



WELCOME TO RSOP!

The interaction of each staff member and our customers is the foundation that makes for an outstanding department.

Welcome to the University of Minnesota Duluth Recreational Sports Outdoor Program (RSOP)! The purpose of this manual is to gain a consistency of quality and practice within the (RSOP). It is designed as a reference tool that is to be used to help you deliver the highest quality program possible. This manual should be a resource rather than a rule-book, though rules and policies are included within. As in all good programs, the quality lies in the creative energy of the unique personalities of each individual within the program. Thus, we all are relying on everyone's abilities and judgment to make this department succeed and maintain our high standard of excellence within the field of recreation and outdoor education. We are one of the best...let's stay there.

It is hoped that you will use this manual extensively to answer your questions and guide your work as a staff member of the Outdoor Program. **WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!**

Enjoy your experience with RSOP!

Mission

The mission of Recreational Sports Outdoor Program:

"RSOP is dedicated to promoting healthy, active lifestyles and connections to the natural world through personal and professional experiences."

We Value:

- Loyalty to the department, the University, and each other
- Integrity in everything we do
- Safety for ourselves and our participants
- Compassion in policymaking and enforcement
- Sense of Humor in all that we do

UMD Students and the RSOP staff are our most valued resources. We want to treat both with utmost respect and dignity in a manner in which we would like to be treated.

A Little Bit of Background

RSOP is one single department that has the following mission:

"RSOP is dedicated to promoting healthy, active lifestyles and connections to the natural world through personal and professional experiences."

Both Recreational Sports and Outdoor Program have been in existence for well over 20 years each and have grown to a very large size. There are 12 full-time professional staff and over 200 student staff employed in this department. The quality and reputation of the programming that is offered through RSOP is very high and is recognized throughout the country.

Recreational Sports History

In the early years of campus recreation at UMD, programming consisted of structured intramural sports for men. At that time, intramurals were run by the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

In 1970 – 1974 intramurals offered 4 sports per quarter and intercollegiate athletes were used as officials. In 1974 the Fieldhouse was completed, resulting in increased program opportunities. In the fall of 1975 Al Holland, UMD's baseball coach, took over the Intramural Recreation Program and needed some assistance. An admissions counselor by the name of Richard Haney was hired. Dick had received a graduate degree in Recreation from Indiana University, one of the leaders in campus recreation during that era. Much of the early program growth at UMD was modeled after the program at IU. About a year later, Holland decided to concentrate on coaching and left Haney in charge. In 1975, HPER dropped the Intramural Program and the Student Affairs division picked up the program.

In 1979, the name of the program was changed by Haney to Recreational Sports, a more inclusive label reflecting the diverse and changing aspects of departmental offerings. During this time, intramural participation grew dramatically. In 1979 the first student supervisors were hired. One of those individuals, Steve Wolter, would later become Recreational Sports' first Intramural Director.

The 1980's were a decade of dramatic growth and change for Rec Sports. As enrollment grew, demand for programs and facilities increased. In 1987 the Sports and Health Center complex underwent a major project involving both renovation and new construction. New space included new weight rooms for recreation and intercollegiate athletics, new recreational playing fields, new locker rooms for recreation and intercollegiate athletics, a climbing wall, multi-purpose arena and track, artificial turf on Griggs Field, and new offices for Rec Sports, Athletics, and HPER. Romano gym, the field house and other spaces received much needed renovations. With the additional facilities programs exploded resulting in the need for additional professional staff.

In 1987, Mick McComber was hired as UMD's first full-time Intramural Director. The following year Rod Raymond became our first Fitness Director. Participation

Park Mission, Purposes, and Significance

At the beginning of the planning process it is important to reaffirm the park's mission, purposes and significance. We do this to establish a framework within which we can evaluate proposed actions to ensure that they are consistent with the mandate of the park.

A **mission statement** is an overarching definition of why the park exists and what it strives to accomplish. It is based on the enabling legislation as passed by Congress and signed by the President.

Purpose statements clarify the reasons Voyageurs National Park was established and is managed as a unit of the national park system. These reasons are specific to this park and are based on the park's enabling legislation, legislative history, and other formal designations.

Significance statements summarize the essence of the park's importance to our natural and cultural heritage. By recognizing the park's significance, we

can ensure that future management decisions protect and enhance the very things that make the park distinctive and of national interest.

In general management planning, purpose and significance statements are used to:

- Provide the foundation and help set parameters for how the park should be managed and used, and provide the standard and rationale against which proposed decisions and actions can be measured.
- Help set priorities that ensure preservation and conservation of the resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purposes.
- Help neighbors, visitors, and other users understand the rationale behind management decisions.

The mission, purposes, and significance of Voyageurs National Park are:



Mission Statement

Voyageurs National Park preserves the landscape and scenic waterways that shaped the route of the North American fur traders and defined the border between the United States and Canada. The park and its diverse resources provide outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation, scientific study, sportfishing, education, and appreciation of the northwoods lake country:





Purposes

The purposes of Voyageurs National Park are to:

- preserve the scenery, geologic conditions, and interconnected waterways in northern Minnesota for the inspiration and enjoyment of people now and in the future.
- commemorate the voyageurs' routes and fur trade with the Native peoples of the north, which contributed significantly to the opening of northern North America to European settlement.
- preserve, in an unimpaired condition, the ecological processes, biological and cultural diversity, and history of the northwoods lake country border we share with Canada.
- provide opportunities for people to experience, understand, and treasure the lake country landscape—its clean air and water, forests, islands, wetlands, and wildlife—in a manner that is compatible with the preservation of park values and resources.

Significance

- The waterways of Voyageurs National Park include one of the most important segments of the fur trade route used in the opening of northwestern North America.
- Located near the headwaters of the Arctic watershed of Hudson Bay, the park's lakes—rather than land—have been the primary travel route throughout history. The lakes continue to shape transportation and recreational uses of the area today.
- The park's exposed rocks and landscape exemplify the glacial activity of the Pleistocene Epoch and some of the most complete and extensive Precambrian geologic features in the United States.
- The park preserves the timeless beauty of woods, rocks, water, and sky that invite people to renew themselves through a variety of outdoor activities.
- The designation of Voyageurs as a national park is integral to the protection of the boundary waters ecosystem by both the United States and Canada. Along with Quetico Provincial Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Voyageurs was and remains at the heart of a major conservation effort to protect the boreal forest landscape, its interconnected waterways, and associated wildlife.

