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Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society

N I N T H E D I T I O N

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Career Opportunities and Professionalism

Objectives

- Discuss the career options in the leisure-service field.
- List and discuss the seven criteria outlined for professional practice.
- Discuss agency and university accreditation.

Objectives (cont'd)

- Gain an understanding of professional certification.
- Identify the philosophical approaches to leisure

Scope of Employment

- Millions Employed in the Leisure Field
 - Amateur and professional sports
 - Entertainment and amusement
 - Travel and tourism
 - Recreation-related businesses
 - Government and nonprofit community organizations

Scope of Employment

- Volunteer, part time, full time employees
- Education from high school diploma to college degree including master's degree & PhD.
- 7.7 million working in the field
- Demand growing faster than average through 2018

Free time spent ...

- Sports
- Arts
- Visiting museums, zoos, aquariums
- Shows, performances
- **Traveling**- in the US \$770B was spent last yr.
 - Generating \$117 billion for federal and local governments
 - People are needed to work in these jobs.

Professional Identification in Recreation

- Define professional: one who has a high degree of status and specialized training and provides a significant form of public or social service.
- There are **Seven key elements** of professionalism.

Criterion 1: Social Value and Purpose

- Improving Quality of Life
- Contributing to Personal Development and Social Cohesion
- Preventing Socially Destructive Leisure Pursuits
- Protecting the Environment

Criterion 1

- In the nonprofit field – the YMCA is the oldest U.S. organization owned and managed by women.
- It provides safety, shelter, day care, physical fitness, and recreations programs. Counseling and other social health education.

Criterion 2: Public Recognition

- Image of the Professional
 - Unlikely to understand all the preparation that goes into an event.
 - Misconception that anyone can do it. Anyone can organize a special event that attract 100,000 people.
- People are willing to pay for their own personal leisure and are more reluctant to pay taxes to support leisure for the public such as parks and trails.

Criterion 3: Specialized Professional Preparation

- Professional Preparation in Recreation and Parks
 - Two-year curricula
 - Four-year programs
 - Master's degree and doctoral programs
- Specialized Body of Knowledge

Criterion 4: Existence of Related Professional Associations

- National Recreation and Park Association
 - Eleven professional branches
 - Aquatics, educators, commercial, parks
- Other Professional Organizations
 - American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Criterion 4: Existence of Related Professional Associations (cont'd)

- **Other Professional Organizations**
 - Resort and Commercial Recreation Association
 - National Intramural Recreation Sports Association
 - Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
 - North American Society for Sport Management
 - World Leisure and Recreation Association
 - International Special Events Society
 - Professional Convention Management Association

Criterion 5: Credentialing, Certification, and Agency Accreditation

- Sample certifications
 - Certified Park & Recreation Professional
 - Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist
 - Certified Meeting Professional
 - Certified Playground Inspector

Criterion 6:

Code of Ethical Practice

- Outlines the public responsibilities of practitioners and establishes a code of ethical behavior
- NRPA's Professional Code of Ethics stresses integrity, honesty, public confidence, professional excellence, fiscal responsibility, and support of equal employment opportunities
- American Camping Association stresses integrity, truthfulness, fairness to all people, and an agreement to comply with relevant laws of the community

Criterion 7: Existence of Extensive Professional Development Opportunities

- A Professional can develop their skills and knowledge by...
 - Conferences, seminars, workshops
 - Held at the State regional, national levels
 - Professional publications



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