



CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

**One East Crystal Lake Ave.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014**

NEWS RELEASE

Date: January 10, 2017
Contact: Jenny Leech, Marketing Manager, ext. 1212

Sandra Thompson, Crystal Lake Park District Recreation Supervisor Awarded the American Camping Association Illinois Distinguished Service Award

For Immediate Release: The Crystal Lake Park District is proud to announce that Recreation Supervisor, Sandra (Sam) Thompson, has been awarded the American Camping Association (ACA) Illinois Distinguished Service Award. Sam received her award at the ACA Annual Meeting on January 9 in Joliet. Sam is known as the face of the Crystal Lake Park District Summer Day Camp and Extended Time programs. "She has touched countless lives-campers, parents and staff- in her 30 year career with the Crystal Lake Park District. We are honored to have her on staff," said Jenny Leech, Marketing Manager of the Crystal Lake Park District.



Award details:

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor given by the Illinois Section. It is awarded to individuals who have given outstanding leadership and service to the Illinois Section for at least ten years.

To qualify, the individual must have demonstrated the following:

1. Outstanding service to ACA Illinois through participation in programs, events, and the work of ACA Illinois; devotion of time above and beyond the normal volunteer commitment; and ongoing, active volunteer service in ACA Illinois.
2. Leadership on the ACA Illinois board of directors or section committee(s), and national role(s).

Sam's Service to ACA Illinois and the National organization includes:

- Member since 1988
- Illinois Section Board member since 1998
- Membership Committee Chair 2011-2013
- Vice President ACA Illinois 2015-2018
- Board liaison to the Standards committee-2014, 2015, 2016
- Chairperson Standards Committee 2017
- Education Committee co-chair 2002-2006
- Nominating committee 2000-2003, 2011-2015
- Illinois section Delegate to the National Council of Leaders in 2003, 2005, 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- Volunteer, ACA exhibit booth - IPRA conference and National Association for the Education of Young Children conference
- Active role in National Day Camp Conference Vice-Chair 2014-2016 and Chair in 2017.
- Long time volunteer for the SCLA - the Student Camp Leadership Academy
- ACA Standards Visitor and Chair of the ACA Illinois Standards Committee
- For many years Sam has been a liaison and supporter of the value of ACA membership and camp accreditation within IPRA and has spoken at many IPRA conferences on this topic.
- Participant in the ACA Healthy Camp Study
- Program Review Committee member for the National Conference 2011- present
- National Healthy Camp Study Advisory Board member 2009-2011
- E-Institute faculty member for the American Camp Association since 2007

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