

Recreation and Sport Systems

RS102: Get to Know Your Community

Overview

This learning event will deepen your knowledge of your own community and its connections to recreation. Recreation strengthens communities. When recreation leaders understand local culture, community and environment, they help to forge healthy relationships between diverse community groups.

RS102 - Get to Know Your Community was designed and prepared for Recreation North by Wendy Lahey with input from Caroline Sparks. Development was funded by the Arctic Inspiration Prize.

Week 1 Activities

During Week #1, you will explore the importance of demographics, local culture, and the ways in which recreation is experienced to your role as a recreation leader.

1. Review Slides 1-15 in the RS102 Presentation.
2. Complete RLA #1 and post to Week #1 Forum.
3. Review the questions on Slide 13 and prepare to discuss them during the first week's conference call.

If you are unable to participate in the first conference call, please listen to the recording and post your responses to these questions in the Week 1 Forum.

Required Learning Activity #1: Journeys of Recreation

Complete by:

Objectives:

Learners will be able to:

- recognize their community and regional characteristics; and,
 - explore strategies so that recreation responds to local culture, demographics, and environment.
1. Review the handout for RLA#1. Think about what you know about the three circles on the handout and review the points on Slides 6-10 in the presentation for RS102. Try to answer the following 4 questions – can you:
 - (a) Describe the culture of your community?

- (b) Identify the demographics of your community (consider education, age, religion, ethnicity, total population)?
 - (c) Describe the environment of your community (natural environment, climate, indoor/outdoor facilities, where do people live, what does your community map look like).
 - (d) Describe the journey of recreation for two different people in your community?
2. Post the answers to the above 4 questions in the Week #1 Forum.
- Post your ideas in any way you'd prefer:

- tell it/read it to us during conference call #1
- record a short audio or visual and post in the Week #1 Forum
- share a drawing/painting and post a picture of it in the Week #1 Forum
- other ideas?

If you are unable to participate in the first conference call, please listen to the recording and post your responses to these questions in the Week 1 Forum.

Week 2 Activities

In Week 2, you will select an event that addresses Goal #2 of the National Framework for Recreation in Canada. By reflecting on what you know of the demographics, culture and environment of your community, you will be able to explain the resources, relationships and local assets for community recreation and the importance of these for your event to a potential funder.

1. Review Slides 16-21 in the Week 2 section of the RS102 Presentation.
2. Complete RLA #2 and post to the Week #2 Forum. Take time to review the posts of other participants.

If you are unable to participate, listen to the recording and post your responses to the Week #2 Forum.

3. Prepare to share your thoughts using the questions:
 - What did you notice about the new event/program ideas?
 - Did we use any strategies to better respond to local culture, demographics and environments?
 - What was compelling in our explanations to the funder?

Required Learning Activity #2: Why is this program so important?

Complete by:

Objectives:

Learners will be able to:

- identify resources, relationships and local assets that support community recreation.
1. Share an idea for a new event or program you'd like to offer in your community. This new event or program needs to be inclusive and accessible, reaching people who don't always participate or who aren't always included.

If you need some suggestions, refer to Slides 6-7 in the RS102 Presentation about the Framework for Recreation in Canada.
 2. Explain to the funder why this event/program is important for your community.
 - a) Mention the culture and environment of your community, past successes, local and territorial government action plans and directions and community demographics and statistics.
 - b) Mention resources, relationships and local assets available to support your idea.

References

- Kenny, C. and Fraser, T. (2012). *Living Indigenous Leadership: Native narratives on building strong communities*. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press.
- Merriam, S.B. & Bierema, L.L. (2014). *Adult learning: Linking theory and practice*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.