

TEAM OF THE YEAR

2024 AWARD SUBMISSION

The Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism team provides year-round support for increased tourism efforts in Gloucester County. Our staff at Gloucester PRT continues to provide above excellent services to visitors at our parks and during county sponsored events. Without our team, large events like the annual Daffodil Festival, which annually brings in over 20,000 residents and visitors to Main Street, would not be what they are today.

Our fantastic park staff ensure that all seven of our county parks are open and in great condition for those visiting the area. Beaverdam, our most popular park, provides watercraft rentals, fishing, hiking & biking trails, and sees over 45,000 visitors a year. Most of which come from other areas to experience the nature and relaxation this park provides. The Gloucester Parks, Recreation Team is composed of individuals with all different skill sets and the mentality to always work as a team to accomplish our goals, which is something we are very proud of. Those on this team work as a unit, better known as a family, and there is nothing better than being surrounded by coworkers that share the same passion and goals.

This past December our team developed the “Holiday GLO Up” lights contest. This contest encouraged the community to showcase their best light displays during the holiday season. One evening the team set off to judge over 15 stops, photograph each one, vote for our favorites, and then choose the winners for all 6 categories. The winners received a yard sign and bragging rights for the year. This event was not only great for the community and those visiting the area but also for our team. Spending the evening being able to get to know one another & having fun after a long year. This event will be an annual event for Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism. The team always keeps tourism in mind when creating new programs with the hopes that our events will expand and reach beyond the boundaries of Gloucester. Our area is so beautiful, and we have so many possibilities that are still untapped.

The Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism team, even though smaller than most, is a powerhouse of motivation and ever evolving ideas for tourism here in Gloucester. “I, Susan Ammons, the tourism coordinator for Gloucester County, am so very thankful to have the support of my teammates. Because of my department, I have been able to focus on highlighting the many wonderful things Gloucester has to offer and take ideas that otherwise would not be executed and get them completed in a shorter amount of time.”

The Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism department is the best definition for the word team and more importantly family.



VISITOR CENTER OF THE YEAR 2024 AWARD SUBMISSION

The Gloucester Visitor Center continues to provide outstanding tourist services for our area. Located in the historic courthouse circle on Main Street, our visitor center is the first stop for visitors to the area or locals wanting to learn more about the area. The Visitor Center provides an upgraded experience for tourists and residents alike. This is the perfect spot to stop for local information or to find that unique gift for that hard to buy for friend! The gift shop is composed of items from local artist, books about the area, Gloucester swag, and many other unique items that represent the area. The Gloucester County Visitors Center within the Historic Court Circle contains a room dedicated to telling the story of Werowocomoco. The site was purchased by the National Park Service but is not open to the public at this time. It is known for being a spiritual center of the Tidewater Native Americans for more than 400 years. Exhibits describe the site as well as information on Powhatan, John Smith, and Pocahontas.

The Gloucester Visitor Center is also operated by dedicated volunteers 7 days a week and managed by a hardworking visitor center coordinator, Amy Steele. We believe that local volunteers bring the best guidance to our visitors as most of them were born and raised here.

