

2026 MPRA CONFERENCE & EXPO

Activities & Networking Opportunities



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Alumni Socials **5:00 – 6:00 pm**

Connect with fellow alumni, both new and old! We'd love to see you there, whether you've graduated or are still studying. Everyone is welcome!

Welcome Reception and Dinner **6:00 – 9:00 pm**

Vireo and Cunningham Recreation/Gametime invite you to kick off your conference week at our welcome reception and dinner. This year's event will be at the Columns Club at Memorial Stadium and include an optional ticket to the MU vs. TN basketball game. This will be the perfect chance to catch up with friends from around the state and meet some new faces! Buses will run from the Wyndham to Memorial Stadium from 5:30 – 11:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Section Roundtables **8:00 – 8:45 am**

Find a room for Aquatics, Sports, Park Resources, Programming, and IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) professionals to share ideas and plan next year's MPRA events and meetings.

Expo Hall Happy Hour **3:30 – 5:00 pm**

Don't miss out on Happy Hour in the Expo Hall, proudly sponsored by *Landmark Aquatic*! Be among the first 200 attendees to stop by their booth and snag a special gift while connecting with industry professionals and corporate partners. This year, there's a new twist: look for booth vendors who are offering complimentary drink tickets!

Dinner & Silent Auction **5:30 – 8:00 pm**

Join us for this year's silent auction, where you can view and bid on over 100 items. There's something for everyone! If you're not interested in "stuff" but still want to try your luck, the auction committee will also hold a 50/50 raffle, with proceeds benefiting the MPRA Education Fund. Dinner, sponsored by *Play and Park Structures*, will be served from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Auction After Party **8:00 – 10:00 pm**

Enjoy a relaxed evening with great music from our DJ, with karaoke, trivia, and other fun games! It's the perfect way to unwind and socialize with friends.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Yoga **7:30 – 8:30 am**

This complimentary Gentle Yoga class focuses on increasing flexibility, easy strength building and balance. It is ideal for those seeking a slower-paced, but somewhat challenging, class. Each class includes breath work, gentle warm-up stretches, a balance practice, a gentle Vinyasa-style flow and relaxation at the end.

Tosha Jackson is a certified yoga instructor with over 8 years of experience. Her goal is to help people discover a gentle form of exercise that empowers them to appreciate their bodies for what they can do and to gently push their limits to increase their fitness levels.

Take a Student to Lunch **11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

Help us inspire future members of MPRA by taking a student volunteer to lunch! Share with them what you love about working in parks and recreation—it'll be a great way to connect and make a positive impact. Meet in the Executive Center Lobby to join in on the fun!

Closing Social **8:30 – 11:00 pm**

Celebrate the end of a great week full of learning and networking at our closing social sponsored by *Great Southern Recreation* at The Kitchen. Enjoy a game of Pickleball, ice skating, or just mingling with all the new people you met at the MPRA Conference! Buses will run from the Wyndham to The Kitchen from 8:00 to 11:00 pm.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MPRA Region Meetings **8:30 – 10:00 am**

Meet with fellow members of your region to discuss current events and plans for the next year. Thank you to our region sponsors: *Great Southern Recreation* and *SFS Architecture*!