

## **Pre-Conference Institute Descriptions:**

### Aquatic Facility Operator Certification Course

This 2 day course provides in-depth instruction in all facets of aquatic facility operation and management including: filtration, disinfection, water testing and treatment, design considerations, facility management, risk management, facility troubleshooting, and much more. The AFO certification course is a training program specifically designed to meet the needs of those working in public, semi-public and municipal pool or waterpark facilities. Upon successful completion of the AFO course and exam, participants will be certified by the National Recreation and Park Association. Certification is valid for 5 years and is renewable.

### Teaming Up! The Adventure Park at Virginia Aquarium

Team up at The Adventure Park at Virginia Aquarium to jumpstart your VRPS Conference experience! Engage in team development activities designed to enrich this session of climbing and zip lining on 13 treetop trails created for climbers of every ability level. Join in activities that explore the roles of communication, collaboration and trust in creating a dynamic, innovative and productive team. Use insights from these activities to break through perceived personal barriers and to encourage, support and coach others. Expect lots of spontaneous whooping and high-fiving, and to talk about the experience through the conference and beyond.

### Behind the Scenes Facility Tours, Virginia Beach and Beyond

Enjoy touring state of the art facilities in Virginia Beach and Norfolk including Williams Farm Recreation Center, Bow Creek Recreation Center, and the Hampton Roads Kroc Center. Get behind the scenes viewpoints and gain insight into all areas of management including safety, maintenance, staffing, scheduling, rentals, marketing and much more. Learn the business side of fun!

### Virginia Department of Forestry, Project Learning Tree: A Park Educator's Best Friend

Project Learning Tree offers award-winning activities on a broad array of topics, such as leaves, camouflage, sounds and smells of nature, tree identification, water conservation, local ecology, pollution, and natural resource management. Participants will receive copies of the PLT Pre-K-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide, with 96 activities, and PLT's Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood, with 11 units. All activities are correlated to Virginia's Standards of Learning and are easily shaped into fun-filled park programs. More information on PLT is available at [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org) and [www.cnre.vt.edu/plt](http://www.cnre.vt.edu/plt).