

FACT SHEET

American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

The American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) is a national, non-profit, membership organization committed to developing and maintaining active, creative, health-promoting lifestyles for all Americans and to enhancing skilled and aesthetic performance. Its mission is to serve as a strong advocate for programs, activities, and policies that contribute toward these endeavors and to provide professional development opportunities for members which lead to enhanced knowledge and professional practice. AAHPERD was founded in 1885, and for over a century it has worked to achieve this mission by improving educational and community programs.

AAHPERD comprises five national associations, six district associations, and a Research Consortium. The national associations are:

- **American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation (AAPAR)**
- **American Association for Health Education (AAHE)**
- **National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS)**
- **National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE)**
- **National Dance Association (NDA)**

Who belongs to AAHPERD?

The associations of AAHPERD have more than 25,000 members who are professionals in elementary, secondary and higher education, administration, research, youth programming, dance, coaching, sport medicine, health education, public health, fitness, choreography, therapeutic programs, parks and recreation services, and others with career interests in quality of life and movement related fields. Their common interest in promoting healthy, active, and creative lifestyles for all unites them as an Alliance.

What does AAHPERD do?

- **Research.** Members and member committees conduct research on a variety of topics. The associations disseminate the research through scientific congresses, published materials, workshops, and conference sessions.
- **Publishing.** The associations of AAHPERD publish journals, books, brochures, studies, newsletters, fact sheets, and other informative materials. In this way they fill a critical role by promoting and disseminating knowledge. Additionally, this provides members with an opportunity to contribute to the body of knowledge in their discipline.
- **Professional Development.** In addition to conducting an annual national convention, the associations of AAHPERD conduct numerous conferences, workshops, seminars, and training sessions throughout the year in various parts of the country.
- **Advocacy.** AAHPERD's associations provide strong representation on legislative issues at all levels of government and with other national agencies. AAHPERD members have been instrumental in advocating for issues such as gender equity, arts funding, coaching certification, development of standards, and maintaining educational programs.
- **Continuing Education, Credentialing, and Consulting.** Several of the associations offer continuing education opportunities to members. Consulting services are available in such areas as designing facilities and equipment, evaluation of choreographic work, certifying health education specialists, physical education teacher education programs, and coaching education.
- **Standards.** The associations of AAHPERD are very active in developing and promoting standards. Of recent note are standards for dance education, comprehensive school health education, coaching, and physical education.
- **Student Services.** In addition to offering scholarships, AAHPERD's associations offer various services to assist students who are future professionals. The associations provide leadership opportunities to students by seating them on

governing boards, offering special programs and activities at conferences, publishing student-focused news in various communications, sponsoring student literary competitions, and providing career information.

- **Job placement.** The associations of AAHPERD assist their members by offering several job placement and professional development services.
- **Rewarding excellence.** AAHPERD and its associations honor excellence through numerous awards. For example, the Wade Trophy is bestowed each year on the nation's top female, collegiate basketball player. National and local teachers, administrators, and majors of the year are selected; outstanding scholar athletes are recognized, and outstanding research contributions are honored.
- **Liaison with other groups.** The associations are closely involved in programs with many prominent national groups such as the American Heart Association, American College of Sports Medicine, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport, Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, YWCA, National Parks and Recreation Association, Girls Clubs of America, the United States Olympic Committee, and the Women's Sport Foundation.
- **Technology development.** The associations are active in developing technology to use in such areas as fitness assessment and supervision and curriculum evaluation.

How is AAHPERD structured?

In addition to the six national associations, AAHPERD is organized geographically into six district associations so it can respond to member needs in a variety of ways. The six districts represent 54 states and U.S. territories, and they focus on concern common to the profession in their particular region of the country. Additionally, each state has an association to address state and local issues. The combined membership of the state associations is about 30,000, bringing the national network of members to approximately 55,000.

How is AAHPERD funded?

Like most nonprofit associations, AAHPERD is funded through a number of sources including member dues, grants, private contributions, corporate sponsorships, and the sale of publications, products, and services.

How can I get in touch with AAHPERD?

Phone: 1-703-476-3400 1-800-213-7193
FAX: 1-703-476-9527
email: info@aahperd.org
Mail: 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1599
Internet: <http://www.aahperd.org>