



Activity Professionals Week

- Plan an “Activity Open House”. Send out invitations and have display areas set up in your recreation room which emphasizes the value of therapeutic activities.
- Conduct an in-service, but create a celebratory atmosphere. Serve refreshments, decorate festively, and have door prizes. Provide information regarding the benefits of activities and create displays with materials and photographs.
- Give out promotional items related to your department.
- Create a video emphasizing the benefits of each activity. Set the video up in the lobby, play it continuously with a poster, tri-board or printed materials explaining your department, regional group.
- Create a photo gallery of activities and outline their benefits on a main bulletin board.
- Create posters and signs for display throughout the building.
- Conduct an “Activity Scavenger Hunt”. Create a game card for staff/residents/families to complete certain tasks. To get credit for the tasks, the activity staff needs to authorize the cards. Tasks may include bringing a resident to an activity, having a cup of coffee in the activity room, sitting and doing a 1:1 activity with a resident and other related, interdisciplinary activity tasks. After the game cards are completed, they are placed into a drawing. The drawing for a winner may be conducted at a party or reception at the end of the week.
- Conduct an “Activity Trivia Game” which is similar to the scavenger hunt. Trivia questions can be related to your activity program, staff, or the benefits or activities. Again, the completed game sheets are submitted, with possible winners being drawn daily.
- Plan an “Activity Olympics”. Each day of the week can offer various activities related to a particular activity domain. For example, Monday may be “Mental Aerobics Day”; while Tuesday may be “Let’s Get Physical Day”. Each day will focus on the various activities in that domain, with emphasis on the benefits. Contests and challenges can be integrated into the program plan.
- Submit an article and picture to your local newspaper detailing your department’s strengths and your staff’s education. Everyone enjoys seeing a positive picture of themselves in the paper!
- Celebrate as a department and with your professional peers. Have a luncheon or private celebration for your department (even if administration doesn’t arrange it.)
- Invite news reporters and television news to one of your special events to educate your local community.
- And if you are going this alone – give yourself the gift of a professional membership and affiliation. If you are not a member of National Activity Association or Recreation Association – treat yourself to a membership in honor of our week. Membership in professional organizations, such as ATA, SAT, FRAPA, etc...., provides the Activity Professional with support, current information, state of the art resources and validation for the work that they do. Ask your consultant for these resources.
- For individual recognition – flowers, corsage, candy or some other treat; lunch or dinner out; NAP Week themed gifts from suppliers; gift certificates such as to a Wellness Spa so that they can be on the receiving end of care giving; special certificates or letters of commendation; tickets to area events.

For facility recognition – a special meal or social at the facility hosted by someone other than activity staff themselves; celebrate with special activities that include residents, family, volunteers and other staff but that other staff plan, organize and carry out i.e. themed days.**For community recognition** – mail out press releases to local newspapers (sample one is available to NAAP members); contact local radio or TV stations with Public Service Announcements (sample one available to NAAP members); contact local elected officials to proclaim this week as Activity Professionals Week in your community (sample one available to NAAP members); attempt to get an article in the local newspaper about the importance of activity professionals.

For continued recognition – subscriptions to professional activity publications; paid yearly dues to their Regional, State and/or National Activity Associations (this would be a continuing recognition of great value to your employees, residents and facility for the networking and educational opportunities they would receive for not just a day or week but an entire year); support your Activity Professionals to become nationally certified through the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals (NCCAP); offer continuing educational opportunities at workshops, conferences and in-services; recognition of the Activity Director as an important part of the team and encourage in-services by the Activity Director to staff on the importance of activity programming. Administrators and Managers of Adult Care Facilities will also receive a reminder postcard in the mail promoting NAP week with information on how to promote National Activity Professional's Week in your facility. Remember, you are a key member of your facility's care team and have the power to positively influence the residents you care for and the staff you work beside. Have a great NAP week!