



A Student's Guide to Working in Recreation & Parks



A Student's Guide to Working in Recreation and Parks: Introduction

Step into the world of recreation and parks—where building community, promoting wellness, and enhancing public spaces lead to meaningful careers. This toolkit will help you navigate the path from school to a career that suits you.

Benefits of working in recreation & parks

Make a difference! Engage in work that helps your community.

Make it work for you! Flexible jobs that are part time, full time, and seasonal opportunities can fit into your schedule

Variety of jobs! Choose from a variety of jobs. Find a job that suits your interest and skills!

Entry-level positions

Discover some entry-level positions that can launch a lasting and fulfilling career!

- Program assistant
- Front desk attendant
- Parks maintenance worker
- Aquatic service person
- Camp counsellor
- Lifeguard
- Park attendant
- Event assistant
- Custodian
- Administrative assistant

TAP INTO YOUR RESOURCES

As a student, you may not have work experience yet, but you've already gained valuable experiences that can pave the way for your future career.

Here are some ways these life experiences can help you build transferable skills:



School Activities

Projects, schoolwork, and leadership roles can help prepare you to handle dynamic challenges of organizing, coordinating, and planning in recreational spaces.



Previous/Current Work Experience

Working seasonal, casual, part time, or full time jobs while you are in school prepares you for the workforce. Roles in customer service, coordination, and organization build skills you can use in parks, recreation centres, and community programs!



Personal Life Experiences

Your experiences (e.g. sports, traveling, tutoring) can teach you real-world skills that help you handle anything, both personally and professionally in the recreation and parks sector!



Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to gain experience and show initiative. You can build skills in areas you're passionate about and explore different opportunities in the recreation and parks field!



Extracurricular Activities

Balancing schoolwork and extracurriculars can help you manage time and develop leadership and communication skills, guiding you to exciting career paths in recreation and parks.

BUILD YOUR SKILLS

You do not need to have every skill right now—what matters is your ability to build strength in skills that can help set you up for success in recreation and parks roles.

Communication

Strong communication—both verbal and non-verbal—is key when leading, engaging the public, or working with others.

Tips: Engage in active listening, be clear in sharing ideas or instructions, and ask questions if you are unsure.

Problem Solving

Finding solutions is valuable in many roles—skills you've likely used in school, sports, or helping others.

Tips: Request feedback, learn from experiences, and break tasks into smaller steps.

Teamwork

Collaboration helps achieve shared goals by combining unique skills, problem solving abilities, and experiences.

Tips: Celebrate wins, learn from challenges, welcome feedback, and stay honest and reliable.

Time Management

Managing tasks boosts time management, cuts stress, and ensures deadlines are met.

Tips: Plan and organize your time, set priorities, and you can use tools to track deadlines.

Critical Thinking

Evaluating information and considering different views can lead to creative solutions that meet everyone's needs.

Tips: Reflect on experiences, practice problem-solving, and stay informed on recreation and parks trends and news.

Leadership

Inspire others toward common goals! Showcase leadership from group projects, volunteering, and helping roles.

Tips: Communicate clearly, listen well, be confident and responsible, and set achievable goals.

FINDING YOUR CAREER PATH

Kickstart your career in recreation and parks by matching your skills, interests, and passions with exciting opportunities that make a real impact on your community!

Here are some ways to approach your career journey in a meaningful way:

PROACTIVE APPROACH

Boost your career by connecting with professionals in recreation and parks through networking events, career fairs, or online hiring platforms. You can level up your skills by attending workshops, webinars, and trainings to open up new opportunities in recreation and parks!

Explore a variety of career paths in recreation and parks to find the role that fits your skills and interests.

Access our **Job Board** Here:



USING YOUR COMMUNITY AS A RESOURCE

Your community can be a guide to exploring your career path! Engage with local parks and recreation centers, participate in community initiatives, and attend community events, festivals, and activities.

Follow your community social media, activities pages, and events calendars to stay updated and involved in your community!

EXPLORE CAREER OPTIONS

Whether you are volunteering, already employed, or come across job shadowing opportunities in your community, you can understand day-to-day responsibilities and the expectations, skills, and qualifications required.

Use resources such as career assessments and online job boards to explore different employment opportunities.

Access our **Positions Profile Guide** Here:



CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION

Ignite your passion for recreation and parks by leveling up with professional development and continuing your education.

Access our **Post Secondary Guide** here:



Access the **Recreation & Parks Essentials eCourse** here:



Learn More About Us!

<https://arpaonline.ca/program/community-compass/>

