

Recreation Workers

SOC: 39-9032 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$35,380

Median Salary

327,700

Employment

+4.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 32.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.0/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.6/10	Investigative	4.6/10
Artistic	6.6/10	Social	8.8/10
Enterprising	5.6/10	Conventional	5.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Flexibility, Interpersonal skills, Leadership skills, Motivational skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Recreation Workers plan, organize, and lead **leisure, recreational, and social activities for individuals and groups**. They promote physical fitness, social interaction, and personal development through organized programs and events. Their work is critical in community centers, parks, healthcare facilities, and recreational organizations.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy interacting with people, organizing activities, and promoting health and well-being.

What Do Recreation Workers Do?

These professionals coordinate activities, supervise participants, and ensure safe and enjoyable recreational experiences.

Common responsibilities include:

- Developing and leading recreational programs, classes, or events
- Supervising participants to ensure safety and engagement
- Teaching or instructing in sports, arts, fitness, or leisure activities
- Organizing group events, trips, or community programs
- Maintaining recreational equipment and facilities
- Evaluating program effectiveness and participant satisfaction
- Collaborating with staff, volunteers, and community organizations

Key Areas of Recreation

Recreation workers may focus on specific activities, age groups, or program types:

- Sports and Fitness Programs: Leading exercise, team sports, and fitness activities
- Arts and Cultural Activities: Organizing crafts, music, or performing arts programs
- Community and Youth Programs: Providing structured recreational opportunities for children and adults
- Special Populations: Designing activities for seniors, individuals with disabilities, or therapeutic programs
- Event Planning and Coordination: Managing schedules, facilities, and participant engagement

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine interpersonal, organizational, and leadership skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and practical experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic literacy, communication, and organizational skills
- Postsecondary or Associate Degree: Recreation, leisure studies, or related field
- Internships or Volunteer Experience: Hands-on work in community centers, parks, or recreational programs
- Certification (optional but recommended): CPR, first aid, or recreational program credentials
- Continuing Education: Staying current with recreational trends, techniques, and safety practices

Where Do Recreation Workers Work?

They are employed in organizations that provide recreational, social, or community programs:

- Community Centers and Parks
- Fitness and Wellness Facilities
- Schools, Camps, and Youth Programs
- Healthcare and Rehabilitation Centers

- Resorts, Clubs, and Recreational Organizations

Work environments include indoor and outdoor settings, gyms, parks, pools, and event spaces.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires energy, interpersonal skills, and organization. Recreation workers must manage diverse participants, ensure safety, and maintain engaging programs.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with people of all ages
- Are energetic, creative, and organized
- Have strong communication and leadership skills
- Can plan and implement activities effectively
- Want a career promoting health, fun, and community engagement

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in physical education, leisure studies, or recreation
- Volunteer or intern in community centers, camps, or recreational programs
- Develop skills in leadership, communication, and event planning
- Gain experience in group management and program coordination
- Explore certifications in CPR, first aid, or recreational specialties

Recreation workers plan and lead activities that enhance physical, social, and emotional well-being, creating enjoyable and meaningful experiences for individuals and communities.

Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/personal-care-and-service/recreation-workers.htm>