



Recreation for Life

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

ARPA Recognizes the Mayor's Youth Council of the City of Calgary for Outstanding Contributions to Recreation and Parks in Alberta

(Edmonton, AB) The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association takes great pride in recognizing the Mayor's Youth Council of the City of Calgary with the inaugural 2004 Excellence in Youth Development Award! This outstanding project has made amazing contributions to improving the quality of life of Albertans through recreation and parks services.

This is the inaugural year for this annual award that will recognize excellence in projects that focus on youth recognition using a youth development model. The award is being implemented as a result of the successful 2003 National Youth Development through Recreation Services Symposium held in Calgary. The award includes cash recognition of \$2,000 to support future development of the winning project.

The Excellence in Youth Development Award is a new award being offered by ARPA's Awards & Scholarships Committee. It is an award that is presented to the candidate that best represents development of projects that focus on youth recreation using the youth development model. This award was made possible from the great success of the 2003 National Youth Development Through Recreation Services Symposium.

The Mayor's Youth Council is a program of "child and youth friendly Calgary" in partnership with the City of Calgary Corporate Youth Strategy. The Council represents the voice of Calgary's youth while advising the Mayor and City departments. This Council is an excellent example of creating a win/win situation for the youth in the community and using facilities. Through a "youth endorsement" survey, youth get together and evaluate facilities and business units on their youth accessibility. This information is then provided to the facilities or business units, accolades are given as well as any assistance in changes that the business may want to make.

In support of this program some members of the Mayor's Youth Council have said;

"youth driven programs such as these help eliminate negative stereotypes of youth and demonstrate the willingness and potential of Calgary's youth, encouraging them to voice their opinions and participate in the betterment of their community"

The Child and Youth Friendly Calgary organization should be proud of the accomplishments of the Mayor's Youth Council, and its efforts to make Calgary a more "child and youth friendly city".

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