



Dear Robert,

Park Talk: Employees and Volunteers of the Month for June and July

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We are pleased to present the employees and volunteers of the month for June and July. As noted before, these individuals are selected based on nominations by their peers for having shown extra dedication to the Park District mission. This time, our inspirational employees are Bob Wagner of Lake Skinner (June) and Megan Gomez of Finance (July). Our awesome volunteers are Bob Grady of the District Advisory Commission (June) and Teri Smith Boone of Rancho Jurupa Park (July).

June

Bob Wagner earned his nomination as a maintenance worker at Lake Skinner, but was recently promoted to Park Ranger. As a maintenance worker, he filled in with opening park duties when rangers were not available, fulfilled grounds keeper duties, and served as splash pad operator to boot! Bob has generally stepped up to meet needs due to recent park shortages, even taking on duties that call for him to handle customer complaints. As everyone working in the District knows, interacting with the public is one of the most important aspects of what we do and can be challenging for those who do it every day. In any given week, it is not unlikely for Bob to be involved in just about every aspect of the park's operations. He is one big reason the park is so successful.

During the two years Bob Grady has served as the District Advisory Commission

Chairperson, the Park District opened the Recreation Bureau, expanded its programming, improved District culture, and received dozens of awards. Part of this success comes from Bob Grady's efforts to provide clear expectations of appointed members and willingness to participate in meaningful discussions about future plans for the District. His actions go further than his words, which was evident when he attended a meeting in Santa Barbara that helped the District obtain one of the largest Boating and Waterway grants in more than a decade. His accomplishments are examples of what can be done when one employs self-discipline and a focused interest.

July

Megan Gomez, a leading member of the District finance team, has done an outstanding job of improving the budget process at the District, which undoubtedly played part in the District receiving its first GFOA award for budget excellence. More importantly, she does not insulate her knowledge. In fact, she consistently reaches out to the field in order to educate others on the development of the budget, regularly participates in educational opportunities to expand her knowledge, and also actively engages in morale-boosting team activities. This is one employee who serves as a reminder that teamwork is important and possible, regardless of the day-to-day complexity of our jobs.

Teri Smith Boone is a volunteer with a smile that is freely shared. She has a heart and spirit for service and serves with passion and sincerity at Rancho Jurupa Park. Teri encourages and promotes personal growth, and shares her wisdom without being intrusive. Her positive attitude is truly amazing. She seems to give everyone special, yet equal, treatment. There aren't many people who walk away from Teri without feeling uplifted. The Parks District is lucky to have her because she demonstrates what it means to truly be a steward. Her honesty and integrity are two attributes that are greatly valued by the District and all that work with her.

When you see these employees and volunteers around the District, be sure to congratulate them. Even better, try to emulate the characteristics that deem them employees and volunteers worthy of recognition. Through their examples, we will surely improve the quality of our service to the public. The continuous quest for self-improvement is important and these individuals exemplify what it means to strive for the very best.

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