

Date of Hearing: July 15, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
SCR 52 (McGuire) – As Introduced June 14, 2021

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: California Parks and Recreation Professionals Month.

SUMMARY: Proclaims the month of July 2021 as California Parks and Recreation Professionals Month to celebrate the accomplishments and resilience of parks and recreation professionals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) California's residents love their national, state, and local parks and recreation services, as they provide access to the serenity and inspiration of nature, outdoor spaces, as well as activities that facilitate social connections, human development, arts appreciation, lifelong learning, and positive alternatives for youth.
- 2) Parks and recreation professionals maintain millions of acres of public lands in order to safely facilitate the use of the state's local parks, open spaces, trails, recreation facilities, and programs. They also promote the physical and mental health of Californians by making outdoor activities and sports available to able and disabled children, teens, adults, and seniors.
- 3) When the COVID-19 pandemic hit California's communities, parks and recreation professionals responded immediately by implementing best practices designed to ensure the public could safely find respite in local outdoor parks and open spaces.
- 4) When the health care sector was overwhelmed by the burden of responding to COVID-19, parks and recreation departments and park districts stepped in to assist by converting their facilities into COVID-19 testing centers and later vaccination administration sites.
- 5) When recreation activities were halted in accordance with shelter in place orders across the country, parks and recreation professionals immediately developed campaigns to inspire people to stay active and tirelessly worked to safely keep outdoor spaces available to the public.
- 6) When public health orders prohibited group gatherings, parks and recreation professionals launched new, innovative events and activities that helped bring communities together to connect and enjoy a shared experience.
- 7) Parks and recreation professionals rose up to the challenge to reimagine summer programs and deliver safe and cost-effective recreation opportunities for California's youth.
- 8) Parks and recreation professionals across the state also introduced distance learning assistance programs that not only supported students through the challenges of remote education, but also offered parents affordable childcare alternatives that allowed California's workforce to get back to their jobs and provide for their families.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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