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## Sarasota County Parks and Recreation employee honored with statewide award

Every year hundreds of special athletes and recreation enthusiasts enjoy activities and events thanks to Sarasota County's Therapeutic Recreation Program (T-REC). The Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA) honored Sarasota County T-REC coordinator Andrea King with its Distinguished Service Award for her passion and dedication to providing inclusive recreation around the state and for inspiring other recreation professionals.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes people who have provided special or unusual service to the association, or who have significantly advanced the parks and recreation profession. "Andrea is the energy behind the T-REC program," said John McCarthy, general manager for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation. "When I asked Andrea what her passion is, she said she wants to provide recreation for special needs kids and adults. She helped build T-REC into a program that gives people with special needs and abilities the opportunity to enjoy recreation and personal enrichment in our community."

The award candidates are nominated by their peers and must maintain a professional image in their community, in their agency and among their peers. King was recognized for her commitment to providing therapeutic recreation to handicapped youth and adults through Sarasota County Parks and Recreation programs and activities, as well as her many years of service to the FRPA.

"It doesn't surprise me that Andrea was chosen as one of the best in the state," McCarthy said. "Her enthusiasm, commitment and can-do attitude have a positive impact on everyone around her."

The T-REC Coalition of Sarasota County is comprised of eight local community agencies working together to provide organized therapeutic recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Monthly events take place at varying venues throughout the county.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit the Sarasota County website at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net), keyword T-REC.