

Sports Elections 2020

President – Kendra Beaver



Kendra Beaver
Recreation Coordinator
Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation
Bachelor of Science, Recreation Management

Whether it's watching the greats like Tiger Woods, Trent Green, David DeJesus or participating in golf, softball, flag football, soccer and basketball growing up, sports has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My interest in parks and rec field didn't come until I was sophomore at Hannibal-LaGrange University. There I participated in intramural flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, and ultimate Frisbee as well as volunteered my time to referee and coordinate intramural games. While at Hannibal-LaGrange University I attended a plethora of major courses and had two vital internships; one with the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Quincy, Illinois where I assisted the Recreation Sports Specialist Director and one at Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation.

After my internship at Excelsior Springs Parks and Rec, I was hired by Clay County Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites as their Historic Sites Specialist. After a short but educational stint there, I was hired by Excelsior Springs Parks and Rec as their Recreation Coordinator. I am responsible for the organization and coordination of over 10 different youth and adult leagues and over 5 special events and activities. While here, I have created a successful ESports program that has been featured in the National Recreation and Parks Association Magazine, worked hard to join several leagues in the area such as Tri-County Soccer League, Northern Lights Baseball Association, and even created a brand new youth volleyball league with surrounding towns.

A huge goal I have for this upcoming year is to obtain my CYSA certificate. I believe this title will help me keep pushing forward and help me to grow in the parks and rec world. In 2021 I will be eligible to obtain my CPRP which I plan to take when the time comes. I am involved in National Recreation and Park Association, Missouri Parks and Rec Association, National Recreation and Parks Association Young Professional Network, Missouri Parks and Recreation Association Young Professional Section, Missouri Parks and Recreation Sports Section, recipient of the Kansas City Metro Parks and Recreation Director's Association 2018 Professional Scholarship, attended Legislative Action Day in Jefferson City, will be a presenter at Missouri Parks and Recreation Association State Conference and I volunteer as the assistant coach for the Excelsior Springs High School Boy's and Girl's Golf teams.

Recently I have been thinking about the question, "Why do I do what I do?". As I sit and ponder that question there is one thing that keeps popping up; smiles. I do what I do because I love to see people of all ages, genders, races, and backgrounds come together to have fun. All that hard work pays off when you get that one simple comment, "this is fun" or "thank you". I'm very passionate about my job and I look to further my career as the president-elect for the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association Sports Section.

Sec/Treasurer – Matthew Denton



Matthew Denton, CPRP

Recreation and Marketing Manager

Smithville Parks and Recreation

Bachelor of Science, Sports Management, Central Methodist University

Master of Science, Recreation, Northwest Missouri State University

My career in parks and recreation started back in 2009 with my hometown of Warrenton, MO Parks and Recreation Department. I grew up being an official/umpire and worked my way up to a field supervisor. As I worked with the parks and recreation staff more, I knew that I wanted to continue to move up and make this my career! I took my passion of Parks and Recreation and attended Central Methodist University, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management. While at Central Methodist University, I had the role of Intramural Sports Student Manager. I programmed and marketed intramural sport leagues and tournaments. After graduation, I was offered a Campus Recreation Graduate Assistantship with Northwest Missouri State University. I managed 32 indoor and outdoor events for leagues, tournaments, dual and individual sports and the facility for over 10,000 participants, while also receiving a Master of Science in Recreation. After graduating in 2017 I was hired on by Smithville Parks and Recreation as the Recreation and Marketing Manager. I am currently in charge of all youth and adult leagues and tournaments and special events for the community.

During my time at Smithville Parks and Recreation, I have helped grow a recreational program that had just started in 2016. Our youth recreation registration numbers continue to grow each season! I enjoy partnering with the communities around Smithville to create a better experience for our participants.

In October of 2019, I earned my CPRP. I wanted this certification to help me become a better professional and provide necessary resources to bring back to my department. One of my 2020 goals is to be more actively involved with MPRA. I am currently serving as MPRA Region 1 Membership Coordinator and I am excited to help as the MPRA Sport Section Secretary/Treasurer for 2020.