other unusually noteworthy effort to achieve one or more of the following goals through parks and recreation services:
  - (1) Increased access to programs and facilities
  - (2) Addressing environmental impacts
  - (3) Engaging underrepresented groups

**H. Agency of the Year**

1. Agency must apply within one of the following categories:
  - a) Class I (Population over 50,000)
  - b) Class II (Population under 50,000 people)
  - c) Class III (Any Class 2 Agency in a County with a population less than 50,000)
2. Agency must have an agency membership with MPRA.
3. Agency must not have won Agency of the Year in the preceding 5 years.
4. Demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation in the recent past through the following criteria:
  - a) Fiscal responsibility
  - b) Staff engagement and retention
  - c) Professional development of staff, including participation in MPRA
  - d) Community support
  - e) Engagement of community members
  - f) Development of innovative programs and facilities
  - g) Partnership with public and private entities to increase or improve recreation opportunities or environmental stewardship in the community.
  - h) Dedication to equitable access to programs and facilities
  - i) Efforts improving community health and wellness
  - j) Efforts improving natural resource preservation

**I. Achievement in Partnership**

1. Membership in MPRA

2. Program, facility, or special project achieved through the MPRA member partnering with one or more public or private entities outside for cash or in-kind services. At least one partner must be from beyond the nominated agency's own government.

3. Partnerships must demonstrate excellence in three (3) or more of the following categories:

- a) Public/Private partnership
- b) Significant cost-sharing, with at least 25% of project's cost provided directly or through in-kind services by the partner.
- c) Significant public support and engagement in the partnership.
- d) Demonstrated problem solving through innovative methods.
- e) Partnership was developed to solve a demonstrated need or problem in the community.
- f) Effective utilization of personnel from multiple parties.
- g) Impact made to the community through partnership.
- h) Long tenure of partnership, extending 1 year or beyond.

**J. President's Award** - Any individual, group, project, or organization selected for recognition by the MPRA President for their service to the Missouri Park and Recreation Association.

**K. Member's Choice** - Winner of an MPRA Showcase Award in the same year.

**III. PROCEDURE FOR AWARDS NOMINATIONS** - With the exception of the president's award and member's choice award, any member of the association may nominate candidates to the awards and citations committee chair. Nominations must be submitted to the chair of the awards and citations committee prior to the date established by the committee and published in the MPRA magazine.

#### **IV. PROCEDURE FOR AWARDS SELECTIONS**

##### **A. President's Award**

1. The Award recipient will be selected by the MPRA President and submitted to the MPRA office by the date established by MPRA.
2. Selection will be reviewed for approval by the MPRA Executive Committee who will hold veto power.

##### **B. Member's Choice**

1. The list of MPRA Showcase Award winners will be made available to all MPRA members for review.
2. MPRA members will have the opportunity to vote for their selection. The winner of the popular vote will be awarded.

##### **C. All Other Awards**

1. The chair of the Awards and Citations Committee will coordinate with the MPRA office on all nominations.
2. A list of candidates will be prepared by the MPRA office for review. This list will be accompanied by all information requested on the nomination form that has been submitted by the nominating MPRA member.
3. The committee will study the qualifications of the candidates and will check the material submitted for accuracy of dates, names, and specific articles in publications which have been listed by the sponsor of the candidate.
4. The committee will select one (1) individual as the recipient of the Fellow Award and up to two (2) individuals as the recipient of the Associate Fellow Award annually.
5. All criteria created and changes for all board, sections and special interest awards must be reviewed by the Awards and Citations Committee and approved through recommendations from this committee to the MPRA Board.
6. While it will be permissible for an Awards and Citations Committee member to submit nominations, such member will refrain from discussing and voting on this or any other nomination which might be considered a “conflict of interest.”

#### **V. PROCEDURE FOR PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

- A.** The Awards and Citations Committee may present awards at the annual conference or at a special occasion that is appropriate for such an award.
- B.** The Awards and Citations Committee shall have sole responsibility for presenting all awards at an appropriate ceremony at the annual meeting.

#### **VI. MPRA ANNUAL SHOWCASE AWARDS:**

##### **A. Award Categories**

1. MPRA Showcase Award - Showcase awards may be made annually to up to six (6) entities, within the Showcase Award categories. Provided that each category has received at least one (1) quality nomination meeting the award qualifications, one (1) winner shall be awarded from each category.

##### **B. Qualifications for Showcase Awards**

1. Programming
  - a) Any program which occurred in the past 18 months and was primarily coordinated by an MPRA member agency which is exceptional in one of more of the following traits:
    - (1) Innovation and uniqueness
    - (2) Engagement of the public/reaching a new audience
    - (3) Positive public exposure generated for the field
    - (4) Unique methods of funding or significant economic impact for host agency
    - (5) Addressing an identified need in the community
    - (6) Creation of new opportunities for leisure engagement

- (7) Inclusion of underserved communities
  - (8) Agency must not have won in the same category in the preceding 3 years.
- 2. Special Events
  - a) Any special event which occurred in the past 18 months and was primarily hosted by an MPRA member agency which is exceptional in one of more of the following traits:
    - (1) Innovation and uniqueness
    - (2) Engagement of the public/reaching a new audience
    - (3) Positive public exposure generated for the field
    - (4) Unique methods of funding or significant economic impact for host agency
    - (5) Addressing an identified need in the community
    - (6) Creation of new opportunities for leisure engagement
    - (7) Inclusion of underserved communities
  - b) Agency must not have won in the same category in the preceding 3 years.
- 3. Natural Resources
  - a) Any program, facility or project completed in the past 18 months and was primarily coordinated by an MPRA member agency demonstrating excellence in one of more of the following traits:
    - (1) Innovation and uniqueness
    - (2) Significant positive impact on local environment
    - (3) Engagement or education of the public/reaching a new audience
    - (4) Positive public exposure generated for the field
    - (5) Unique methods of funding
    - (6) Addressing an identified need in the community
    - (7) Creation of new opportunities for leisure engagement
    - (8) Inclusion of underserved communities
  - b) Agency must not have won in the same category in the preceding 3 years.
- 4. Facility Design & Construction
  - a) Any facility completed in the past 18 months which is primarily owned or operated by an MPRA member agency demonstrating excellence in one of more of the following traits:
    - (1) Innovation and uniqueness
    - (2) Engagement of the public/reaching a new audience
    - (3) Positive public exposure generated for the field
    - (4) Unique methods of funding or significant economic impact for host agency



- (5) Addressing an identified need in the community
- (6) Creation of new opportunities for leisure engagement
- (7) Inclusion of underserved communities
- (8) Energy conservation and environmental sustainability

b) Agency must not have won in the same category in the preceding 3 years.

5. Marketing & Media

a) Any print, digital, or other marketing or media effort created or implemented in the past 18 months by an MPRA member agency demonstrating excellence in one of more of the following traits:

- (1) Innovation and uniqueness
- (2) Engagement of the public/reaching a new audience
- (3) Positive public exposure generated for the field
- (4) Unique methods of funding or significant economic impact for host agency
- (5) Engagement of underserved communities

b) Agency must not have won in the same category in the preceding 3 years.

6. Vendor Showcase

a) Any MPRA member company demonstrating excellence in one of more of the following traits:

- (1) Innovation and unique products or services
- (2) Engagement of the public/reaching a new audience
- (3) Positive public exposure generated for the field
- (4) Unique methods of revenue generation or significant economic impact for customers
- (5) Engagement of underserved communities
- (6) Energy conservation and environmental sustainability
- (7) Addressing an identified need in the community
- (8) Creation of new opportunities for leisure engagement

b) Agency must not have won in the same category in the preceding 3 years.

**C. Procedure for Showcase Awards Nominations** - Any member of the association may nominate candidates to the Awards and Citations Committee Chair. Nominations must be submitted to the chair of the Awards and Citations Committee prior to the date established by the committee and published in the MPRA magazine.

**D. Procedure for Showcase Awards Selections**

1. The chair of the Awards and Citations Committee will coordinate with the MPRA office on all nominations.
2. A list of candidates will be prepared by the MPRA office for review. This list will be accompanied by all information requested on the nomination form that has been submitted by the nominating MPRA member.

3. The committee will study the qualifications of the candidates and will check the material submitted for accuracy of dates, names, and specific articles in publications which have been listed by the sponsor of the candidate.
4. The committee will select one (1) submission as the recipient in each of the Showcase Award categories, unless no qualified nominations have been made in the category.
5. All criteria created and changes for all board, sections and special interest awards must be reviewed by the Awards and Citations Committee and approved through recommendations from this committee to the MPRA Board.
6. While it will be permissible for an Awards and Citations Committee member to submit nominations, such member will refrain from discussing and voting on this or any other nomination which might be considered a “conflict of interest.”

**E. Procedure for Presentation of Showcase Awards**

1. Award winners will be announced in the fall edition of the MPRA Magazine.
2. Award may be presented by the nominator, a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association staff, a member of the MPRA Awards Committee, or any combination thereof in the recipient’s community or at an MPRA hosted event.
3. Award winners will be automatically under consideration for the MPRA Member’s Choice Award.

**VII. MPRA SECTION AWARDS CODE:**

**A. Brief** - The MPRA section leadership would like to streamline their awards and adding consistency by awarding the same 2 awards for each section. Criteria and award names will be the same for each section, with one winner awarded for each section: Aquatics, Park Resources, and Sports. Additionally, the Sports Section will have 2 “Signature Awards”. Park Resources and Aquatics have not selected a “Signature Award” at this time, but were both interested in the possibility down the road. The Young Professional Section will continue to abstain from Section awards, as Sections and Regions will cover the recognition of young professionals in the field.

**B. Award Categories**

1. Distinguished Service Award – Aquatics, Park Resources, or Sports. This award may be given annually by each of the following Sections to one active member in MPRA. Aquatics Section, Park Resources Section, Sports Section.
2. Outstanding New Professional Award – Aquatics, Park Resources, or Sports. This award may be given annually to one active member in each of the following Sections of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association. Aquatics Section, Park Resources Section, Sports Section.
3. Outstanding Volunteer Coach – Sports. This award may be given annually to one volunteer coach. The services delivered by the volunteer coach must be completed within a Missouri Park and Recreation Association Public Agency.
4. Outstanding Official – Sports. This award may be given annually to one sports official. The services delivered by the official must be completed within a Missouri Park and Recreation Association Public Agency.

**C. Qualifications of Candidates**

1. Distinguished Service Award – Aquatics, Park Resources, or Sports
  - a) General – Must be a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association. Active or retired.
  - b) Experience – At least 8 years’ experience working in the field of parks and recreation at the municipal, county, state or federal government levels or within an institution of higher education.
  - c) Contributions to the field – Demonstration of the following contributions:
    - (1) Service above and beyond normal position requirements.
    - (2) Demonstration of outstanding leadership skills in the field of parks and recreation.
    - (3) Development of innovative park and recreation programs, ideas or facilities.
    - (4) Contributed to significant advancements in the field through research and continuing education.
2. Outstanding New Professional Award – Aquatics, Park Resources, or Sports
  - a) General - Must be a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association.
  - b) Experience - No more than 5 years’ experience OR under 35 years of age AND working in the Aquatic, Park Resources, or Sports Industry at the municipal, county, state, or federal levels or within an institution of higher education.
  - c) Contributions to the Field
    - (1) Service above and beyond normal position requirements.
    - (2) Demonstration of outstanding leadership skills in the Aquatic Profession.
    - (3) Development of innovative aquatic programs, ideas or facilities. 4. Contributed to significant advancements in the field through research and continuing education.
3. Outstanding Volunteer Coach – Sports
  - a) General – Service must be completed within an agency which is a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association.
  - b) Experience - At least 2 years’ experience volunteering as a coach within a department that is a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association.
  - c) Contributions to the Field
    - (1) Service above and beyond normal position requirements.
    - (2) Demonstration of outstanding leadership skills as a sports coach.
    - (3) Teaching teamwork and good sportsmanship above winning at all cost.
    - (4) Being a positive role model.
    - (5) The ability to motivate players to improve themselves while having fun with the sport.
    - (6) Demonstrating excellent time management skills being on time for games, practices and events.

- (7) Demonstrating respect in communication with players, parents, other coaches and officials.
- 4. Outstanding Official - Sports
  - a) General – Service must be completed within an agency which is a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association.
  - b) Experience - At least 2 years' experience an official within a department that is a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association.
  - c) Contributions to the Field
    - (1) Service above and beyond normal position requirements.
    - (2) Demonstration of outstanding leadership skills as a sports official.
    - (3) Being a positive role model to players, coaches, spectators and other officials.
    - (4) Demonstrating excellent time management skills being on time for games, practices and events.
    - (5) Demonstrating respect in communication with players, parents, other coaches and officials.

**D. Procedures for Awards Selection**

- 1. The MPRA Sections Awards Committee shall be comprised of 9 members. This committee is responsible for the review of all candidates and the selection of Section award recipients. The committee will consist of the Award & Citations Committee Chair, the Aquatics, Park Resources, Sports and Young Professional Section Presidents-Elect, and the Aquatics, Park Resources, Sports and Young Professional Section Presidents.
- 2. Any member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association can submit candidate nominations. Nominations must be submitted to the chair of the committee prior to the date established by the committee and published in the MPRA publication.
- 3. A list of the candidates will be prepared by the MPRA office for review. This list will be accompanied by a biographical outline of the candidates. These outlines will be submitted by the MPRA member nominating the candidate.
- 4. The committee members will thoroughly review the biographical material of the candidates prior to selection.
- 5. Current members of the Awards Committee are not eligible for the awards.

**E. Procedure for Presentation of Awards** - The person nominating the recipient may present the award at the MPRA Annual Conference at a time and location determined by the conference committee. If this is not possible, or the nominating person wishes, the award may be presented in the recipient's community or at another MPRA hosted event by the nominator, a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association staff, a member of the MPRA Sections Awards Committee, or any combination thereof.

**VIII. MPRA REGION AWARDS CODE:**

**A. Award Categories**

1. Emerging Leader Award
  - a) This award may be given annually to up to 4 active members in the Missouri Park and Recreation Association's Regions. Provided that each Region has received at least 1 quality nomination, 1 nominee shall be selected from each Region.
  - b) In the event that one or more regions do not receive a quality nomination meeting the below qualifications, the Regions Award Committee may choose to select additional recipients from any other region to reach a total of 4 recipients.

**B. Qualifications of Candidates**

1. Emerging Leader Award
  - a) General – Must be a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association.
  - b) Experience – At least 1 years and no more than 5 years' experience OR under the age of 35 AND working in the field of parks and recreation at the municipal, county, state or federal government levels or within an institution of higher education.
  - c) Contributions to the field – Demonstration of the following contributions:
    - (1) Service above and beyond normal position requirements.
    - (2) Demonstration of outstanding leadership skills.
    - (3) Development of innovative ideas, policy, programs or facilities.
    - (4) Contributed to significant advancements in the field through research and continuing education.

**C. Procedures for Awards Selection**

1. The Awards Committee shall be comprised of 5 members. This committee is responsible for the review of all candidates and the selection of Section award recipients. The committee will consist of the Award & Citations Committee Chair and the Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 Directors.
2. Any member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association can submit candidate nominations. Nominations must be submitted to the chair of the committee prior to the date established by the committee and published in the MPRA publication.
3. A list of the candidates will be prepared by the MPRA office for review. This list will be accompanied by a biographical outline of the candidates. These outlines will be submitted by the MPRA member nominating the candidate.
4. The committee members will thoroughly review the biographical material of the candidates prior to selection.
5. Current members of the Awards Committee are not eligible for the awards.

**D. Procedure for Presentation of Awards** - The person nominating the recipient may present the award at the MPRA Annual Conference at a time and location determined by the conference committee. If this is not possible, or the nominating person wishes, the award may be presented in the recipient's community or at another MPRA hosted event by the nominator, a member of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association staff, a member of the MPRA Regions Awards Committee, or any combination thereof.