RECREATIONAL SPORTS OUTDOOR PROGRAM (RSOP)

Describe your department's year.

The year of 2019-2020 started off wonderfully. Our early programming for fall semester was stronger than ever. Students continue to be the foundation of what we do and how we deliver our services. Our partnerships with departments across campus and our ability to provide services to a wide array of users remained solid. Our outreach and online presence improved through new initiatives. All of these remained through spring break, including spring break trips. Then Covid hit and shut everything down. Our student and professional staff were sidelined, working on ways to continue working in a completely new environment. We finished the year with professional development activities, planning for reopening, and building the few programs that we could deliver within the State of Minnesota guidelines, including services associated with our Rental Center and Youth Camps.

Summarize the impact of COVID-19 on your unit’s operations.

Covid created an opportunity to reflect on our organization and the ways we work together as well as reach out to others. Yes, we were unable to do any in-person programming and services through the latter half of spring semester, but program areas worked with their teams on helping people get outside, stay active, and be successful. As a result of the shutdown, we were unable to generate the typical outside funding for program participation, thus our overall budget was impacted significantly.
Provide an assessment result that was important and informative for your department. What did you assess and what did you learn?

For a number of years we have been planning on having our programming available for online registration. During the 2019-20 year, we were able to finalize this process and implement it successfully. All of the elements finally came together, between the technology, approvals, and actual success.

Another project we have been working on is to streamline our processes and timelines for marketing and setting up our online presence (including our information management software). These have come together in the year so that we are able to be clear with all staff what is expected of them and when. It provides us the opportunity to deliver our information in a timely manner.

Summarize the condition of your departmental budget at the end of the year. Discuss revenues, expenses, and (if applicable) refunds in broad terms.

The shutdown had a significant impact on our budget by ending a large portion of our income season (early summer) prematurely. Significant refunds and lost revenues caused RSOP to end up at a negative balance of $162,625 for the year.