

Make a Difference; Get Involved



Reisterstown Recreation Office, Room 205, 12035 Reisterstown Road, Reisterstown MD 21136
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NEW! Reisterstown Recreation Website: [http:// www.reisterstownrec.com](http://www.reisterstownrec.com)

Did you know Recreation is:

Baseball, Football,
Soccer, Kickball,
Scrap booking, Arts/
Crafts, Dancing, Yoga,
Gardening, Pottery,
Creative Writing,
Debate Teams, Bird
Watching, Dog
Obedience Classes,
Chess, Cooking,
Camping, Kayaking,
Orienteering,
Horseback Riding,
Skiing, Rafting,
Medieval Broad-Sword
Fencing, Drama,
Needlework, Quilting,
Karaoke, Music,
Reading, Historical
Reenactments, and
anything else you may
imagine.

Recreation and Parks in Baltimore County

The Department of Recreation and Parks and Board of Recreation and Parks was incepted in 1949 to help Baltimore Countians make use of their leisure time. With the adoption of The Joint Use Agreement with the Baltimore County Public Schools, this concept is unique and has been widely copied. The principle policy established by the Board of Recreation and Parks in 1949 was and still is:

“To afford recreation

direction only where wanted, and where the people indicate a desire and willingness to help themselves.”

This innovative concept led to the founding of recreation and parks councils throughout the county. Each local group was urged to solicit help to represent the entire community in organizing a recreation and parks council, drawing up a constitution and by-laws, electing officers and raising funds for expendable

equipment. Relying upon its volunteer partners to provide quality leisure time activities for citizens of all ages, Baltimore County Dept. of Recreation and Parks invites you to participate in the proud relationship with the Reisterstown Recreation Council.

The information in this notice will provide tips, guidelines and advice regarding the many ways you can become a part of the Reisterstown Recreation Council & its activities.

What Can You Do?

involved: **There are many** **ways to get**

- **Program Organizer or Chairperson:** Volunteers are needed to develop, run and maintain new and existing programs. Most people become chairpersons because of their interest in a particular activity. The chairperson would act as a liaison between the program and the recreation council.
- **Administration:** This involves the necessary behind-the-scenes activity that allows recreation programs to operate and working with the volunteer-based Recreation Council. There is a wide variety of opportunities such as becoming an elected board member or becoming a chairperson for a program or doing some bookkeeping or writing.
- **Coach or Instructor:** This involves leading a team or class. Use your passion and good role-modeling to inspire others to enhance the quality of their lives by following a passion. There are opportunities to coach your favorite sport, to teach an aerobics class, to sharing your artistic forms of expressions, to anything else a community would want to get together to enjoy.
- **Participant:** Becoming active in the programs being offered. Learn a new activity or continue your interests. Meet new people and share with others your positive values and beliefs. Most of all, have fun and stay safe.
- **Parent/ Spectator:** Whether you have a child or are a spectator, you, too, can set an example. Get to know and appreciate the time the coaches or instructors take to teach participants. Set positive examples by picking up your debris so others can enjoy their recreation experience. Teach and encourage good behavior by following park and facility rules. Encourage sportsmanship and team spirit.
- **Citizen:** As a citizen of Baltimore County, you can make this community a better place for everyone. You can demonstrate courtesy, gentleness, compassion, and friendliness to your neighbor and the environment we share. It is as simple as a smile to your neighbor or a visit to your local park for a picnic and adhering to regulations or encouraging another to be responsible; you are the key to a good community. You set the example others will see

How To Start a New Program:

A Good Program Should:

- Reflect the your organization's goal– its reason for being.
- Represent commitment to its members.
- Be clearly defined and realistically limited.
- Overall, fulfill the needs of the community and the participant.
- Have a chairperson representing the program at all the council meetings so ideas, suggestions and program reports are heard.

Tips for managing a new program:

- Know the requirements for programs in the Council's By-laws and Constitution (i.e., Programs must work with the Council Treasurer to be in compliance with County, IRS and State Codes.)
- When creating a program budget for the council's approval, thinking carefully and research the entire program's expenses such as: insurance, equipment, end-of-the-year functions and awards, tournament fees, officiating/ referee fees, council membership fees, scholarships, leadership and other costs.
- Working with the staff to secure facilities. Facilities are prioritized for use. Board of Education has first priority, PTA functions have second priority, Recreation and Parks functions third and outside community groups fourth. Youth programs prior to adult programs.
- Starting a new program can be challenging, be realistic about the level of interest in the first session of the program. As the word spreads about the program and the participation rises, be aware of the limits of available facilities and maximum number of persons your program can serve.
- Plan months in advance for a new program to stay organized
- Be resourceful and creative to get new interest in the program!

Reisterstown Recreation Council:

- Approves of fund raising activities
- Approves of programs
- Regulates sportsmanship and addresses issues as required
- Mediates conflicts between programs and volunteers
- Determines and conducts all financial operations of the council
- Implements/ develops/ maintains procedures, and programs

Baltimore County Recreation and Parks:

- Provides guidance and support to the council
- Facilitates recreation in the community
- Acts as a liaison between Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, Board of Education and the recreation council
- Administers the facilities used for the council's recreational programs and local community
- Interprets and ensures adherence to county policies and procedures

The Reisterstown Recreation and Parks Council meets the second Wednesday of each month (except in July and August) at the Hannah More School Cafeteria at 8:00PM (Executive Board meeting at 7:00PM) Everyone is welcome to attend.

Responsibilities of a Chairperson

Most volunteers become chairpersons because of their interest in a particular activity. Each activity, through its chairperson, has a responsibility to the council, its members and the entire community. The purpose of the council is to formulate policies and promote recreation in the community.

Listed below are some areas in which a chairperson can offer invaluable assistance:

- Act as a liaison between the council and the program served.
- Give the council a monthly report including financial status, attendance, registration, problems and upcoming special events.
- Be familiar with the council policies relating to your program. These should include council reports, purchasing and budget expenses.
- Work with the recreation staff in establishing schedules, registration dates, dates of operation and special events.
- Meet with the staff and committees in determining what supplies and equipment are needed. Make sure these expenditures are approved by the recreation council. After gaining approval, make necessary arrangements for program purchases and forward all invoices and/or receipts to the council treasurer as per council procedures.



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Reisterstown Recreation Council Website:
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