

Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Department's Commitments to Equity and Social Justice

Below are just a few examples of the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Department's commitment to fostering equity and social justice at SF State and beyond.

Children's Right to Play: RPT faculty were extensively involved with California State Parks in the design and passage of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, supported by Governor Schwarzenegger. This is an initiative to ensure all children in the state have the opportunity to: Discover California's Past; Splash in the water; Play in a safe place; Camp under the stars; Explore nature; Learn to swim; Play on a team; Follow a trail; Catch a fish; and Celebrate their heritage. Many RPT classes infuse these concepts into their curriculum and provide examples of how this is done.

Low Cost Community Programs: The RPT Department is home to several programs that offer high quality, low-cost, recreation programming to Bay Area youth. Access is enhanced through provision of needs-based scholarships.

- Ft. Miley Adventure Challenge Course. Serves over 5,000 school children each year with leadership training.
- RPT Summer Youth Sailing and Kayaking Camps. Nearly 500 youth, over half on scholarship, participated in 2010

Support for Community Based Organizations: Nonprofit organizations are playing a more important role in providing community services to those residents with financial and access constraints. The RPT department has been a leader in advocating for these organizations and training their staff. We are the lead department for the Youth and Human Services Nonprofit Administration Certificate program at SFSU. Here students learn about the latest needs, programs and practices that CBO's should be providing, and the certificate requires students to volunteer 250 hours with a local nonprofit. In addition, we offer RPT 470 Care Break, where students identify, design and then implement projects over the spring break, for nonprofit community organizations.

Responsible Tourism: RPT faculty and students are keenly aware of the positive but also the potential negative impacts of travel and tourism on the host community and the globe. We have organized and sponsored seminars titled "Carbon Offsets For Travelers; Effective CO2 Reduction or Just Guilt Relief," and "Roadmate: Celebrating and Encouraging Driving and Cycling Awareness." Several classes, RPT 605 Ecotourism Principles and Practices and RPT 540 Startup and Sustainable Operation of Recreation, Event and Tourism Enterprises, primarily focus on responsible tourism concepts and applications.

Prescribe the Parks: Lower income communities are more likely to be impacted by chronic diseases than are higher income communities. Chronic diseases can often be more effectively prevented through increased physical activity, educational activities and health promoting program in public parks and recreation areas, rather than costly treatment of symptoms later. RPT faculty and students are working with the National Park Service to strengthen the connection between health care systems and public lands and enhance accessible to healthy recreation activities.

Global Mobility: RPT has had and long and strong history of promoting and offering recreational programs for persons with disabilities. Our RPT 410 Foundations of Therapeutic and Inclusive Recreation class raises awareness of equitable access to recreation, parks and tourism facilities and programs and trains our students in the most modern models and approaches. Faculty are partnering with the SF State Disability Programs and Resource Center and the SF State Campus Recreation Department to provide kayaking programs with special adaptive recreation elements for disabled students on campus. We also foster the inclusion of persons of all ability levels into recreation, parks and tourism programs on and off campus. For example, our summer youth sailing and kayaking camps offer specialized camps and scholarships for kids with various disabilities.

Global Harmony: Visiting scholars from China, South Korea, Taiwan and Spain have been sponsored the RPT Department to help not only internationalize our classes, but discuss issues of equity and social justice from their country's perspective. Many of our students reside outside the USA and enrich our classroom dialogue. We identify and promote the ideal that tourism can be the global peace industry.