

SUMMER 2009

TEXAS

Recreation & Park Society Magazine

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Recreation & Park
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2009 Texas Recreation & Park Society Awards

The Texas Recreation & Park Society (TRAPS) each year recognizes and honors individuals who have rendered significant services to TRAPS and have made outstanding contributions to the field of recreation and parks. TRAPS award winners are submitted to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Southwest Region of NRPA for consideration for appropriate awards at their respective levels. These agencies, individuals and groups received their awards at the 2009 Texas Recreation & Park Society's Awards Dinner in Austin, Texas, on February 27 — a memorable end to the annual Institute.

Lone Star Programming Class I

"Houston PARKS Adventure," Houston PARD



By appealing to the communities surrounding Houston's parks and recreation community centers, this program successfully engaged more than 6,800 minority and low-income urban youth, teens, women and seniors in the great outdoors. Program activities included kayaking, bird watching, fishing, camping, outdoor safety, outdoor cooking, hiking and trail

exploration and interaction with a variety of wildlife. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awarded a matching grant of \$30,000 to implement the Houston PARKS Adventure program.

Lone Star Programming Class II

"BioBlitz," Irving PARD



The BioBlitz program is a kick-off event to celebrate the establishment of an Ecotourism Program. The event educates children to environmental opportunities by having them participate in the identification of plant, insect, mammal and bird species that exist at Champion Trails in Irving, Texas.

Lone Star Programming Class III

"Camp Ike," Baytown PARD



Camp Ike was a "summer camp"-style program that was held during the aftermath/recovery of Hurricane Ike that heavily affected the Baytown community. The idea for Camp Ike came from one of our employees, who was struggling with the lack of child care following the storm. Normal services such as electricity, grocery stores and gas stations were all closed immediately

following the storm. All schools and childcare facilities were closed for more than two weeks due to structural damage or lack of electricity. Many employees were left in a desperate situation. They were required to return to work to get city services back in operation, yet they had no place to leave their children. The program was developed to provide daily activities for city employees' kids so their parents could return to work.

Lone Star Programming Class IV

"Encounter from the Past," Farmers Branch PARD



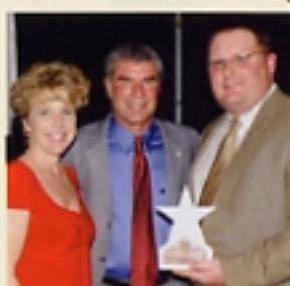
"Encounters from the Past" was a cemetery walking tour held at the Farmers Branch (Keenan) Cemetery with costumed actors portraying some of the city's prominent citizens. By using authentic clothing, vocabulary from the time period and scripts developed from oral histories, tour guests were able to take a step back in time and see the world as the character being portrayed would have seen it and lived it.

Tour guests were led from grave to grave by guides who pointed out items of interest along the way and discussed both the cemetery's history and the city's history.

Lone Star Programming Class V

"Got Game? Gamer Series,"

**Sienna Plantation
Residential Association**



The Sienna Plantation "Got Game? Gamer Series" is a series of video game tournaments utilizing popular major titles, timed with their release and when the interest in the game is highest.

Tournament participants are placed in a bracket and compete until a champion is named.

Administrative/Management

Occupational Safety and Health Initiative, Austin PARD

This program is Austin Parks and Recreation Department's strategic management and action plan to reduce injuries in the workplace. Highlights of the program included the organizational adoption of a philosophy that "safety comes first," the use of available resources to effectively encourage management and employees' participation. The program involves assisting program managers and supervisors in the investigation of accidents and injuries so that unsafe work conditions, procedures or work habits can be identified and corrected; developing standard operating procedures for tasks and job functions that have inherent safety hazards; identifying and eliminating actions that contribute to an unsafe work environment; increasing the percentage of FTEs completing safety training; improving and increasing safety inspection of sites and facilities; and offering administrative leave (four hours) to teams that do not have any lost time in their work areas.