

Become a Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE)

Park and recreation professionals provide essential services to their communities. Becoming a Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) will not only keep your skills sharp, but also give you prominence in the field. Earning your CPRE will bring you to the pinnacle of the profession and demonstrate you as the true leader you are.



Why Become CPRE?

The CPRE certification is the highest level a park and recreation professional can reach and will give you many career advantages, including:

- Demonstrating leadership in all aspects of managing a park and recreation department.
- Mastering policy development and the management of fiscal, property and personnel resources.
- Gaining an edge over other candidates when a promotion opportunity pops up or your dream job calls.
- Joining an elite group of more than 400 CPREs who have committed to advancing our field.

Eligibility

The CPRE certification is designed for professionals at the mid-level or above. CPRE candidates must meet education and experience requirements to qualify for the exam.

Individual Application and Exam Fees

- \$345 for NRPA Members
- \$404 for non-NRPA members

CPRE Prep Materials and Resources

- CPRE Application and exam fees (\$355 value)
- CPRE physical text book, 5th edition (\$80 value)
- CPRE eBook, 5th edition (\$55 value)
- CPRE physical text book and eBook, 5th edition (\$95 value)

Renewal Requirements

Earn 3.0 CEUs within the three-year certification cycle and submit a completed recertification application, Current cost is \$95

How to Earn CEUs Towards CPRP Certification Renewal

- Attend the NRPA Annual Conference, state conferences, local events and trainings that offer CEUs
- Complete online learning courses and webinars that offer CEUs

- NRPA Online Learning
- Complete college or university credits
 - Academic credits from accredited colleges and universities can be transferred to CEU equivalents by taking the total number of classroom instructional hours and dividing it by 10
- Earn Professional Service Experience (PSE) Points through contributions to the parks and recreation field via NRPA or a state affiliate (i.e. serving as a committee chair, speaking at a conference, serving as an accreditation visitor, etc.)
- Complete a CEU petition for equivalent credits for courses, institutes, and workshops that do not directly offer CEUs

What IPRA can offer you?

The board of directors has approved investing in members who wish to become NRPA Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) or Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE). Grants are up to \$455.00 per person. Total grant funding is \$2,000 annually. Candidates or their department will make the initial investment with IPRA reimbursing once the exam is taken.

IPRA offers several one-day learning opportunities with up to 0.2 CEU per event for our members at no charge annually.

IPRA offers a Fall Workshop with up to 0.9 CEU hours annually. The registration fee to attend the 2023 Fall Workshop was \$175.

IPRA offers a Spring Conference with up to 1.1 CEU hours annually. The registration fee to attend the 2024 Spring conference was \$275.

What does all this mean... An IPRA member should be able to receive their CPRP at little to no cost, once reimbursed through the grant. This person should also be able to get their 2.0 CEU credits at little to no out-of-pocket expense every other year.

Attending the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Annual Conference.

Attending the NRPA Annual Conference is a great experience to collaborate and network with professionals outside of your home state. NRPA also offers opportunities to volunteer as a room host for a discounted registration rate.

If you have any additional questions, contact Kelly Johnson Rose – kelly@iapro.org

