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## NTRS Awards

### NTRS Awards Program

The NTRS Awards Program is designed to celebrate the people and organizations that contribute to the field of therapeutic recreation. Highlighting these individuals and organizations serves many functions. It provides a tremendous "pat on the back" from friends and peers for a job well done. It shows the successes of NTRS members and those working to achieve shared goals. More importantly, it shares new and creative ideas first-hand and up close.

All award winners will be honored at the NTRS Branch Awards Ceremony and Reception, which will be held during the NRPA Congress & Exposition in Reno, Nevada.

The NTRS Awards Committee urges you to take a look around and take notice of therapeutic recreation advances that deserve reward. Then, take action!

### [NTRS AWARD NOMINATION FORM](#)

Nominations must be postmarked on or before August 16, 2004 and sent to:

National Recreation and Park Association  
NTRS Branch Office  
22377 Belmont Ridge Road  
Ashburn, VA 20148-4501  
Fax (703) 858-0794

### POLICY & PROCEDURE

The Awards Committee shall be comprised of seven members. The committee includes the chair (a three-year appointment), a past "Distinguished Service Award" recipient, a past "Member of the Year" award recipient (a three-year appointment), the chair of the NTRS Research Committee, and three representatives from the NRPA regions (two-year terms). NTRS board members are eligible to serve on the Awards Committee.

NTRS members and regional directors are encouraged to nominate or secure nominations for awards from their area.

The nominator must submit a complete application (with resume and reference letters for each nominee) to the NTRS office by the specified deadline.

Notification is sent to award winners and nominators by the NTRS President.

Nominees not selected are carried over for consideration the following year, and additional information secured, as needed, at that time.

Time permitting, some nominees may be suggested for NRPA awards.

### Distinguished Service Award

*This award may be made annually to one member of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society.*

Qualifications:

## Hot Topics

### [NTRS Awards Program - Past Winners](#)

#### [The Ron McKenney Community Service Award](#)

The Ron McKenney Community Service Award is in memory of Mayor Emeritus Ron McKenney. It is awarded annually by the National Therapeutic Recreation Society (NTRS) Branch of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to a citizen or local politician who has demonstrated a history of contributing time and effort to improving parks and recreation within his or her community.

#### [The Ron McKenney Community Service Award](#)

1. Current NTRS membership with at least a ten-year membership history (retirees may be exempt from this requirement), and leadership (committee chairs, offices held, special task forces, and appointments) in NTRS, documented by a completed application, resume and three letters of support.

2. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation or recreation with an option in therapeutic recreation and ten years of professional experience in therapeutic recreation, and certification as a CTRS, CPRP or both.

3. Contributions must be documented in three of the following four areas:

A. Service--Exemplary contribution on behalf of the Society through (1) NTRS committee leadership and participation, task forces, special projects, intra-organizational responsibilities, and/or (2) development or pioneer-type activity or program in therapeutic recreation.

B. Leadership--(1) as either a member of the Board of Directors and/or elected officer of NTRS and/or (2) chair of an NTRS/NRPA committee(s) and/or Board(s).

C. Professional Development--Presentations, workshops at the national and international level in therapeutic recreation.

Scholarly Contributions--A minimum of three significant (1) publications (articles, chapters, books and media/technical materials), and/or (2) presentations of published research and/or materials which contribute to the philosophy and practice of therapeutic recreation.

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#### **Meritorious Service Award**

*This award may be made annually to not more than three members of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society.*

##### Qualifications:

1. Current NTRS membership with at least a five-year membership history.

2. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation or recreation with an option in therapeutic recreation and five years of professional therapeutic recreation experience.

3. A resume and three letters of support which document demonstrated meritorious service at the local, state, regional and/or national levels in the area of therapeutic recreation.

4. Exemplary behavior displayed through creativity and originality in programs, leadership and contributions.

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#### **Member of the Year**

*This award may be made annually to one member of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society.*

##### Qualifications:

1. Current NTRS membership with at least a five-year membership history, and leadership in NTRS documented by a resume and three letters of support.

2. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation or recreation with an option in therapeutic recreation and five years of professional experience in therapeutic recreation, and certification as a CTRS, CPRP or both.

3. Achievement during the preceding year with a committee, program or project of NTRS of exceptional merit, which will extensively and directly benefit the therapeutic recreation profession and/or practice.

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#### **New Professional of the Year**

*This award may be made annually to one member of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society.*

##### Qualifications:

1. Current NTRS membership with at least a one-year membership history.

2. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation or recreation with an option in therapeutic recreation, and two to 10 years of professional experience in therapeutic recreation.

3. Achievement through a program or project which directly benefits consumers of therapeutic recreation.

4. Demonstrated leadership potential through professional organization membership and involvement.

## Individual Citation

*This award may be made annually to one non-member of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society.*

### Qualifications:

Any person (non-member) who has made an outstanding contribution to therapeutic recreation and/or service to persons with disabilities, documented by a resume and three letters of support which show demonstrated contributions. Contributions may be in the form of:

1. Preparing and sponsoring legislation on any level which is of significance to the profession of therapeutic recreation.
2. Promoting the therapeutic recreation profession.
3. Serving as a volunteer in a therapeutic recreation program.
4. Contribution of unusual nature to the profession of therapeutic recreation.

Professional research, writing, speeches: (a) addresses or appearances to groups, on radio or television pertaining to therapeutic recreation; (b) publishing articles in newspapers or magazines on topics pertaining to the profession; (c) research which has helped advance the profession; (d) author or co-author of book(s); (e) original contribution to the profession which has affected philosophy or practice.

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## Organization and Institution Citations

*This award may be made annually to one organization and one institution.*

An organization shall be defined as any group whose major purpose is to advocate, promote, and/or support the delivery of services to persons with disabilities including any public, private or voluntary agency or group organized under a local or state charter, permit, certificate of incorporation, etc., such as scouting or other youth group, Y's or other community-based recreation agencies, senior citizen clubs, women's and men's service clubs and organizations.

An institution shall be defined as an agency which is primarily residential in nature, but which also provides day care or outreach services and whose purpose is to provide health, treatment, rehabilitation, or other human services, including recreation/therapeutic recreation for persons with disabilities.

### Qualifications:

The organization and the institution distinguished themselves through outstanding contribution(s) to the profession of therapeutic recreation by:

1. Preparing and sponsoring legislation and/or financial projects of importance to therapeutic recreation.
2. Promoting therapeutic recreation services at the local, regional, state and/or national level.
3. Developing, supporting, and/or maintaining outstanding therapeutic recreation programs and services.
4. Unique contributions to the therapeutic recreation profession.

The nomination must be accompanied by documentation and three letters of support demonstrating contributions.

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## Jean Tague Innovative Program Award

*This award may be made annually to two programs.*

### Qualifications:

Programs in agencies that provide therapeutic recreation services and programs for people with disabilities or illnesses, including units of local or state government, partnerships of governments; nonprofit organizations; for-profit organizations; hospitals, health care agencies; and membership associations.

The purpose of this award is to recognize innovation in planning and delivering programs. An innovative program is one that has been created in the last three years and has resulted in documented benefits to the participant or participants. It must meet some or all of the following criteria:

- a program responding to expressed or assessed needs of persons with disabilities;
- a program using novel techniques/approaches, or using traditional techniques/approaches in new ways;
- a program conducted in unique partnership or collaboration with other organizations; and
- a program that has exceeded the agency's expectations of excellence.

The nomination must be accompanied by a two-page description of the program, which includes the nature of the program and describes how the program meets the award criteria. Brochures, flyers and other support materials describing the program can accompany the submission.

Applicants must demonstrate the innovative aspects of the program through letters from at least one program participant or group of participants, caregivers, guardians, etc.; and one therapeutic recreation professional from another agency.

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Professional Research Award and Doris L. Berryman Student Research Award

*This award may be made annually to not more than one NTRS member and their colleague(s) and one graduate or undergraduate student sponsored by an NTRS member whose research efforts have enhanced the body of knowledge and/or practice of therapeutic recreation.*

Professional Qualifications:

1. Current NTRS membership with a minimum of a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation or recreation with an option in therapeutic recreation by at least one person conducting the research.
2. A resume and three letters of support which document significant research contributions in and/or to therapeutic recreation by the actual conduct and dissemination of research findings: (a) through publication in national and/or international reviewed and/or refereed journals (letter from editor to confirm publication if not already in print), and/or (b) national and/or international presentations.
3. A blind review by a committee of three of a copy of the report/project/thesis submitted must verify the significance of the research to the field.

Student Qualifications:

1. The student must be sponsored by a current NTRS member.
2. The significance of the research must be verified by a letter from the department chair and/or major advisor and three additional verification letters.
3. A blind review by a committee of three of a copy of the report/project/thesis submitted must verify the significance of the research to the field.

Selection of the Blind Review Committee shall be made by the Chair of the NTRS Research Committee.

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[NTRS Awards Nomination Form](#)

[The Ron McKenney Community Service Award](#)

[NTRS Awards Program - Past Winners](#)