



## Press Release

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Contact: Jennifer L. Hoyer, 703.858.2160  
Manager, Marketing and Communications  
National Recreation and Park Association

Caren Knoyer, 304-243-4066  
Director of Marketing  
Oglebay Resort & Conference Center

### *For Immediate Release*

#### **UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP ENHANCES NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GOLF MANAGEMENT**

In a dynamic partnership, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the National Training Center for Public Facility Managers at Oglebay Resort and Conference Center (NTC), are joining forces to enhance the National Institute of Golf Management (NIGM).

The National Institute of Golf Management was established in 1984 by the National Golf Foundation (NGF) and Oglebay. As of 2005, NIGM is presented by NGF and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Over the past 23 years, NIGM has had more than 3,000 graduates from the United States, Canada and a number from several European and Asian countries. NIGM is recognized as the number one training program for public facility employees in the management of golf courses and golf course operations.

According to NRPA this new partnership will expand their array of educational offerings and specifically target the needs of members with public golf facilities. "NRPA offers more than a dozen national education events annually," said John Thorner, NRPA Executive Director. "Partnering with Oglebay on this and other education offerings allows us to provide targeted learning opportunities for our members and those in the park and recreation profession. With Oglebay's focus and NRPA's reach, we believe that this partnership will assist in delivering a well-rounded education experience."

The National Institute of Golf Management is an annual, four-day interactive program that unfolds through three focused Academies - Year One Academy, Year Two Academy and the Executive Academy for students that have attended both Year One and Year Two. Through daily classroom exchanges and experienced faculty, each Academy offers specialized instruction, group interaction and a host of best practices that present opportunities for participating students to improve and enhance their facilities, their staff and their management abilities. NIGM is guided by a Board of Regents that consists of golf industry leaders, representing all facets of the business, from across North America. This group establishes the mandate, as well as determines and delivers the curriculum offered at the three NIGM Academies. The

Board of Regents identifies learning objectives, and researches and develops the curriculum in addition to selecting the subject matter experts who best deliver the content.

"NRPA is an outstanding organization with a longstanding history of educational excellence. The NIGM is thrilled to have them as a partner and are looking forward to providing their members with a unique learning experience!" said Rich Richeson, owner of Adams Golf Learning Centers and Sportcrete in Texas, and NIGM Chairman of the Board.

The NIGM will be held January 6 through 11, 2008, at the National Training Center for Public Facility Managers at Oglebay's Wilson Lodge. The NTC provides a full-service training and conference center that accommodates up to 250 professional students in six, 1,500 square feet, state-of-the-art, training rooms plus another ten breakout rooms. J.C. Douglas Dalby, President and CEO of Wheeling Park Commission, which operates Oglebay Resort, is looking forward to the new partnership. "NRPA is the leading educational provider in the parks and recreation field in North America, and this partnership with NRPA will expand the NIGM student population and enhance the institute's instructional opportunities," said Dalby.

The NTC at Oglebay currently hosts nine nationally-recognized training schools with more than 2,000 students attending every year. "Continuing education courses have been presented at Oglebay since 1960. I believe our experience with training schools and our partnership with NRPA will insure the future success of NIGM," added Dalby.

Oglebay is conveniently located in Wheeling, West Virginia, just 3 miles from I-70. The Pittsburgh International Airport is an hour from the resort and airport shuttle service is available. In 2006, Oglebay completed a \$15 million expansion and renovation project at Wilson Lodge, adding 53 deluxe rooms and suites and the existing 212 rooms were completely remodeled. The lodge features several dining rooms, an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center and massage therapy. The resort has 50 cottages, 72 holes of golf, tennis, indoor and outdoor pools, pedal boats, miniature golf, seven specialty shops, two museums, gardens, stables, miles of walking trails and an accredited zoo.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of more than 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

Headquartered in Ashburn, Va., NRPA works closely with local, state and national recreation and park agencies, citizen groups and corporations to carry out its objectives. Priorities include advocating favorable legislation and public policy; continuing education for park and recreation professionals and citizens; providing professional certification, university accreditation, research and technical assistance; and increasing public awareness of the importance of parks and recreation. For more information, visit [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org).

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