

# 2026 URPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# MAGIC

Happens Here

Celebrating 75 Years



March 9 - 11

Dixie Convention Center

St George, UT

## EDUCATION AND EVENT PREVIEW GUIDE

Welcome to your first look at the 2026 URPA Conference - a week designed to elevate skills, expand networks and celebrate the impact of Utah's Parks & Recreation Professionals. Use this guide to get familiar with the opportunities ahead and prepare for an engaging and meaningful conference experience. Please note that all information included is tentative and may change before March. We're excited to share this preview with you and can't wait to welcome you to an unforgettable conference.

### INSIDE THIS PREVIEW GUIDE YOU'LL FIND:

- ◆ Information on Conference Activities
- ◆ Monday Workshop Offerings
- ◆ Information on the first-time attendee Lunch
- ◆ A Tentative Overview of the 2026 Educational Schedule
- ◆ Insights to help you plan your week and maximize your conference experience

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration is open now at [URPA.org/annual-conference.html](https://urpa.org/annual-conference.html)

Be sure to secure your spot early to take advantage of early bird pricing, conference workshops and access to conference hotel rates. Some activities have limited capacity, so registering early ensures you don't miss your top choices. We hope to see you in St. George!

## KOLOB TERRACE CANYONEERING OR SNOW CANYON HIKE

Pre-Registration Required



### KOLOB TERRACE CANYONEERING

Experience the Kolob Terrace portion of Zion National Park featuring slot canyons & multiple rappels ranging from 20' to over 100! This adventure will be one you don't want to miss! Beginners welcome.

- Monday, March 9th 7:00 AM to aprox. 1:30 PM
- Meet at 7:00 AM at the Dixie Center Front Doors
- Cost: \$145 (includes 4 hour guided tour, transportation, harness, helmet, rappelling devices, gloves and all other equipment)
- Space is limited
- Participants should bring:
  - 1 to 2 liters of water, snacks
  - Appropriate footwear (hiking boots or sneakers with tread)
  - Hats, sunglasses, sunscreen, warm layers, a daypack, cameras and any needed medications

### SNOW CANYON OVERLOOK HIKE

We'll explore one of Southern Utah's most breathtaking viewpoints located just outside of Snow Canyon State Park. This scenic trail offers sweeping views of the red rock cliffs, white sandstone and dramatic desert landscapes! This is a 4 mile hike with gradual incline making it accessible to most fitness levels.

- Monday, March 9th
- Meet at 8:30 AM at the Dixie Center Front Doors to carpool to hike location
- Cost: \$25 (includes 3 hour guided hike, snacks and stunning views!)
- Participants should bring:
  - 1 to 2 liters of water, snacks
  - Appropriate footwear (hiking boots or sneakers with tread)
  - Hats, sunglasses, sunscreen, warm layers, a daypack, and a camera

## PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Pre-Registration Required

- Monday, March 9th
- Little Valley Pickleball Courts
- Check-in begins @ 5:30 PM
- Men's, Women's & Co-ed teams play together divided by skill level
- Cost: \$30 per player



## THE URPA GOLF TOURNAMENT PRESENTED BY: amilia

- Monday, March 9th, Pre-Registration Required
- Green Springs Golf Course - 588 N Green Springs Drive, Washington UT 84780
- 18 Holes + Cart, Lunch, Prizes, 8 Contest Holes
- Cost: \$110/ golfer or \$440/ team

### CONTEST HOLE SPONSORS



## LGI AND LGIT RED CROSS RECERTIFICATION COURSE

Pre-Registration Required

- Thursday, March 12th
- 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the Sand Hollow Aquatic Center
- Cost: \$35 (Includes Lunch)
- American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor & Instructor Trainer Recertification Course



## WORKSHOPS, ACTIVITIES AND PARKS DEMO DAY

### MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS AT THE DIXIE CONVENTION CENTER 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

DIXIE CENTER SUNBROOK C	LITTLE VALLEY PICKLEBALL COURTS	LITTLE VALLEY SOCCER FIELDS	LITTLE VALLEY SOFTBALL FIELDS	DIXIE CENTER SUNBROOK A	DIXIE CENTER SUNBROOK B	DIXIE CENTER BALLROOM A	DIXIE CENTER BALLROOM E	GREEN SPRINGS GOLF COURSE 588 N GREEN SPRINGS DRIVE WASHINGTON UT 84780	LITTLE VALLEY PICKLEBALL COURTS
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED	PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED	PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED	PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED	PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED	PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED	PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED	PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED	PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED	JOIN US ONSITE! PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT REQUIRES PRE-REGISTRATION
Managing the Aftermath of a Critical Incident Workshop <i>Presented by: Shawn DeRosa</i>	Interactive Pickleball Training to Run Camps, Clinics, Leagues & Tournaments <i>Presented by: Wayne Bullock &amp; Linda Weeks</i>	Adaptive & Inclusion Interactive Workshop <i>Presented by: Taylor Smith &amp; Melissa Clarke-Wharff</i>	Parks & Fields Demo Day 1:00 - 3:15 PM Lunch 1:30 - 3:30 PM Equipment Demos & Rodeo 3:30 - 5:00 PM Education	Caring for the Community & Ourselves: Mental Wellness in Senior Services <i>Presented by: Juliet Kuehnle</i> National Trends <i>by: Natalia Ospina</i>	What Buisness Are You In? Mission-Based Decision Making <i>Presented by: Michael Kirschman</i>	Interactive AI Director's Workshop <i>Presented by: Ernie Harker</i>	Decoding Community Building: The Event Connection <i>Presented by: David Ramirez</i> Sound Check 101 <i>by: Mark Christiansen</i>	Golf Tournament 18 Holes + Cart, Continental Breakfast, Lunch & Prizes <i>Hosted by: Washington City</i> 8:45 AM Shotgun Start	OPENING SOCIAL Food & Fun! Featuring Pickleball Tournament, Drop-in Pickleball, Family Fun Games, Street Hockey, Drone Show & Music! 6:00 - 9:00 PM
1:30 - 5:00 PM	1:30 - 5:00 PM	1:30 - 5:00 PM	1:00 - 5:00 PM	1:30 - 5:00 PM	1:30 - 5:00 PM	1:30 - 5:00 PM	1:30 - 5:00 PM		
URPA Contact: Wendy Harris 435-621-2081	URPA Contact: Bryan White 801-589-4240	URPA Contact: Taylor Smith 801-859-6615	URPA / SFMA / PGMS Contacts: Jason Miller 385-454-8347 Dan Farnes 801-884-2000 Lorenzo Lopez 602-702-9039 Shane Richards 435-228-5129	URPA Contact: Jen Wright 801-319-1430	URPA Contact: Wendy Jones 801-660-8207	URPA Contact: Janell Payne 801-661-4685	URPA Contact: Myrna Clark 801-597-1358	URPA Contact: Nick Coleman 801-870-1358 <i>Title Sponsor: Amilia</i> Contest Hole Sponsors: Think Architecture, Rain Bird, MUSCO, Sportsman, Arch Nexus, SYN Lawn, Symbol Arts & Team Up Athletics	URPA Contacts: Kevin Schmidt 801-995-2703 Melissa Haynes 801-712-3036 <i>Presenting Sponsor: Sonntag Recreation</i> Activity Sponsors: Quickscores, JRC Lighting, Open Sky Productions, Swiss Mixx Audio, JRC Lighting, MUSCO & Symbol Arts
<i>Sponsored by: CEM a Landmark Aquatic Company &amp; Water Design</i>	<i>Sponsored by: Las Vegas Raiders &amp; Symbol Arts</i>	<i>Sponsored by: Can Play, Utah Special Olympics &amp; Extreme Motus</i>	<i>Sponsored by: SFMA &amp; PGMS</i>	<i>Sponsored by: NRPA &amp; AARP</i>	<i>Sponsored by: Athletify</i>	<i>Sponsored by: Great Western Recreation, MUSCO Lighting, LHM Summer Games &amp; Kaizen Labs</i>	<i>Sponsored by: Sportsman, Swiss Mixx Audio, Open Sky Productions &amp; Dragon Dynamite Fireworks</i>		

## FIRST TIME ATTENDEE LUNCH

MONDAY, MARCH 9TH - 12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM IN THE DIXIE CENTER GARDEN ROOM

Join us for a special lunch designed just for first-time URPA Conference attendees! Enjoy a quick meal while meeting fellow professionals and connecting with URPA leaders who will give you an overview of what to expect during conference week. We will walk you through:

- Key Events & Activities
- How to Navigate Sessions and Tracks of Classes
- Tips for Networking Opportunities
- Making the Most of Your Time in the Exhibit Hall
- Socials & Experiences
- Conference Highlights You Won't Want to Miss!

You will also get an introduction to all things URPA including:

- Regions, Sections & Committees
- Leadership Pathways, Volunteer Opportunities & Ways to Get Involved
- Year-Round Training Opportunities

This orientation is the perfect place to start building connections, ask questions and feel confident for the week ahead! We can't wait to see you there!





# TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

REGISTRATION DESK OPENS AT 6:45 AM DIXIE CONVENTION CENTER

## VCBO OPENING GENERAL SESSION - GARDEN ROOM KEYNOTE SESSION THE MAGIC OF CHANGE BY ERNIE HARKER

MEETING ROOM	BALLROOM F	BALLROOM E	ENTRADA A	BALLROOM C	ENTRADA B	SUNBROOK C	ENTRADA C	BALLROOM A	SUNBROOK B	SUNBROOK A
8:00 - 9:30 AM	<b>VCBO OPENING GENERAL SESSION - GARDEN ROOM KEYNOTE SESSION THE MAGIC OF CHANGE BY ERNIE HARKER</b>									
TRACK	Recreation Youth Sports <i>Sponsored by: Ankored</i>	Special Events Programming <i>Sponsored by: Kaizen Labs</i>	Health & Wellness Senior Centers Active Aging <i>Sponsored by: Garrett Parks + Play</i>	Professional Development & Education <i>Sponsored by: Athletify</i>	Fitness & Facility Management <i>Sponsored by: Hogan Construction</i>	Sports Field Management SFMA / PGMS <i>Sponsored by: Tiny Mobile Robots</i>	Planning - Parks & Facilities <i>Sponsored by: MUSCO Lighting</i>	Parks & Maintenance <i>Sponsored by: Smith Steelworks</i>	Aquatics <i>Sponsored by: Vortex</i>	Leadership Advocacy <i>Sponsored by: Great Western Recreation</i>
9:45 - 10:45 AM	Recreation & Youth Sports Roundtable Discussion <i>Bryan White</i>	Special Events Roundtable Discussion <i>Myrna Clark</i>	Building Programming Strategies for Active Aging Communities <i>David Ramirez</i>	Where the Magic Begins: Designing Early-Career Experiences <i>Nate Trauntvein, Jayden Jarrett &amp; Kyle Clyde</i>	Before the Sirens Sound: Emergency Communication Strategies That Work <i>Megan Keul</i>	Community Friendly Trends in Sports Lighting <i>Aaron Klinge, Bailey Rimes</i>	Dollars and Sense: Navigating Economic Trends to Sustain Parks & Recreation <i>Chris Nunes</i>	Tree Care 101: How to Get the Most Out of Your Trees <i>Trent Bristol</i>	Using the MAHC to Guide Decisions <i>Shawn DeRosa</i>	Leading with Care: Building a Workplace Culture of Mental Wellness <i>Juliet Kuehnle</i>
11:00 AM - NOON	Click, Register, Play: The Demands of Millennial Parents <i>Chris Nunes</i>	Practical Risk Management for Events <i>David Ramirez</i>	Active, Connected, Thriving: Inside NRPA's Vision for Healthy Aging <i>Natalia Ospina</i>	Leadership Academy Presentation <i>Nancy Day &amp; Leadership Academy Graduates</i>	Fitness & Facility Management Roundtable: Evals, Forms & Sheets <i>Wendy Jones</i>	How to Analyze Soil and Calculate Flow Rates <i>Kevin Evans</i>	Ignite Your Brand in the Parks Division <i>Ernie Harker</i>	Resilience on the Frontlines: Mental Wellness Tools for Parks Staff <i>Juliet Kuehnle</i>	Conflict Resolution: What's Your Style <i>Shawn DeRosa</i>	Directors Roundtable Discussion <i>Janell Payne</i>
NOON - 3:00 PM	<b>ARCH NEXUS VENDOR SHOW &amp; LUNCHEON</b>									
3:15 - 4:15 PM	EKO, Eat Like a Champion & Healthy Utah Designation <i>Ashley Brown, Emma Andreasen</i>	Ignite Your Brand at Community Special Events <i>Ernie Harker</i>	Trends in Senior Sports & Recreation <i>Kyle Case</i>	Put Me In Coach: The Importance of Opportunities and Teachable Moments <i>City of Henderson Recreation</i>	Ethical Management: Finding the Balance <i>Michael Kirschman</i>	Chemical Application 101 <i>Eric Allred</i>	Oooh... We Built That! Spaces so Cool People Forget to Leave <i>Dale Robinson, Brent Tippetts, Bronco Hunter</i>	Building a Culture of Safety: Effective Risk Management for Field Staff <i>Chris Nunes</i>	Mastering the Art of Persuasion: From Team Huddle to Town Hall <i>James Moore</i>	Are You Prepared for Litigation? <i>Shawn DeRosa</i>
4:25 PM	<b>URPA SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION CLOSING AT 4:25 PM</b>									
4:30 - 5:30 PM	The Four Anchors of Athlete Safety: Turning Compliance Into a Culture of Care <i>Kyle Lubrano</i>	Road Trip! Hit the Road with Mobile Programming <i>Megan Keul, Alice Chambers</i>	What it Means to be an Age-Friendly Community <i>Darren Hotton</i>	Coaching Your Staff <i>Joseph Gourley</i>	Selling Fun - Marketing Recreation Programs Without a Marketing Degree <i>Andi Veenker</i>	Rural & Small Town Roundtable Discussion <i>Chad Wright, John Bradley</i>	URPA + SFMA + PGMS Updates & Roundtable Discussion <b>THIS CLASS WILL BE IN BALLROOM A</b> <i>Jason Miller, Dan Farnes, Shane Richards</i>	The Michael Phelps Adaptive Swim School IM Training <i>Wendy Harris</i>	Partnerships: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly <i>Michael Kirschman</i>	
6:30 - 9:00 PM	<b>BIG T RECREATION CURPA BBQ AT WASHINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER</b>									

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

REGISTRATION DESK OPENS AT 7:00 AM DIXIE CONVENTION CENTER

## EXTRA MAGIC HOUR: VARIETY FITNESS CLASS -- GARDEN ROOM

MEETING ROOM	BALLROOM F	BALLROOM E	ENTRADA A	BALLROOM C	ENTRADA B	SUNBROOK C	ENTRADA C	BALLROOM A	SUNBROOK B	SUNBROOK A
7:15 - 8:30 AM	<b>EXTRA MAGIC HOUR: VARIETY FITNESS CLASS -- GARDEN ROOM</b>									
TRACK	Recreation Youth Sports <i>Sponsored by: Ankored</i>	Special Events Programming <i>Sponsored by: Kaizen Labs</i>	Health & Wellness Senior Centers Active Aging <i>Sponsored by: Garrett Parks + Play</i>	Professional Development & Education <i>Sponsored by: Athletify</i>	Fitness & Facility Management <i>Sponsored by: Hogan Construction</i>	Sports Field Management SFMA / PGMS <i>Sponsored by: Tiny Mobile Robots</i>	Planning - Parks & Facilities <i>Sponsored by: MUSCO Lighting</i>	Parks & Maintenance <i>Sponsored by: Smith Steelworks</i>	Aquatics <i>Sponsored by: Vortex</i>	Leadership Advocacy <i>Sponsored by: Great Western Recreation</i>
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Don't Drop the Ball on Training! <i>Gina Hansen</i>	The Magic of Partnerships: Fundraising & Collaboration <i>Kelsey Nelson, Jacqueline Wilson</i>	Senior Centers & Active Aging Roundtable Discussion <i>Jen Wright</i>	Six Things Every Program Needs <i>Alice Chambers</i>	How to Effectively Evaluate Ideas, Proposals and Opportunities <i>Jared Moore</i>	Black Desert Tour 7:15 AM Meet in Dixie Center Lobby, Tour Returns at 10 AM <i>Ryan Hunter, Pre-Registration Required</i>	Functionality During Drought: Salt Lake County Park's Irrigation Success Story <i>Kevin Steed, Kelly Kopp</i>	Climate Change, Heat Islands & Cooling Stations: A Comprehensive Approach to Heat Management <i>Michelle Lynn</i>	Aquatics Roundtable Discussion: Let's Talk Inservice! <i>Wendy Harris</i>	The Power of Stories <i>Michael Kirschman</i>
10:15 - 11:15 AM	Strategic Sports Partnerships <i>Katelyn Chambers, Lisa Johnson</i>	Drone Shows 101 - Key Items for a Successful Event <i>Nate Mortensen</i>	Practical Fundraising for Senior Programs, Active Aging and Healthy Living <i>Kelsey Nelson</i>	Reimagining Motivation: Creative Ways to Engage and Retain Staff <i>Priscilla Scott</i>	Reel Quick: Maximizing Your Social Media <i>Megan Keul, Alice Chambers</i>	Sports Field Construction & Maintenance for Cities & Budgets of All Sizes <i>Shane Richards, Tanner Collins</i>	Paddle the Same Direction: How to Get Inter-Government Collaboration <i>Kelly Cannon-O'Day</i>	Preserving Trees That Are Damaging Sidewalks & Hardscapes <i>Miles Becker</i>	Tuesdays are for Tours! ... Except on a Wednesday <i>Audrey Durfee</i>	From Vision to Value: CIP Planning & Execution <i>Robert Parrish</i>
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM	<b>CEM A LANDMARK AQUATIC COMPANY AWARDS LUNCHEON -- VENDOR HALL</b>									
1:45 - 2:45 PM	Revolutionizing Recreation: Integrating Technology to Engage the Next Generation <i>Priscilla Scott</i>	Adaptive Inclusion at Special Events <i>Megan Zollinger, Kenny Jardine</i>	Marketing to Multiple Generations <i>Megan Keul, Alice Chambers</i>	Positive Motivation for Managers <i>Jeaney Garcia</i>	Welcome to the Team: The Art of Onboarding Fitness Instructors <i>Kate Vest</i>	Growing Turf When Conditions Are Tough <i>Kelly Kopp</i>	Managing Your Most Important Asset: Natural Areas <i>Michael Kirschman</i>	Tech Toolkit: Empowering Irrigation Teams <i>Kevin Steed</i>	Stayin' Alive: Compliance Tips That'll Keep Your Pool (and Job) Afloat <i>Alan Walker</i>	The Universal Language of Numbers: Supporting Parks <i>Shane Richards</i>
3:00 PM	<b>URPA SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION CLOSING AT 3:00 PM</b>									
3:15 - 4:15 PM	Unique Youth Sports & Program Highlights GTTP Multiple Presenters <i>Hosts: Gaby Bridges, Hailey Fenn</i>	Special Events with a Twist GTTP Multiple Presenters <i>Hosts: April Webb, Ali Wilcox</i>	Active Aging & Community Partnerships GTTP Multiple Presenters <i>Hosts: Liz Schwab, Tasha LaRocco</i>	Where Confidence Becomes Magic! <i>Nate Trauntvein</i>	Facility Management Highlights GTTP Multiple Presenters <i>Hosts: Jacqueline Wilson, LO Olsen</i>	SFMA Annual Meeting <i>Dan Farnes</i>	New Parks, Playgrounds and Facility Highlights From Around the State GTTP Multiple Presenters <i>Hosts: Ben King, Vanessa McMillan</i>	Aquatic Event & Program Highlights GTTP Multiple Presenters <i>Hosts: Jeanna Camp, Serena Werner</i>	Attend Your Favorite Get To The Point Session 	
7:00 - 10:00 PM	<b>GREAT WESTERN RECREATION CLOSING SOCIAL -- FAMILY GAME NIGHT</b>									



## Aloha OPENING SOCIAL

Monday, March 9



Join us for a luau themed party with Drop-in Pickleball, Street Hockey, Corn Hole, Pickleball Tournament, Family Games, Island Dancers, Jazz & Mammoth Watch Party, Drone Show & Fun!



**Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 PM Drone & Music Show starts at 8:30 PM

**Where:** Little Valley Pickleball Courts  
2330 Horseman Park Dr, St George, UT 84790

**Food:** Teriyaki Chicken Bowls from 6:00 - 7:30 PM (while supplies last)

**Who:** Conference attendees, presenters, vendors & families welcome!

### Show & Event Sponsors:



Check out what's happening on the **Yapp** app!



Build a personalized schedule, post to the gallery, look up speaker or vendor contact information and more!



Download the Yapp App and search 2026 URPA Conference or scan the QR Code!

Sponsored by:



## CONFERENCE WIFI

**Network:** URPA Wifi by Sportsman  
**Password:** Sportsman2026!

Sponsored by:



## BIG T RECREATION CURPA BBQ

Tuesday, March 10

**Time:** 6:30 to 9:00 PM

**Where:** Washington Community Center  
350 Community Center Dr, Washington, UT 84780

**Food:** Served from 6:30 to 7:15 PM

Meal included with full conference registration, additional meal tickets available for purchase.



**ACTIVITIES BEGINNING AT 7:30 PM**  
DODGEBALL & LIVE AUCTION  
MUSIC & FIREWORKS SHOW AT 8:30 PM

Show Sponsors:



## Wednesday, March 11

# CLOSING SOCIAL

## Family Game Night



### GAMES & ACTIVITIES:

Blackjack, Texas Hold 'em, Roulette, Pass the Pigs, Bingo, Left Right Center, Mario Kart, Silent Disco, Horse Races, Open Bar & More!



**Time:** 7:00 to 10:00 PM

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn, Mojave Ballroom

**Food:** Drinks & Light Refreshments

**Who:** Conference attendees, presenters & families welcome!

Sound Sponsor:

