



## **“WINK” TAPPLY PROFESSIONAL AWARD**

**Richard “Wink” Tapply  
1910-2005**

### **BACKGROUND:**

It is difficult to express in words what this one man accomplished in his years in the recreation profession and his positive influence over thousands of people and hundreds of communities, throughout New Hampshire, New England and nationally. He is often thought of as the Father of Recreation in NH.

“Wink” directed the Bristol Community Center program from its infancy in 1946 until 1959. While serving his community “Wink” was instrumental in forming the New Hampshire Recreation Society (now NHRPA) and became the second President in 1950. He then became the NH State Director of the National Recreation Association, remaining in that role until 1965 when he established the NH Office of Community Recreation Services and became its first director. “Wink” was called on to speak at conferences and at colleges and universities all over the country. He inspired literally thousands with his passion for recreation and parks and his unwavering belief in its role in creating and maintaining vibrant, healthy communities.

Ideas, thoughts and suggestions came from “Wink” in an endless stream; he provided guidance that enabled all to be better professionals. Always with a warm smile and handshake, he was humble, dedicated, considerate and respectful to all.

“Wink” retired in 1975, but continued to be actively engaged in recreation, giving of his advice and expertise to those who sought him out well into his 90’s. “Wink” passed away in 2005. In 2015 “Wink” was inducted into the National Recreation and Park Association’s Hall of Fame with recognition of his lasting contributions to parks and recreation at the local, state, regional and national level and his inspiration to students and fellow professionals.

The purpose of this award is to recognize a New Hampshire Park and Recreation Professional who has proven to have a similar passion for and dedication to the parks and recreation profession; someone who has exhibited the “high character values” and commitment to recreation and community as “Wink” and has demonstrated all over a period of time. The “Wink” Tapply Award is the highest professional honor one can receive from NHRPA.

### **ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA:**

- Nominee should be cited for exceptional professionalism
- Nominee must be credited with outstanding leadership as well as program and facility development and management in the community (or communities) in which they serve and/or have served
- Nominee should exemplify professional characteristics and high character values associated with “Wink” Tapply
- Nominee must have a minimum of ten years full time experience in the recreation profession with at least five in New Hampshire
- Nominee must hold current membership in NHRPA for a minimum of 5 years and NRPA for a minimum of 3 years.

- Nominee must be an active member in NHRPA - demonstrated by a majority of the following: serving in leadership positions, active in committee work, regular attendance at business meetings, attendance at professional workshops and Conferences; presenting at workshops and conferences; professional contributions to magazines and newsletters
- Only current NHRPA members are allowed to nominate for the “Wink” Tapply award

## **SUBMISSIONS:**

### **Required –**

- Completed application form
- Number of years in the profession and membership in NHRPA and NRPA
- Communities served as a park and recreation professional
- Examples of how the nominee demonstrated dedication, professionalism and leadership in their community/communities
- Examples of program and facility development in their community/communities
- Examples of involvement and leadership in NHRPA, and any other professional organization if applicable
- Examples of commitment to professional development (i.e. attendance/speaking at conferences, workshops and trainings)
- Examples of innovation at work and in the profession
- Examples of how the nominee exhibited professional characteristics and high character values associated with “Wink” (examples may include mentorship, national involvement, inspirational actions or words – spoken or written, going above and beyond in the promotion of recreation at the state, regional or national level)
- Letter of recommendation from the direct work supervisor
- At least two additional letters of support

### **Recommended –**

- Resume
- Additional letters of support
- Testimonials
- News articles (written by or about the nominee or as pertain to programs and facilities developed, implemented by the nominee)
- List of other awards/recognitions
- Photographs
- Marketing materials
- Any other back up materials that will assist in the decision making process

## **SELECTION:**

The New Hampshire Recreation and Park Association Awards Committee will evaluate and make decisions on nominations. Only information that is submitted in the application will be considered unless committee members are aware of actions on the part of the nominee that are NOT consistent with the characteristics and values associated with “Wink”. Where this is the highest award a NH park and recreation professional can achieve, selection will be based on a complete and professional application that is indicative of the integrity of the award and man it is named for; the merits of the information presented and whether the candidate is the most deserving nominee.

## **AWARD:**

The Awards Committee will present a plaque at the annual NHRPA Awards Banquet to the nominee who best exemplifies the criteria of the award.