

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE



TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	ORGANIZATION
Sunday, September 15, 2024			
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Moving from Best Practices to Next Practices	Neelay Bhatt, Founder & CEO	Next Practice Partners, LLC
10:45 - 11:45 a.m.	Inspired, Empowered, Supported: A Panel of Women in Parks and Recreation (Part 1 of 2)	Lakita Frazier, CEO/Founder	Women in Parks & Recreation
10:45 - 11:45 a.m.	Do You Want to Win or Do You Want to Be Right? The Art of Negotiation and Persuasion	Jai Cole, Executive Director Chris Matthews, Division Director	Fairfax County Park Authority Mecklenburg County
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Navigating Leadership: Insights for Charting Your Course	Chris Stevenson, Founder	The Empower Group
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Water Safety for Open Water Events	Dan Jones, Division Head of Aquatics & Beaches	Norfolk Parks & Recreation
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Virginia Young Professionals Network Meeting	Emmy Richards, P & R Manager AJ McCage, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator	Town of Ashland Henrico Recreation and Parks
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Recruit Like A Boss	Luca Twohie, Employment and Recruiting Specialist	Fairfax County Park Authority
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Innovate Like a Tech Startup: Transforming Your Parks & Rec Agency with Lessons from Uber, The Athletic, and Google	Tim Carney, VP Strategy at The Rounds (previous GM at Uber) Harry Tannenbaum, President of Mill (previously Google) Birju Kadakia, Head of Product	
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Inspired, Empowered, Supported: A Panel of Women in Parks and Recreation (Part 2 of 2)	Lakita Frazier, CEO/Founder	Women in Parks & Recreation
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	The Director's Cut II: Ideas, Challenges, and Outcomes From the Director's Perspective (Part 1 of 2)	Jai Cole, Executive Director Steve Torpy, Director Jane Rudolph, Director Michael Kirshman, Director	Fairfax County Park Authority Loudoun County P&R Arlington County Dept. of P&R Virginia Beach P&R
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Telling YOUR Story: TED-Style	Neelay Bhatt, Founder & CEO	Next Practice Partners, LLC
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Recreational Therapy and Inclusion: Continuum of Service in Parks and Recreation	Kathy Williams, Recreation Supervisor	Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Fill the Pool: A Guide to Programming Aquatic Activities for Your Community Needs	Elizabeth Cook, Aquatics Director Dylan Evans, Assistant Aquatics Director	Fairfax County Park Authority
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Unified Experiences: Crafting ADA-Compliant Magic in Parks & Recreation Promotion	Reid Okoniewski, Marketing & Communications Specialist	Town of Herndon Parks & Recreation Department

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TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	ORGANIZATION
Sunday, September 15, 2024 (cont.)			
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Small Departments with Big Dreams	Jerry West, Director Justin Bullock, Director	Nelson County Parks and Recreation Greene County Parks and Recreation
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. CANCELLED	Conservation in Action: Partnerships and Outdoor Recreation Stakeholder Engagement for Appalachian Trail Landscape Conservation	Sammi Powers, Assistant Professor	George Mason University
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	The Director's Cut II: Ideas, Challenges, and Outcomes From the Director's Perspective (Part 2 of 2)	Jai Cole, Executive Director Steve Torpy, Director Jane Rudolph, Director Michael Kirshman, Director	Fairfax County Park Authority Loudoun County P&R Arlington County Dept. of P&R Virginia Beach P&R
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Armed Forces Recreation: Solving The Mystery	John Prue, MWR Program Analyst	Navy Region Mid-Atlantic
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Making a Splash With Your Employees	Michael Suggs, Senior Aquatic Specialist Caroline Rakestraw, Aquatic Specialist I	Prince William County Department of Parks and Recreation
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Making Accessible Playgrounds More Accessible	Jeffery Holzer, Landscape Architect / Certified Playground Safety Inspector Melissa Sacknoff, Marketing Specialist / Accessibility Advocate	Kimley-Horn
4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	DEI At-A-Glance	Tina Jenkins, Executive Assistant	Norfolk Parks & Recreation
4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Hand & Hand: Recreation & Learning	Dr. Daryle Rodgers Founder/CEO	Enrichment City, LLC
4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Preventable Accidents	Dan Jones, Division Head of Aquatics & Beaches	Norfolk Parks & Recreation
4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	I Play Too	Bailey Kasten, Executive Director Jason Bookheimer, Division Director of Community Recreation	VRPS City of Danville
4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Getting People Excited About Outdoor Recreation	Marisa Hoff, Group Partner	The Empower Group
Monday, September 16, 2024			
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Partnerships: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Michael Kirschman, Director	Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Grow Your Parks and Recreation Business	John Prue, MWR Program Analyst	Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

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TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	ORGANIZATION
Monday, September 16, 2024 (cont.)			
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Tennis & Pickleball: Auditing Your Courts to Maximize Facility Use & Shared Space	Amelia Storer, US Tennis Association National Manager Shell Wood, USTA Mid-Atlantic Foundation	USTA Mid-Atlantic Foundation
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Leading with Resilience Before, During and After the Storm: Navigating Emergency Action Plans and Post-Crisis Recovery (part 1 of 2)	Jamie Orrison, Recreation Senior Manager Kathleen Fish, General Manager Robert Belcourt, General Manager Kathryn Nestler, Aquatics Manager	Prince William County Department of Parks & Recreation
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	The Foundations to Building an Inclusion Model	AJ McCage, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator	Henrico Recreation and Parks
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Integrating Fire & EMS With Your Recreational Department	David Mangus, Battalion Chief	Norfolk Fire-Rescue
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Delivering Exceptional Guest Service Experiences	Neelay Bhatt, Founder & CEO	Next Practice Partners, LLC
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Creating with Canva: Empowering Parks & Recreation Professionals to Design Like Pros	Marisa Hoff, Group Partner	The Empower Group
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Committed to Community: Unexpected Outdoor Partnerships	Kindra Greene, Executive Director	Elizabeth River Trail Foundation
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Trends in Play Space Design	Michael Fingerroth, Trends in Play Space Designer	Landscape Structures, Inc.
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Science in the Park: Utilizing Your Parks as Outdoor Science Classrooms Through Collaborative School Partnerships	Christy Mory, Environmental Recreation Specialist Chris Eckart, Environmental Program Coordinator	Prince William County Parks and Recreation
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Leading with Resilience Before, During and After the Storm: Navigating Emergency Action Plans and Post-Crisis Recovery (part 2 of 2)	Jamie Orrison, Recreation Senior Manager Kathleen Fish, General Manager Robert Belcourt, General Manager Kathryn Nestler, Aquatics Manager	Prince William County Department of Parks & Recreation

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TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	ORGANIZATION
Monday, September 16, 2024 (cont.)			
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.	EXHIBIT HALL SESSION: Trends and Challenges in Parks and Recreation	Chris Stevenson, Founder	The Empower Group
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	EXHIBIT HALL SESSION: Youth Sports and Athletics Challenges	Chris Stevenson, Founder	The Empower Group
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	EXHIBIT HALL SESSION: Aquatics at a Glance	Dan Jones, Division Head of Aquatics & Beaches	Norfolk Parks & Recreation
1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	EXHIBIT HALL SESSION: Getting People Excited About Outdoor Recreation	Marisa Hoff, Group Partner	The Empower Group
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Making Lasting Collaborative Connections	Dr. Gale Gorke, Executive Director	Kids Kan, Inc.
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	"I Just Need a Minute!" Incorporating Sensory Friendly Zones Into Your Recreation Programs and Special Events	Cathy Orletsky, Senior Recreation Supervisor Melody Beck, Recreation Coordinator	Norfolk Parks & Recreation Chesapeake Parks, Recreation & Tourism
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Wellness and Stress Management As A Priority to Gain Successful Outcomes	Tasha Turnbull, Executive Director	T2 Fitness Foundation
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	I Play Too: The Value of Time	Jason Bookheimer, Division Director of Community Recreation Michael Clark, Owner/Principal Consultant	City of Danville Oxbow
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Beyond To-Do Lists: Balancing Being and Doing	Emmy Richards, P&R Manager	Town of Ashland
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Marketing to Multiple Generations	Megan Keul, Marketing Coordinator Alice Chambers, Environmental Education Manager	Mecklenburg County
Tuesday, September 17, 2024			
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	DEI & Me	Gabe Diaz, DEI Executive Director Mariah Roederer, DEI Program Coordinator	City of Hampton
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Great Things Rarely Come From Comfort Zones	Jai Cole, Executive Director Chris Matthews, Division Director	Fairfax County Park Authority Mecklenburg County

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<i>Tuesday, September 17, 2024 (cont.)</i>			
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Saving Time and Money: Pre Design Services	Daniel Atilano, Design Principal Christopher Kehde, Design Principal/Executive VP/ Managing Director	FGM Architects
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Seeing Beyond Disability: Creating Opportunities for Adaptive Sports and Recreation	Caitlyn Berry, Occupational Therapist; Health & Wellness Outcomes Manager Tyler Rowe, Senior Program Coordinator	Sportable
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Building Youth Sports Into The Future	Roberto Ramos, Recreation Specialist I	Virginia Beach Parks & Rec
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Teaching Senior Fitness: Balancing The Extremes	Katharina Conner, Recreation Programmer	Loudoun County PRCS
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	CLOSING SPEAKER: Charting the Course to Enrich Lives Through Recreation	Dr. Gale Gorke, Executive Director	Kids Kan, Inc.

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