

Excellence in Youth Sports Award

Background/Purpose:

The Excellence in Youth Sports is sponsored by the Florida Recreation and Park Association in partnership with the National Alliance for Youth Sports. The Award was established to recognize the contributions made by public parks and recreation agencies providing youth sports.

Eligibility:

Programs offering one or more types of youth sports programs, that educate their administrators, volunteer coaches, game officials and parents. The agency must also demonstrate that it embraces a child-centered recreational sports philosophy that is aimed at providing positive and safe experiences for all youth.

The Awards Selection Committee's goal is to award one award in each of the following categories:

- Category I – serving populations over 200,000
- Category II – serving populations between 150,000-199,999
- Category III – serving populations between 75,000-149,000
- Category IV – serving populations between 35,000-74,999
- Category V – serving populations at or below 34,999

Criteria:

An application must be completed and submitted by the established deadline and include information that documents the total number of youth served by the agencies youth sports program(s) between the selected dates for the application year. Applications must indicate what programs are offered and how many children participate in each program.

Additionally, the application must include a descriptive narrative of the applicant's program(s) that demonstrate the child-centered recreational sports philosophy aimed at providing positive and safe experiences for all youth. It is appropriate to include any written brochures, policies, procedures manuals, publicity coverage, recognitions, etc.

Elements to be addressed include:

- Benefits to participants
- Formal training for administrators responsible for the youth sports programming, coaches, volunteers, parents and officials
- Background screening and security methods used
- Written disciplinary procedures governing youth sports coaches involved in nominee's programs
- Age appropriate skill developmental offerings for youth in nominee's programs
- Philosophy regarding awards and recognition for youth participating in nominee's programs
- Opportunities for youth with disabilities
- Annual sports program evaluation methods

Gainesville Award Summary

2005 was the inaugural year of the Excellence in Youth Sports Award presented on behalf of the Florida Recreation and Park Association in partnership with the National Alliance for Youth Sports.

Nominations were accepted through July 1, 2005 and required that the submitting agency meet the following criteria:

- be a public parks and recreation agency offering one or more types of youth sports programs
- educate their youth sports administrators
- educate their volunteer coaches, game officials and parents
- demonstrate that it embraces a child-centered recreational sports philosophy aimed at providing positive and safe experiences for all youth.

Awards were by population categories.

A panel of three individuals reviewed the applications submitted. This panel was spearheaded by Rosemary Prince, on behalf of FRPA.

Based on the information submitted by representatives of the City of Gainesville, they were selected to receive the award in their population category.