

## **Professional Organizations for Recreation and Recreation Therapy**

**(Updated 07/23/15)**

### **Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (OAHPERD)**

OAHPERD is the professional organization for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance professionals and students within the state of Ohio. OAHPERD is directly affiliated with SHAPE America (Society of Health and Physical Educators). OAHPERD offers continuing education and is committed to keeping Ohioans healthy and active by providing lifelong learning, leadership, service and advocacy.

The OAHPERD Convention is traditionally held the week following Thanksgiving, this year it will be at Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio on December 2-4, 2015. For more information visit the OAHPERD website

[www.ohahperd.site-ym.com](http://www.ohahperd.site-ym.com)

### **Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA)**

OPRA is a leader in providing information about Ohio Parks and Recreation. The newly-designed website allows for the interaction between recreation professionals. OPRA is an advocate for professionals and citizens while also educating professionals on new trends in the field of recreation.

The OPRA Conference and Trade Show will be held at Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio. The dates for the 2015 Conference are January 31- Feb. 3, 2016. For more information about OPRA visit the OPRA website

[www.opraonline.org](http://www.opraonline.org)

### **American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA)**

ATRA is the largest organization that represents Recreation Therapists. ATRA is an advocate for professionals, provides continuing education, and provides information to the public about Therapeutic Recreation.

ATRA's Mid-year 2016 Conference TBD and the 2015 ATRA Annual Conference will be held September 27-30, 2015 in Albuquerque, NM.

For more information about ATRA visit the newly designed ATRA website

[www.atra-online.org](http://www.atra-online.org)

### **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)**

“NRPA is the leading advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks and recreation opportunities.” The NRPA functions to educate professionals on the advances of recreation and parks and they are committed to providing best practices for the recreation and parks industry.

NRPA’s Congress and Exposition will be held September 15-17, 2015 in Las Vegas, NV. For more information visit the website

[www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org)

### **Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation and Adapted Physical Activity**

The Midwest Symposium is a regional organization dedicated to Therapeutic Recreation and Adapted Physical Activity. The annual conference will be held April 2016, place TBD. For more information visit the website or call 1-866-682-6663

[www.muconf.missouri.edu](http://www.muconf.missouri.edu)

### **American Camp Association (ACA)**

The American Camp Association is an organization of camp professionals which shares knowledge and experience to ensure the quality of camp programs. It is also an advocate for children, youth and families. The ACA “works to preserve, promote, and improve the camp experience.” The ACA accredits over 2,400 camps.

The ACA National Conference will be held February 9-12, 2016 in Atlanta, GA. For more information visit the website

[www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org)

### **Association for Experiential Education (AEE)**

The Association for Experiential Education is a “professional membership association dedicated to experiential education and the students, educators and practitioners who utilize its philosophy.” AEE strives to connect educators with the growing body of knowledge to allow for continuing success in education.

The 2015 AEE International Conference will be held on October 22-25, 2015 in Portland, OR. For more information, visit the newly designed website

[www.aee.org](http://www.aee.org)

**National Intramural-Recreational Sport Association (NIRSA)**

NIRSA is a leader in higher education and is an advocate for the advancement of collegiate recreation, sport, and wellness and provides educational, professional development, and networking opportunities for professionals and students.

NIRSA will host their Annual Conference April 3, 2016 in Gaylord Palms, FL. For more information, visit the website

[www.nirsa.org](http://www.nirsa.org)