



*A research and advocacy association, supporting
efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.*

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Arizona Counties to Receive NACo Awards

CSA would like to extend our congratulations to the Arizona county winners of the 2017 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards. Five counties, Cochise, Coconino, Maricopa, Pima and Yuma will receive their awards for a variety of innovative programs on July 23, 2017 at [NACo's 2017 Annual Conference and Exposition](#) in Franklin County (Columbus), Ohio. More than 60 programs from Arizona counties were honored with awards in a variety of areas ranging from supporting children and youth, to air quality, to criminal justice, to healthcare, and transportation.

NACo recognized a total of 607 entries from 109 counties in 29 states.

To view Arizona's winners in the searchable database, please [click here](#), where winning programs are searchable by year, category, and state dating back to 2007.

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CSA Interim Committee & Stakeholder Engagement

With the interim in full swing, committees, workgroups, and hearings are occurring throughout the state on a variety of issues. In order to ensure county interests are represented, CSA is participating in many of these discussions and collaborations, including the following:

- [The Legislative Ad Hoc Study Committee on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System](#) (PSPRS) - *Additional detail in next article.*
- The Governor's H2O Stakeholder Group held its second meeting this week where they discussed mandatory metering and reporting outside of AMAs; groundwater rights for above-ground irrigation; elimination of the 2025 sunset provision for accruing long-term storage credits for effluent and imported water; and the potential to enact permanent legislation allowing drought emergency groundwater transportation.
- The Arizona Office of the Courts (AOC) Detention Center Regionalization Task Force met again this week to examine current efforts with repurposing of local county juvenile corrections facilities; diversion and alternatives to juvenile incarceration; and current statutory restrictions. In addition, we anticipate that the legislature will soon form an ad hoc committee on the Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC).
- The AZ Management System Process, which is being spearheaded by the Governor's office, seeks process improvements throughout state agencies, including the Arizona Department of Revenue, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the Arizona Department of Transportation.
- Additionally, this week the legislature formed an ad hoc committee titled the [Tax Treatment of Digital Goods and Services](#).

CSA is also attending various conferences and meetings that we will continue to report on through our newsletter as the summer continues.

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PSPRS Committee Meets in Cochise County

On Thursday, the Legislative Ad Hoc Study Committee on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) met in Cochise County at the Bisbee City Hall. Presentations included:

- Christian Palmer who gave a PSPRS overview titled *Background, Reform and Performance*
- Mary Beth Hrin who gave a presentation titled *A Taxpayer's Perspective on PSPRS*
- Bisbee Mayor Smith who explored Bisbee's recent efforts at reform, with a presentation titled *Bisbee: A Poster Child for PSPRS Reform*.

The purpose of the committee is to study an overview of PSPRS and a historical overview of employer contributions over the last 20 years; the impact of various actuarial and investment assumptions by the PSPRS board and other regulating entities, as well as other statutory provisions enacted in state law; the result of recently enacted PSPRS reforms and other legislative changes; the impact to cities, towns, and fire districts across the state due to increasing pension contributions rates; and the concerns and proposals of stakeholder organizations and taxpayers.

The ad hoc committee previously held a meeting in Coconino County and will hold future meetings in Yuma and other locations throughout the state.

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National Park and Recreation Month

"Wilderness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium." — Sigurd Olson, author, environmentalist

Since its inception in 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. For children and adults alike, play is a vital part of our mental wellbeing, physical health, and personal interactions. During Park and Recreation Month, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is challenging everyone to get their play on with their local parks and recreation. Whether it is participating in summer camp, an adult sports league, exploring a trail, taking a Zumba class, meeting friends on the playground, playing cards in the park, or discovering nature — parks and play go hand in hand.

To help celebrate, NRPA has provided a toolkit [here](#) on their website with some great tips, suggestions, and even challenges to participate in. Check out your local city websites to find out about challenges, activities, and events in your area.

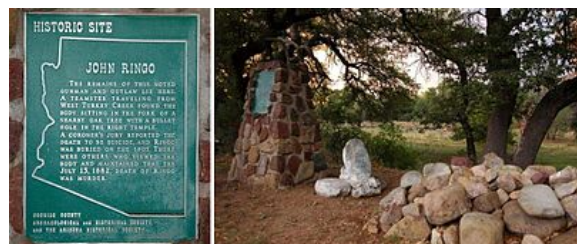
The best part about celebrating parks and recreational areas is that it doesn't have to end in July, but can be experienced year-round. So get out, enjoy nature, have fun with your friends and family, and support your local community!



Sources: [National Park & Recreation Association](#); [Wikipedia](#)

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This Week in Arizona History



John Peters Ringo, aka Johnny Ringo, dubbed Tombstone's deadliest gunfighter, had a long history of run-ins with the law back in the 1870's and 1880's. Though not born in Arizona, it was here that he became notorious for his boozy, cantankerous, gun fighting ways. He first appeared in Cochise County in 1879 after shooting an unarmed man in a bar in Safford. After settling in Tombstone, Ringo soon took up with the Clantons, and was believed to have participated in various robberies and killings with the Cochise County Cowboys, a loosely associated group of outlaws.

Due to his affiliations, Ringo found himself in a number of confrontations with Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp, and was accused of taking part in the ambush of Virgil Earp which left him crippled for life, and for the murder of Morgan Earp. After the Earp's posse killed a friend of his, Frank Stilwell, the Cochise County Sheriff Johnny Behan deputized Ringo and 19 other men to find and arrest the Earps, but were unsuccessful.

On July 14, 1882, Johnny Ringo's body was found dead at the base of a large tree in the West Turkey Creek Valley near Chiricahua Peak. Though ruled a suicide, there are a number of conspiracy theories surrounding the sudden death of this infamous gun slinger. Some believe that Wyatt Earp returned to Arizona to seek revenge for the deaths of his brothers, and even "Buckskin" Frank Leslie (mentioned in a previous newsletter article on the Yuma Territorial Prison), claimed that he took Ringo's life. Johnny Ringo is buried near the base of the tree in which his body was discovered, and is located on private property.



Sources: [AZ Capitol Times](#); [Wikipedia](#)

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