



PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Learn. Connect. Inspire.

## 2025 IPRA Skills Development Webinar Series Schedule

Month Dates, Times	Instructor	Webinar Title	Description
<b>February</b>  Wednesday, Feb 12, 10:15 AM CST  Thursday, Feb 20, NOON CST	<b>Kristin Strunk</b> President & Principal, Regent Leadership Group, LLC	<b>Mastering the Art of Influence</b>	This session provides essential skills for effectively influencing both internal and external stakeholders. Participants will begin with an overview of stakeholder types, followed by techniques for building strong relationships, influencing diverse groups, and applying these strategies immediately. The session will cover how to differentiate between stakeholder needs, highlighting the distinct approaches required for internal versus external groups. Additionally, participants will develop tailored communication strategies to foster trust and credibility across various audiences. The session will conclude with influence techniques focused on building productive relationships, effective collaboration, and setting shared expectations to drive meaningful outcomes.
<b>March</b>  Wednesday, March 12, 10:15 AM CST  Thursday, March 20, NOON CST	<b>Crystal Egger</b> President & Meteorologist Monarch Weather + Climate Intelligence	<b>How Climate Change and Weather Extremes are Impacting Parks and Recreation</b>	This session will explore how shifting climate patterns and extreme weather events are impacting park operations, programming, and facilities. We'll discuss practical strategies for mitigating risks, ensuring public safety, and planning for long-term resilience. Whether managing events, budgeting for maintenance, or responding to emergencies, attendees will leave with actionable insights to navigate these growing challenges.
<b>April</b>  Wednesday, April 9, 10:15 AM CST  Thursday, April 17, NOON CST	<b>Rayne Gibson,</b> Owner, Taproots Horticulture Consulting	<b>Developing SOPs: From Chaos to Clarity</b>	Join us for an engaging session on creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that can transform your organization's management and operations. This presentation will explore how to develop clear and effective SOPs to streamline processes, ensure consistency, and enhance service delivery. Whether you want to improve daily routines, manage emergencies, or train new staff efficiently, you'll gain valuable tools and strategies to create SOPs that drive excellence and operational success.

<p><b>May</b></p> <p>Wednesday, May 14, 10:15 AM CST</p> <p>Thursday, May 15, NOON CST</p>	<p><b>Neelay Bhatt</b>          Founder &amp; CEO,          Next Practice          Partners, LLC.</p>	<p><b>Real Experiences in an Artificial World</b></p>	<p>In a world increasingly dominated by artificial intelligence, automation, and digital interactions, the essence of genuine human connection in customer service has never been more critical. This session explores how to deliver authentic, memorable experiences in a technology-driven environment. Attendees will learn how to balance digital tools with personal touches, using AI to enhance—not replace—the human element of service.</p>
<p><b>June</b></p> <p>Wednesday, June 11, 10:15 AM CST</p> <p>Thursday, June 19, NOON CST</p>	<p><b>Tracey Crawford,</b>          CTRS, CPRP          Executive Director,          Northwest Special Recreation Association</p> <p><b>Kris Johnson, MS,</b>          CTRS          Associate Professor of Therapeutic Recreation and Chair of Therapeutic Recreation and Autism Studies, Aurora University</p>	<p><b>Recreation’s Role in Advancing Inclusivity for the LGBTQAI2S+ Community</b></p>	<p>Park and recreational professionals can create inclusive environments where people are able to find a sense of belonging. Perhaps the newest frontier in the diversity, equity, and inclusion movement has been with the LGBTQAI2S+ community. This session will focus on current terminology, cultural humility, controversial issues impacting therapeutic recreation service delivery, and the role recreational therapists play in generating a welcoming environment.</p> <p>We’ll look at how overlapping social identities—such as race, gender, sexuality, class, and ability—intersect and create unique experiences of privilege and oppression. Participants will gain an understanding of cultural humility and its significance, explore two controversial issues currently affecting the LGBTQAI2S+ community, and learn two strategies for creating a more inclusive environment within recreation departments and programs.</p>
<p><b>July</b></p> <p>Wednesday, July 9, 10:15 AM CST</p> <p>Thursday, July 17, NOON CST</p>	<p><b>Chris Nunes, CPRE</b>          Chief Operating Officer, The Woodlands Township</p>	<p><b>How to Think Big in Parks and Recreation</b></p>	<p>Unlock new potential in this session designed to inspire a bold, expansive approach to community development. This engaging workshop empowers parks and recreation professionals to envision and implement impactful projects, groundbreaking programs, and innovative services that address evolving community needs. Participants will explore practical strategies for recognizing emerging opportunities, effectively utilizing resources, and building strong community partnerships. By the end, attendees will be equipped with the skills and mindset to lead transformative initiatives that enhance the quality and accessibility of parks and recreation for all.</p>

<p><b>August</b></p> <p>Wednesday, Aug 13, 10:15 AM CST</p> <p>Thursday, Aug, 21, NOON CST</p>	<p><b>Lori A. Hoffner</b>  Speaker, Trainer  Consultant  Supporting  CommUnity</p>	<p><b>The Leader's Guide to Mental Health and Resiliency</b></p>	<p>Stress is an inevitable part of life, whether at home, work, or play. This session focuses on helping individuals understand and manage their responses to stress by recognizing it is a normal reaction to challenging or abnormal situations. You'll how to accept and navigate both the physical and emotional responses to stress, developing healthier coping mechanisms in the process. The session will also delve into the seven key tenets of personal and professional resilience, offering insights into how these principles can strengthen one's ability to thrive in the face of adversity. By fostering well-being and practicing self-care, attendees will be better equipped to lead, manage, coach, and serve as positive role models for their teams and communities.</p>
<p><b>September</b></p> <p>Wednesday, Sept 10, 10:15 AM CST</p> <p>Thursday, Sept 18, NOON CST</p>	<p><b>Teresa L. Penbrooke, PhD,</b>  CPRE, CMS, RYT-200  Executive Director,  ActivEnviro</p>	<p><b>Walk the Talk: Mindfulness and Wellbeing for Parks and Recreation Leaders</b></p>	<p>This webinar will introduce a Mindful Leadership Framework, designed to help balance organizational demands with personal well-being ultimately reducing internal and external conflict. Attendees will learn effective techniques for emotional regulation and time management, gaining valuable tools to lead their teams with resilience while enhancing their own professional and personal health. Participants will delve into the seven dimensions of health and discover practical strategies for personal growth, empowering them to create community systems where all residents can thrive. Tailored for park and recreation professionals looking to lead from a place of personal experience and empathy in order to better meet the needs of their communities.</p>
<p><b>October</b></p> <p>Wednesday, Oct 8, 10:15 AM CST</p> <p>Thursday, Oct 16, NOON CST</p>	<p><b>Marie Knight,</b>  Owner, Knight  Leadership Solutions</p>	<p><b>High Road Leadership: How to Bring People Together in a Divided World</b></p>	<p>Join us for a dynamic workshop on the essential principles of transformative leadership. Based on the work of John Maxwell, you'll learn how to unite people in a divided world, balancing self-confidence with humility while understanding your motivations to serve the greater good. We'll explore the importance of generosity, accountability, and emotional resilience in empowering others to achieve their best. Discover how to navigate challenges and be a High Road Leader by valuing all people, doing the right things for the right reasons, taking accountability for your actions, and placing people above your own agenda.</p>

<p><b>November</b></p> <p>Wednesday, Nov 12, 10:15 AM CST</p> <p>Thursday, Nov 20, NOON CST</p>	<p><b>Jamie Sabbach,</b>          Founder, President &amp; Principal          110%, Inc.</p>	<p><b>The Wisdom to Do Good Work: A Crash Course</b></p>	<p>The best preparation for a good world tomorrow is to lead with courage and do good work today. And what does it mean to do good work in parks and recreation? It means focusing on the common good and less so on special interests. It means not compromising what exists at the expense of new stuff. It means leading with purpose and not being tempted by the flavor of the day. And it means creating advocates who will champion what is in the best interest of future generations. There's wisdom in knowing all of this and more.</p>
<p><b>December</b></p> <p>Wednesday, Dec 10, 10:15 AM CST</p> <p>Thursday, Dec 18 NOON CST</p>	<p><b>Farrell Buller</b>          Principal &amp; Certified Leadership Coach          110%, Inc.</p>	<p><b>The Courage to Be Unfair: Promoting Equity</b></p>	<p>Often, inequity is the unintentional byproduct of decision making focused on short term satisfaction or making a special interest group happy and can often come at the expense of those who can go unnoticed or unheard. Good intention may not always be the equitable or "right" thing to do. As a parks and recreation professional, you influence your community each day by way of the choices you make. So, what is it that needs your influence to level the playing field for all who live in your community?</p>