



## Win A SPARK PE Grant for Your School!!

NIKE is offering the opportunity for your school to win a SPARK physical education program. Elementary and middle schools from across the United States are eligible to apply. There are five grand prizes and awards will be announced on April 28, 2008. Read on.....

Each grant will provide SPARK PE:

1. Curriculum for Teachers  
20 manuals with instructions media discs and shipping (Value=\$3,300)
2. On-Site Teacher Training  
Up to 40 people may attend a full day, "hands-on" professional development workshop to be held at a school in YOUR district. Includes event coordination, handouts, lifetime follow-up support, SPARK Stars training, and trainer transportation. (Value=\$3,700)
3. Coordinated Equipment Set  
Everything necessary to implement SPARK PE at your school, including ball cart, storage items and music CD's (Value=\$3,000).

**Each winning school receives this \$10,000 program for FREE!**

Apply today! Complete the attached application and return to SPARK by **6:00pm PST Monday, April 21, 2008.**

**Either fax the application to 619-293-7992 or email application to [nike@sparkpe.org](mailto:nike@sparkpe.org)**

Awardees will be notified by **Friday, April 28, 2008.**

Notes:

1. Awardees must provide a minimum of 8 weeks advance notice of preferred workshop date. It is SPARK's decision to conduct a workshop with less than 8 weeks notice.
2. Training needs to be completed by December 31, 2008.
3. Once a workshop date is scheduled, it cannot be changed by the awardee. A date change by the awardee will be subject to penalty.

**Don't Forget About The Institutes Next Month!!**

### Active Recreation Institute

**Who will be there:** All after school providers, YMCA/Boys & Girls Club staff, camp counselors, day care and youth

March 2008

#### SPARK IN THE NEWS

##### •P.E. Classes Get An Extra SPARK

By Julie Henry, NBC17 Reporter

*DURHAM, N.C. – Students at Watts Magnet Elementary School in Durham don't have a lot of down time during P.E. class. Teacher Stephanie Brennan starts them off with a warm-up jog around the gym followed by stretching and sit-ups. [read more](#)*

##### •A Healthy Approach To Education

By Kimberly S. Wetzel

*In recent years, many school districts have focused more on training students to ace that English or math test than whipping them into shape for the mile run in gym class.*

*But the West Contra Costa Unified School District wants to change that. [read more](#)*

##### •Study: Phys Ed May Boost Girls' Academic Achievement

By Heather Terwilliger, USA TODAY

*Time spent in physical education does not detract from elementary school students' ability to excel in the classroom and may even help improve girls' academic performance, a study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports. [read more](#)*

#### Conference Calender

**California Assoc. Of Young Child Educators**

coaches.

**What to expect:** Don't miss this dynamic opportunity to become a SPARK Certified Instructor. Attendees will enjoy two-days of learning new content and instructional strategies designed to encourage and motivate their youth to be physically active. The "hands-on" training leaves attendees with confidence to teach new games, dances, and sports skills for youth ages 5-18.

**Where:** Sycamore Ridge Elementary School  
5333 Old Carmel Valley Rd, San Diego, CA 92130

**When:** April 8-9, 2008

**Price:** \$399

[Active Recreation Registration form](#)

## Early Childhood Institute

**Who will be there:** All teachers of early childhood programs, Head Starts, WIC centers, public and private day care; anyone that works with 3-5 year olds.

**What to expect:** Attendees can expect two full days of activity based lessons that are inclusive, active and fun for young children. SPARK's top presenters and program authors will instruct and show teachers how to create healthy pre-school environments. The research-based SPARK program provides lessons for limited space, content matched equipment and strategies to integrate math, reading and sciences with activity programs.

**Where:** Sycamore Ridge Elementary School  
5333 Old Carmel Valley Rd San Diego, CA 92130

**When:** April 10-11, 2008

**Price:** \$399

[Early Childhood Registration Form](#)

## SPARK Featured Tips:

April 3-5, 2008

Long Beach, CA

[Society of State Directors](#)

April 4-8, 2008

Forworth, TX

[National AHPERD](#)

April 8-12, 2008

Fortworth, TX

[California School Age Consortium - Afterschool](#)

April 10-12, 2008

Santa Clara, CA

[National Head Start Association](#)

April 20, 2008

Nashville, TN

[BOOST \(Best of Out of School time\)](#)

April 30, 2008-

May 03, 2008

Palm Springs, CA

[CONTACT US](#)

[spark@sparkpe.org](mailto:spark@sparkpe.org)

**(800) 772-7573**

### SPARK Grades 3-6 PE Hockey Unit Teaching Tip:

\* Use a *Skill Builder* for about 5 minutes at the beginning of the *Spotlight on Skills* portion of your lesson. *Skill Builders* are designed to quickly get the students active and to reinforce that practice, practice, practice makes them better, better, better.

\* Integrate SPARK *PACE Activities* throughout the unit. Make copies prior to teaching. *PACE Activities* engage students in self-directed learning, and provide opportunities for you to gather assessment data.

\* Conduct activities on any smooth surface that is free of obstacles. Floor hockey balls are recommended. However, plastic pucks, small foam balls, tennis or wiffle balls may be substituted. Safety goggles are recommended to keep eyes from getting hit by sticks, balls, or pucks.

