



# Sports Illustrated 50th Anniversary **Sportstown Application**

In conjunction with the National Recreation and Park Assn.



The Sportstown Application must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2003. Applications must be sent (single spaced) to: **Sportstown**, NRPA, 22377 Belmont Ridge Road, Ashburn, VA 20148, or e-mailed to [programs@nrpa.org](mailto:programs@nrpa.org). All inquiries regarding this application should be forwarded by e-mail. Please note that all video and printed materials forwarded with this application form are welcomed, but not required. Materials submitted with the application will not be returned.

Name of Agency: **CENTRE REGION PARKS & RECREATION (CRPR)**  
**An agency of the Centre Region Council of Governments**  
*“Serving the Borough of State College and the Townships of College, Harris, Ferguson, and Patton” (Pennsylvania)*

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NRPA Member Number: 12749 (Mr. Woodhead)

Population served by agency: 75,000 residents (in five municipalities)

## General Overview

**What role does the park and recreation department have in the execution of community sport programming? Please describe how your agency provides, administers, collaborates or facilitates quality sports in your community.**

***Centre County is one of the few places in the country where you can enjoy both small-town pleasures and the cultural and recreational opportunities that come with having a neighbor like Penn State.***

*Adapted from “Boredom Is Not In Our Dictionary,” an article in the “2003 Official Guide to Centre County” by the Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County*

The sports and recreation opportunities available to residents and visitors are the result of the long-standing partnerships of the five municipalities, Penn State University, the Centre County Convention & Visitors Bureau, State College Area School District, community organizations, many commercial enterprises, and the residents of the Centre Region.

For more than 55 years, the seeds of this unique environment - combined with a “positive attitude” for sports and community recreation - have grown into a success story for residents, alumni, visitors, and for municipal recreation. The encouragement provided by Penn State facilities, faculty and staff, combined with a Central Pennsylvania setting, has enabled the Centre Region to establish a history of first-class recreation and sport opportunities. In 1946 the first community recreation director was hired on a part-time basis by State College Area School District. Thanks to community support that position was expanded to full-time in 1952.

In 1966 the agency was transferred from school district to municipal operation, and in 1969 became the basis of the creation of the Centre Region Council of Governments to serve five municipalities and the State College Area School District. **Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR)** has played a pivotal role in fostering a year-round menu of leisure opportunities for all ages, including community sport programs. Since that time the agency has grown to 15 full-time staff members with up to 250 part-time or seasonal staff members annually. Public recreation facilities have been developed for use by residents and visitors; partnerships have been established which have strengthened community sport opportunities offered by the municipalities (via CRPR), community groups, the school district, Penn State University, and the State College Area Family YMCA.

Public support for recreation in the Centre Region remains high - the agency operates and maintains 549 acres of municipal recreation facilities at 46 sites, cooperatively schedules public uses of park and school facilities, and strives to provide “one-stop shopping” for various leisure services in the region. (In addition, other sport facilities are operated in the region by Penn State University and by various community sport organizations, including State College Little League, Babe Ruth Baseball, ASA Softball, Shaner Sports Complex.) As a result of this history of cooperation, the panorama of recreation provided in the Centre Region includes sports for many interests and abilities:

- sport leagues
- aquatics (year-round)
- university activities (intramural sports, club sports, intercollegiate sports and youth sport camps),
- fitness classes
- senior fitness programs
- sport “sampling” opportunities
- a network of walking & bike trails

CRPR has developed into the hub of community recreation and community sports programming in the Centre Region primarily as the result of support from residents as well as from the communication related to: (1) an ongoing system of cooperative scheduling of public facilities, and (2) having the responsibility to operate, promote and maintain municipal park facilities so as to optimize public uses. This communication provides the avenue to cooperate and coordinate for the benefit of residents and visitors to the Centre Region.

As a community, the Centre Region is able to provide the following types of sport opportunities:

Competition	Educational / Self-Improvement	Self-Directed	Spectator	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Sport Leagues (Community groups)</li> <li>• Adult Sport Leagues</li> <li>• University Sports</li> <li>• Tennis Leagues</li> <li>• Youth Swim Leagues (CRPR &amp; Community Groups)</li> <li>• Centre County Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau: Sports Commission</li> <li>• Community Track &amp; Field Programs</li> <li>• Bowling Leagues</li> <li>• Special Events</li> <li>• YMCA Leagues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Sport Leagues (by CRPR)</li> <li>• School Intramurals</li> <li>• School District and Penn State Courses</li> <li>• Aquatic Classes</li> <li>• Sport Instructional Classes</li> <li>• Tennis Classes</li> <li>• Penn State Sport Camps</li> <li>• Senior Center Fitness Programs</li> <li>• YMCA Programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Park Facilities, School District &amp; Penn State Facilities:</li> <li>4 public Swimming Pools, Tennis Courts, Open Play Fields, Sport Fields, Open Gym Hours</li> <li>• YMCA Aquatics</li> <li>• 8 Commercial Fitness Centers</li> <li>• Fishing / Hunting / Hiking / Cycling / Canoeing</li> <li>• 6 Golf Courses</li> <li>• Bowling Lanes</li> <li>• Special Events</li> <li>• Hotel / Motel Swimming Pools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penn State Intercollegiate Sports</li> <li>• High School Sports</li> <li>• Community Sport Group Events</li> <li>• Special Events (Campus/Community)</li> <li>• Shaner Sports Complex events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The social aspects of sports develop at every venue and sporting event.</li> <li>• Most sport groups focus on parent support and encourage attendance at events. Adults make friends among their children's teammates. Related activities improve the experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» fund-raising events,</li> <li>» season-end celebrations for families,</li> <li>» encourage car-pooling,</li> <li>» parent advisory groups,</li> <li>» parents serving as volunteers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

While the Centre Region does not host a “professional” sports team, the popular and varied opportunities presented by Penn State “Big 10” Intercollegiate Sports provides that excitement in the community.

**See Attachments:**

1. 2003 Centre County Senior Games brochure
2. Penn State All-Sports Museum brochure (located in Beaver Stadium)
3. Penn State Country - 2003 Official Visitors' Guide & Maps
4. Four seasonal “CRPR Leisure Guides”
5. Magazine article regarding Centre Region Youth Sports
6. Penn State Country - Sports Facility Guide
7. Four CRPR 2002 Seasonal Program Reports which review all CRPR-operated programs
8. 2003 Official Guide to Centre County: The Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County

## SECTION I

## Philosophy

### 1. What is your community philosophy to address issues of inclusion and lifelong sport participation?

Recreation is important to every individual. We believe that sport activity for all ages, when appropriately organized, supervised, and set in a context of fair play for all, can become a force for good citizenship and a positive and healthy life. As a result, the community strives to provide opportunities for (and include) individuals with all levels of ability and all ages. Thanks to the involvement of Penn State student groups and community members, variety (as well as inclusion) is encouraged and readily accomplished.

The variety of sport programs offered is also an important asset of the Centre Region. In addition to the many activities listed on Question #25, Penn State hosts annually the PIAA (high school) swimming and diving championships, as well as the PA. YMCA swimming and diving championships. For the past 15 years Penn State University has hosted the Special Olympics State Games (Pennsylvania). More than 2,000 volunteers from the area assist with the games, including assistance from Penn State Adaptive Recreation and the Penn State Kinesiology Department. On the local level, Centre County provides 250+ Special Olympics participants ranging in age from 8-80. CRPR provides field space for some of the activities. Year-round training is provided for local athletes in eight sports, and a Special Olympics World Champion in Power Lifting hails from the Centre Region.

The Centre Region Senior Citizen Center, which is operated by CRPR, each year coordinates the Centre County Senior Games. The local Senior Games are modeled after the Pennsylvania State Senior Games, with nine sports. The senior games utilize CRPR facilities, Penn State facilities, as well as other venues. The Senior Citizen Center also hosts a Senior Hiking Group, numerous fitness classes, and is developing a Senior Bicycling Group.

The Second Mile, a community organization that helps youth develop life skills, was founded by former PSU Defensive Football Coach Jerry Sandusky and benefits from the involvement of many Penn State athletes - serving as mentors for Second Mile youth each summer. Second Mile has also developed a popular One-on-One Fitness Mentor Program.

### 2. What is your philosophy regarding the balance between competitive & recreational sport opportunities?

As a community, the Centre Region has been successful at providing a path of the “stepping stones” for youth sport participants. We strive to provide and help facilitate a variety of sport opportunities, at various skill levels, which encourage a balanced approach to leisure-time activities for all ages. In addition, the presence of the University culture has fostered the development of a variety of skill-based sports. In effect, the environment has cultivated a balanced demand for “all things sports” - members of the community have provided, over the years, a place that values fair play, respect, learning sport skills, the arts, and appreciating the environment, all combined with a strong work ethic.

The long-standing role of Centre Region municipal recreation has been to:

- (1) provide a basis of learning for those skills,
- (2) fill in the program niches, when necessary, to supplement community sports, and
- (3) to maintain and operate the municipal parks that provide facilities to varied sport groups.

Therefore, the primary objective of all Centre Region Parks & Recreation sport programs is to create and maintain an environment where the enjoyment of the participants is paramount. CRPR promotes the attitude that all participants should do their best to win each contest; the success of the season is judged by personal improvements and not simply wins and losses. The agency strives to insure a positive approach toward the following aspects of sports:

- physical (learning of skills),
- psychological (feeling of self-worth), and
- sociological (sportsmanship, respect for teammates and opponents).

CRPR provides recreational sport opportunities for many local youth and adults, without an emphasis on competition for youth sports, i.e., the CRPR youth leagues do not record team standings or player statistics. In

addition, CRPR also works closely with community groups that provide a competitive sport emphasis, for instance, Girl's Fast Pitch Softball, State College Little League, Centre Soccer Association, Babe Ruth Baseball, American Legion Baseball, ASA softball, etc.

CRPR provides a Coed Youth Soccer program each fall, a Coed Youth Basketball program each winter and a Girl's Softball League each spring. The long-standing partnership between CRPR and State College Area School District provides an opportunity for those students who do not wish to compete in interscholastic sports or who may need extra time to develop before getting into serious competition. For example, State College Area High School won the 2003 PIAA "AAAA" High School State Basketball Championship (Boys) and many of the players participated in the CRPR Youth Basketball Program prior to joining the varsity team. Four of the 2003 PIAA State Swim Champions were participants in the popular CRPR Summer Swim Teams.

### **3. What are your top three priorities for improving the quality of sports in your community?**

1. To meet the demand, continue to acquire lands and develop additional public sport facilities for use by residents and visitors,
2. Implement a Parent Education Program for youth sport leagues in the region, and
3. Establishing a local chapter of the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS), with a coordinated coach-training initiative.

## **SECTION II Policies and Procedures**

### **4. What are your standards of conduct for parents, coaches and participants?**

All community and school sport policies revolve around demonstrating "Respect" for players, coaches, parents and spectators. Profanity, abusive language and displays of unsportsmanlike behavior toward players, fellow coaches, parents and officials is not tolerated. Coaches (i.e., mentors) who display inappropriate behavior are removed from their position and parents who demonstrate that behavior may be asked to not attend future games. In the adult leagues, any unsportsmanlike behavior results in a one game suspension. The second offense is a three game suspension and the third offense is suspension from the league for at least one year.

State College Little League, which uses many municipal & school ballfields as well as their own facility, has established a Parents' Agreement that must be signed before their child can participate. State College Area School District athletes must abide by the policies and procedures set forth by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). Penn State University athletes must comply with NCAA requirements.

### **5. What procedures are in place to promote participation and inclusion for your community sport programs?**



We believe that recreation is important to everyone. CRPR has adopted the NRPA's "Fun First Sports For Kids" philosophy for youth sports.

#### **CRPR Youth League Goals:**

- to have fun
- to learn skills
- to be with friends.

Most important is the fact that the CRPR is noted for their low program fees for all participants. However, CRPR offers and promotes scholarships to area youth so all children have the opportunity to participate. A number of local businesses provide donations to the *CRPR Gifts-*

*For-Parks Program* to assist with the youth's scholarships. All information regarding a scholarship request remains confidential with the Director of Parks & Recreation. The other sport organizations also waive or reduce their program fees for needy children. Accommodations for inclusion of the disabled are also made as needed.

Continuing the effective promotion of available activities, events and facilities for residents and visitors is an important priority for CRPR, the Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Penn State University, and community groups. As demonstrated in the attachments, there is a remarkable level of cooperation involving publicity for community sport events. The publications work together to highlight a cross-section of organized sports and the opportunities for non-league events provided by many other organizations. This “teamwork for awareness” provides additional participants, spectators, volunteers, recognition for team sponsors, and full utilization of sport facilities.

**6. What policies are in place for independent programs to access and safely utilize public facilities? (For example, do you require insurance certificates, birth certificates, background checks, etc.)**

Our job is to encourage the use of public facilities by the public. The agency coordinates (and balances) many group requests each year for park facilities and school facilities. For example, CRPR coordinates “ballfield” scheduling for 14 community sport organizations each spring and summer. Since CRPR serves as a hub for coordinating facility uses, seasonal meetings are held with group representatives regarding requested facility uses. These meetings and discussions are critical to coordination, group interactions, and subsequent uses. Facility permits are then issued following the submittal of the required Certificate of Liability Insurance (with CRPR named as additional insured). No fees are charged for group uses of park sportfield facilities.

Of course, individuals are always developing an interest in new (or unfamiliar) sport activities, but their inquiry for a facility reservation may be made after the seasonal scheduling meeting. When a new group inquires about sportfield or gym availability, the agency explains the scheduling process, provides contact information for other venues, and strives to accommodate portions of their request until the next seasonal scheduling meeting.

**7. What requirements exist for individuals or groups to volunteer in your community sport programs?**

Along with many national organizations (Little League, Boy Scouts, etc.), the CRPR Board recently acted to strengthen the “CRPR Child Safety Policy” to help ensure the safety of agency customers under age 18. “Customers” are defined as CRPR program participants or visitors to the facilities operated by the agency. The process is intended to supplement the practice that CRPR will always provide (as a minimum) “Two-adult Protection” for CRPR youth recreation programs; i.e., at no time will only one adult (age 18 & over) be present with one or more children (under age 18). The following individuals are required to obtain (1) a Criminal Background Check and (2) a Child Abuse Clearance prior to participating in or assisting with a CRPR program:

A. CRPR Payroll Staff (age 18 & over during their course of CRPR employment):

All (seasonal & year-round) full-time staff, part-time staff, and interns involved with:

- CRPR-operated programs involving youth participants under age 18, or
- parks maintenance, or
- facility operations (i.e., aquatics staff).

B. Volunteers (age 18 & over during their course of CRPR service) assisting with a CRPR-operated event that:

- involves direct service to youth under age 18, and
- is held more than one day per year (not including any event planning meetings), and
- is operated and/or conducted by CRPR staff.

Volunteers are then reimbursed by the agency for the costs of obtaining those documents. The agency is pleased that many community organizations appear to be implementing similar policies in the region.

## **8. What are your community sport safety policies?**

Safety is a priority in terms of both facility operations and program operations:

- uniform park rules have been adopted across the five municipalities,
- regular (daily) facility maintenance is provided by CRPR Parks Maintenance staff and school district staff (and 100% compliance with agency & national safety standards is required),
- proof of liability insurance must be provided to CRPR before a sportfield permit is issued,
- the CRPR Child Safety Policy helps provide a safe environment for children by securing criminal background checks and child abuse clearances for staff and volunteers,
- safety is discussed at CRPR Coach Training Workshops and at CRPR Staff Meetings,
- the municipalities include CRPR staff in discussions regarding planning new parks or renovating existing park facilities. We are able to provide an operational perspective to the plans.

The level of sport safety maintenance provided by Penn State to University facilities, combined with the expertise of their staff and faculty as residents of the Centre Region, has had a profound impact on Centre Region municipal and community facilities. This also represents another benefit (though largely unnoticed) of having Penn State as a neighbor. Fortunately, everyone wins with this type of relationship.

Sport equipment maintenance and replacement play an important role in sport safety. In 2003 for instance, the agency replaced all player helmets for the Girl's Softball League with the assistance of a donation to the CRPR Gifts-for-Parks program by Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.

## **SECTION III Education and Training**

### **9. What are your policies and practices regarding volunteer and coaches training?**

Each sport organization that uses park fields conducts coach training workshops. State College Little League organizes a Coaches Clinic in cooperation with the Penn State University Baseball coaches that includes a safety discussion by a local doctor. Centre Soccer Association conducts, with Major League Soccer Camps of Pittsburgh, a Coaches Clinics each year in the Centre Region. Seventy to eighty coaches participate in the soccer coaches training sessions for soccer. CRPR will soon launch a chapter of the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) to improve training for CRPR programs, as well as to assist the local sport groups in their training efforts.

### **10. What education and training strategies do you use to provide parent education?**

Current efforts include the promotion of the "Fun First" initiative to parents, so they clearly understand the philosophy of CRPR Youth Sport Programs, as well as informal discussions by coaches with parents during each league season. As part of establishing a local chapter of the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS), CRPR will implement a Parent Association of Youth Sports (PAYS) program for parent education.

### **11. What minimum standards for training do you use for officials in your sport programs?**

Proper training for sport officials is critical to a successful league. Regional Softball Umpires are contracted through the local Amateur Softball Association Umpire Chapter; all umpires are certified through ASA. CRPR Adult Basketball officials are certified by the PA Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). CRPR Soccer Officials are trained by the CRPR Recreation Supervisor for Fitness & Sports. Starting this fall the agency will incorporate officials training through the NAYS. State College Little League conducts training for their officials. Centre Soccer Association conducts in-house officials training and clinics each season. We think that the establishment of the NAYS chapter may also provide a means for a coordinated officials-training program in the Centre Region.



**15. How do sports in your community create unity, spirit and understanding among all?**

Sports (for players and spectators) has provided a common bond for the many interests in the region (and for Penn State Alumni across the country). From the universal interest in the many Penn State sports, to the strengthening of town & gown relationships as a result of school sports, to the popularity of community sports - the strength of sports has made "Happy Valley" a unique SportsTown. Obviously, Penn State Sports has evolved into an important economic force with regard to tourism. But sport experiences have also served to unite members of the community as a team to address other community issues, as well as foster the continued economic vitality of the region.

One example of this spirit is a group of former athletes currently spearheading a major renovation and upgrade of the high school football stadium (Memorial Field, in downtown State College) in a funding partnership with State College Area School District. Another example is the development of the Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau "Sports Commission" as a sports information hub for Centre County. The Commission was conceived in 2000 and is now comprised of thirteen volunteers representing a cross-section of Centre County sports.

**16. Does your agency have dedicated staff to oversee the quality of community sport programs?**

The CRPR Recreation Supervisor for Fitness & Sports is responsible for coordinating youth & adult sport & fitness activities on a full-time, year-round basis, with assistance provided by other agency staff. This position involves working with participants, coaches, and officials. He also coordinates all facility scheduling requests and works with community sport group leaders. He is a Certified Youth Sports Administrator through the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA).

**17. What capital improvements have been made to your community sport facilities during the past five years?**

- Municipal parklands have increased from 410 to 550 acres (for 75,000 residents in five municipalities).
- CRPR leased three elementary school playfields (with five ballfields) from the School District for use as municipal park areas (8.5 acres total). The facilities now serve students and the community.
- Penn State's football stadium (Beaver Stadium) was expanded to a capacity of 108,000.
- Two new gymnasiums have been added as a result of the construction of new elementary schools
- State College Area Family YMCA was expanded and improved.
- Centre Community SkatePark was constructed and opened.
- The (nonprofit) Shaner Ballpark Complex was constructed and opened in Potter Twp. (for American Legion Baseball).
- The school district has renovated seven tennis courts; the Borough of State College has constructed two new tennis courts.
- Penn State University has constructed and opened the Sarni Tennis Center, a world-class tennis facility on campus.
- The Hess Field (Amateur Softball Association Softball) Complex has added two more diamonds and lighting for one additional field.
- Off-road bikeways have expanded to a total network of 20 miles in the Centre Region.

**18. What sport facilities are in your master plan for the next five years?**

- The Council of Governments has proposed to purchase two 75-acre tracts from Penn State for future development of active recreation areas. A state grant application has been made for this purchase.
- With the assistance of private funding, during 2003 the State College Area School District plans to renovate the stadium and install synthetic turf on "Memorial Field," their home football field in downtown State College.
- Centre Soccer Association is assisting with construction costs for a new 10-acre municipal park with three soccer fields in College Twp. The lands adjoin a local elementary school, and will be leased from State College Area School District. A state grant is also providing construction assistance.
- As a result of an Aquatics Feasibility Study, one of the community swimming pools has been recommended for replacement & expansion; the other community swimming pool has been recommended for expansion.
- An additional 9-miles of paved bike-trails will be constructed, which will enhance the extensive network (20-miles) currently available. Our goal is to develop a bikeway system connecting all individual bikeways.
- Penn State University expects to construct a new (and expanded) intercollegiate baseball stadium.

**19. Does your community provide adequate resources to maintain quality sport facilities and ensure safe environments for sport play?**

Yes. The proper maintenance of public facilities (for quality service by the facility and for safety of the participants) is very important to the residents of the Centre Region, especially to protect the public investments that have been made in those facilities:

- during 2003 the municipalities are investing \$15.20 per capita for all CRPR services. The total per capita cost is \$28.71 (includes CRPR fees & charges, municipal contributions, grants, etc.). These per capita costs do not include new park construction or capital improvements in their respective parks, which are funded separately by the owning municipality.
- the State College Area School District has embarked on a multi-year capital improvement campaign including new school construction, the renovation of existing schools, and improved sport facilities.
- Penn State University continues their outstanding levels of maintenance as well as the construction of new sport facilities on campus.
- One of the premier experts in Playground Equipment Safety, Prof. Monty Christiansen (retired), resides in State College and has provided, for many years, encouragement and training to staff on those procedures and guidelines.

**20. Is funding for annual staff and volunteer training provided for in your budget? If not, how do you cover the expense of training and education?**

Yes, continuing education and safety training is a priority for all recreation staff. Each year the approved CRPR budget includes funds for professional development & training of staff, for coach training, for tuition reimbursement, and for professional conferences. For 2003 those funds total \$5,235. For seasonal program (part-time) staff, funds are provided to pay their hourly wages while in training.

The availability and importance of program volunteers to both CRPR and to community organizations remains a critical component to program quality. Each organization must work together as a group to convey an effective community philosophy about youth sports, honesty, and respect. Therefore, the recruitment and training of qualified volunteer coaches has been the subject of increased emphasis by the agency and sport groups in recent years, and in the interest of child safety, it will continue to demand that focus.

## SECTION VI

## Innovations for Community Involvement

### **21. How do you engage other public, private, and non-profit organizations in providing quality sports in your community?**

We work hard to cooperate, help, and encourage the various specialized sport groups do what they do best! Acting as a hub for community recreation brings with it a relationship with the leaders of the participating groups. We encourage the official involvement of other organizations with CRPR by using the benefits of cooperative scheduling and centralized publicity. The officials of the State College Area School District also encourage the community sport groups to cooperate with CRPR scheduling recommendations.

The level of communication created by these relationships enabled the establishment in 1998 of a “Centre Region Youth Sport Council” (consisting of the leaders of most of the sport organizations in the area) to discuss community-wide sport issues. The level of communication is also enabling a partnership between CRPR and Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau Sports Commission that will work to effectively promote sport resources and opportunities in the area for the benefit of residents and visitors. **The intent is to try to make the “Stepping Stones” for sport opportunities readily apparent to parents, youngsters, and community sport group leaders.**

### **22. What are the community-school relations for providing sport opportunities in your community?**

CRPR was originally created by the State College Area School District in 1946, and then transferred for multi-municipal operation in 1966. This long history of school-municipal cooperation has resulted in a community-oriented “School Facility Scheduling Policy” where municipal recreation requests receive first-priority scheduling after school-operated activities. Seasonal meetings are held with other community organizations to work through the facility schedules. Gym and field schedules are always tight due to the expansion of both school district (intramural and interscholastic) athletic programs and community sport organizations. For example, CRPR is responsible for summer scheduling of all outdoor school facilities, including 46 municipal and school ballfields for use by 14 organizations. Each fall the agency establishes the schedule for 26 sportfields among five other organizations.

The ongoing discussion necessary for the cooperative scheduling process places CRPR staff in close touch with the leaders of each community sport organization as well as with school district officials. That communication has also helped, as noted earlier, the local youth soccer organization to partner with a CRPR municipality on funding a new park development project (on school district property) that will include three new soccer fields.

### **23. How do you manage diverse sport agendas in your community to achieve a comprehensive commitment to quality sports for all?**

The residents of Centre Region have maintained a commitment to sports by experiencing the positive results from their long-term commitment to quality recreation and sport services. An important role for CRPR is to continuously encourage all youth sport providers to see the “big picture” and the value of their efforts to the community. And in this case, diverse sport agendas are a positive aspect of life in the Centre Region; they provide the important variety necessary in a community and enhance the values of a quality recreation program. Inclusion of many different sports and abilities has served to strengthened sports in the region. Collaboration has encouraged:

- the creation of the Centre Region Youth Sports Council in 1998,
- partnerships to improve public park facilities,
- the construction of a community skatepark,
- the creation of a Sports Commission by the Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and
- created a demand to expand community sport facilities.

## SECTION VII

## Scope of Programming

**24. Please provide a summary of the number of sport programs provided directly or indirectly by your agency with participation levels.**

*Four seasonal CRPR Leisure Guides (Attachment # 4) and four CRPR Program Reports with participation levels (Attachment # 7) are enclosed with this application.*

CRPR directly provides sixteen sport programs for youth and adults:

basketball	football	softball	soccer	wrestling	field hockey
volleyball	tennis	swimming	judo	track & field	gymnastics
bocce	golf	table tennis	fly-fishing		

The agency indirectly provides eight sport programs (via clubs):

badminton	cross-country	volleyball	baseball	football	soccer
softball	track				

The community provides a variety of other sport experiences in the Centre Region (see Question 25, below).

**25. Please provide a summary of program opportunities available for youth, teenagers, adults and older adults.**

A wide variety of program opportunities for youth, teens, adults, and older adults are available in the Centre Region:

1. Municipally-operated programs by CRPR: (See attachments)

With regard to CRPR operations, during 2002:

- On behalf of the 5 participating municipalities, CRPR operated and maintained 525 acres of municipal parkland at 44 sites. The municipal acreage then increased to 549 for 2003.
- The CRPR office processed 35,222 recreation program and park reservation transactions.
- The agency issued a total of 836 group reservation permits for 16 picnic pavilions (6-month season).
- Park Forest and Welch Community (outdoor) Swimming Pools hosted 66,451 visits (recreational, instructional, competitive) during the 100-day summer swim season.
- Millbrook Marsh Nature Center hosted 4,709 program visits, a 25% increase over attendance in 2001. Since the center opened in 1997, every \$1 of municipal contributions has generated \$4 of other resources (donations, grants, services). The Youth Fly-fishing Day Camp is held here.
- The Centre Region Senior Center served 3,486 noon-time meals and hosted 24,497 program visits during CY 2002. More than 200 seniors participated in activities related to the 2002 Centre County Senior Games.
- Scores of volunteers continue to provide valuable services to the community by coaching youth sport teams, assisting at the senior center and nature center, and helping to improve the municipal parks as "CRPR Park Partners," on "CRPR Spring Spruce-Up Day," and on the "United Way Day of Caring."
- The COG General Forum unanimously approved submitting a state grant application in the amount of \$717,275 to fund the purchase of two 75-acre tracts from Penn State for future development as municipal parklands for active recreation.

2. State College Area School District:

**INTRAMURAL SPORTS:**

Elementary students may participate in flag football, tennis, volleyball, archery, open gym, gymnastics, swimming, softball, skiing, track and field.

Middle School students may choose from flag football, field hockey, track and field, tennis, archery, basketball, bowling, gymnastics, indoor soccer, lacrosse, kayaking, skiing, and volleyball.

High School activities include boxing, soccer, tennis, bowling, swimming, skiing, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, rock climbing, canoeing.

**INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS (via PIAA):**

Baseball, Cheerleading, Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Indoor Track, Outdoor Track, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling.

3. Penn State University: (\*= for men and women)

**PENN STATE INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS:**

Baseball, Cheerleading\*, Basketball\*, Cross Country\*, Fencing\*, Field Hockey, Football, Golf\*, Gymnastics\*, Indoor Track\*, Lacrosse, Outdoor Track\*, Soccer\*, Softball, Swimming\*, Tennis\*, Volleyball\*, Wrestling.

**PENN STATE INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

**Spring:** Basketball, Volleyball, Racquetball Singles & Coed Doubles, Wrestling, Soccer, Track & Field, Arena Football, Badminton.

**Summer:** Softball, Tennis, Basketball, Racquetball, Home Run Derby, Golf.

**Fall:** Punt, Pass & Kick, Softball Tournament, Tennis, Golf, Flag Football, Big Hollow 5K Road Race, Volleyball, Squash, 3-on-3 Hoops, Swim Meet, Basketball.

**PENN STATE CLUB SPORTS:** (M=men, W=women, \*= for men and women)

*It is not unusual to find non-student adults participating and working with many of these special interest groups.*

Archery\*, Badminton\*, Barbell\*, Baseball, Basketball (W), Bowling\*, Boxing\*, Crew\*, Cycling\*, Dance Team\*, Equestrian\*, Fencing\*, Field Hockey\*, Floor Hockey\*, Golf\*, Ice Hockey\*, Ice Hockey -Div. II (M), Ice Hockey (W), Lacrosse (M), Lacrosse (W), Nittany Divers\*, Nittany Grotto\*, Outing Club\*, Racquetball\*, Rifle\*, Roller Hockey\*, Rugby (M), Rugby (W), Sailing\*, Alpine Ski Team\*, Snowboard\*, Soccer (M), Soccer (W), Softball (W), Squash\*, Student Skating\*, Synchronized Swimming\*, Table Tennis\*, Tennis\*, Triathlon\*, Ultimate Frisbee\*, Volleyball\*, Water Polo (M), Water Polo (W), Water Ski\*, **Martial Arts Clubs\***: Aikido Club, Judo Club, Jung Sim Do Club, Karate Club, Korean Karate, Martial Arts Group, Shotokan Karate, Tae Kwon Do.

**PENN STATE YOUTH SPORT CAMPS:**

Baseball, Boys Basketball, Lady Lion Basketball, Diving, Fencing, Girls' Field Hockey, Figure Skating, Football, Golf, Girls' Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Women's Ice Hockey, Boy's Lacrosse, Girls' Lacrosse, Place Kicking or Punting, Men's Soccer, Lady Lion Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Cross-Country, Boys' Volleyball, Girls' Volleyball, Wrestling.

4. Community (nonprofit) organization programs:

State College Little League	American Legion Baseball
Centre Soccer Association	Community Academy for Lifelong Learning (CALL)
Youth Ice Hockey	Babe Ruth Baseball
ASA Softball Leagues (youth & adult)	Trout Unlimited - Spring Creek Chapter
Centre Bulldogs Youth Football	PSU Fly-fishing Club
Special Olympics of Centre County	State College Area Family YMCA
Mach One Slalom Team (kayaking & canoeing)	

5. Commercially-operated Programs / Facilities:

Woodward Camp	Numerous Golf Courses
Gold Medal Youth Wrestling Camps Inc.	Nittany Gymnastics Academy Inc.
Bowling /Billiards / Pool Establishments	Tussey Mountain Ski Area (& Centre Community SkatePark)
Martial Arts Schools	
Commercial Outfitters for Fishing / Shooting Sports / Archery / Canoeing / Kayaking	

**26. Describe your commitment to offer non-league sport opportunities. (For example, supervised free play / open gym)**

Non-league sport opportunities are an important part of the panorama of recreation services available to residents and visitors. CRPR is committed to recognizing the value of spontaneous & self-directed recreation by:

- providing the facilities in municipal parks necessary for those activities,
- maintaining the facilities in a manner that permits safe use by all participants,
- developing facility schedules that are able to accommodate spontaneous uses, and
- promoting the features of regional park facilities that include ballfields, basketball & volleyball courts, play areas, group facilities, summer playgrounds / day camps, natural areas, and bikeways/walking trails. *Please see Attachment # 4 - CRPR Leisure Guides.*

## SUMMARY

**Finally, please describe why your community is unique among all others in your state to be recognized as the Sports Illustrated 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sportstown.**

A number of important factors work together to make the Centre Region a unique “Sportstown”:

- A central, easily-accessible location in the state of Pennsylvania,
- All the accommodations, amenities and varied activities that are available here,
- The wide variety of recreation activities available year-round to all residents and visitors,
- A long history of providing municipal parks and recreation programs *on a cooperatively-funded, regional basis*,
- The efforts of the Sports Commission established by the Centre County Convention and Visitors Bureau,
- The sport-related research projects at Penn State University (turf science, sport sciences, bio-mechanics, playground safety),
- The vitality of a Big 10 university (Penn State), adding to the area people who desire quality and diversity in their leisure pursuits, as well as a passion for ensuring a quality of excellence in providing a healthy lifestyle for their families.
- Citizen recognition that the Centre Region is a unique area for raising a family and building careers; and that this is so because making lives thrive requires everyone to acknowledge their role in sustaining a culture of “Pride In Accomplishment” for all.

**“Happy Valley” is a great place to live or visit!**

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Centre Region Council of Governments

## Centre Region Parks & Recreation

2643 Gateway Drive #1

State College, PA 16801

[www.CentreConnect.org/crpr](http://www.CentreConnect.org/crpr)

814-231-3071 fax 814.231.3088

30 Apr 2003

***“Serving the Borough of State College  
and the Townships of College, Harris, Ferguson, and Patton”***