



SOUTH REGION WORKSHOP

10:00 AM TO 10:10 AM

Betty Kelso Room

Welcome and Opening Session

Sarai Garcia, TRAPS South Region Director, McAllen Parks and Recreation

Homer Garcia III, San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department Director

Erin Franz, Executive Director, TRAPS

10:15 AM TO 11:15 AM

Betty Kelso Room

Including People (0.1 CEU) * This continuing education session content is pre-approved by NCTRC

Erin Fogarty, Disability Community Coordinator – North Region

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension/Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Communities often provide valuable adaptive recreation programs for people with disabilities. But what if individuals want to participate in an inclusive environment with their non-disabled peers? This workshop introduces recreation professionals to the benefits of and approaches to inclusive recreation, with practical strategies and resources to increase successful inclusive participation.

Classroom A

Texas Parks and Wildlife: Recreation Grant Funding For Your Community (0.1 CEU)

Dan Reece, Local Grant Manager

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The TPWD Recreation Grants Division is committed to assisting communities throughout Texas in meeting their outdoor recreation needs. Each year, these grants significantly impact the creation of new parks, improved access, development of outdoor programs, and more. You can learn about the Local Parks, Boating Access & Infrastructure, Recreational Trails, Target Range, and Community Outdoor Outreach Programs. Find out how these grants can benefit your community and learn how to apply for them.

Classroom B

Exploring the Pickleball Phenomenon: Paddle Power for Parks Progress (0.1 CEU)

William Spencer and Hunter Rush

MHS Planning and Design

Unlock the potential of pickleball in your community! Explore its longevity, feasibility, and financial impact on parks departments. Join us to determine if pickleball is the winning serve for your recreational strategy.

11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

Betty Kelso Room

Lunch – Networking Unboxed: Thinking Outside the Norm in Conference Networking

Jason O'Mara, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

Angleton Parks and Recreation

Unleash the power of networking in parks and recreation! In this engaging session, we explore innovative strategies to forge meaningful connections beyond the ordinary. Discover how to break free from traditional networking constraints and cultivate impactful relationships that propel your career and expand your network of influence. We'll explore fresh perspectives, creative approaches, and unexpected avenues for networking success in the dynamic world of parks and recreation.

12:45 PM TO 1:45 PM

Betty Kelso Room

Advocacy in Action: Empowering Legislative Efforts of Young Professionals

Jeff Achee, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

City of Pflugerville

This session is tailored for emerging professionals in the parks and recreation field, offering practical guidance on how to engage in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels. Participants will learn essential skills in communication, networking, and strategic planning to effectively influence policy and decision-making processes. The session provides valuable insights and tools to empower young professionals to become influential advocates in the industry.

Classroom A

That's a Bold Strategy Cotton (0.1 CEU)

Joe Guzman, Assistant Program Manager

City of Corpus Christi

Using "The Ocho" to enhance your recreation programming services. This session will focus on how using niche sports and recreational activities can help bring in the "non-traditional" athlete into our

recreation programming services. We will show activities that are applicable for any demographic. Sports like these are all inexpensive ways to get participates who may not have interest in playing traditional sports such as basketball and flag football.

Classroom B

Joyful Learning: The Power of Play for Everyone (0.1 CEU)

Kelsie Crabb and Christopher Villareal

San Antonio Park and Recreation

You're too old to play like that! Or are you? In this session, we will explore the power of play and its role in enhancing learning, development, and community engagement. Discover what science says regarding play and its benefits across cognitive, emotional, and physical domains. Learn how to integrate various types of play into your programs. Get ready to transform the way you think about playing around and learn how using play can led to more engaging experiences for your community.

1:50 PM TO 2:00 PM

Betty Kelso Room

Closing

The San Antonio Botanical Garden is open to all to explore through 7:00 pm. We welcome you to enjoy this beautiful space. Maps will be available for more information on the Garden.