



NCTRC® to Celebrate 45th Anniversary in 2026!

Protecting and Promoting Since 1981

As we move toward our 45th anniversary on October 1, 2026, we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the many applicants, certificants, educators, and others involved in the Therapeutic Recreation (TR) profession. We are proud to collaborate with a variety of organizations that contribute to the TR profession. It is our privilege to act as the largest credentialing organization within the profession.

Since 1981, National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification® (NCTRC) has been dedicated to professional excellence for the protection of consumers through the certification of recreational therapists. The NCTRC Certification Standards continue to serve as the governing policies and procedures for certification services and credentialing processes within the profession.

We are proud that the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist® (CTRS®) credential issued by NCTRC represents the benchmark of quality recreational therapy (RT) services and is an indicator of a qualified provider within the field of RT. Learn more at NCTRC.org.

NCTRC is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of ten individuals. The Board has seven elected CTRS members and three appointed members (Consumer Representative, Employer Representative, and International Representative). Read statements below from the current NCTRC Board of Directors about the impact of NCTRC and the CTRS credential over the past 45 years and the continual importance of NCTRC programs and services to the TR profession in the future.

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“For 45 years, the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) has upheld the highest standards in the Therapeutic Recreation profession, reinforcing the value and credibility of the CTRS credential. As we celebrate this milestone, the NCTRC Board of Directors recognizes the lasting impact of certification in advancing professional excellence, protecting the public, and elevating the role of recreational therapy in improving quality of life.” - *Angela Wozencroft, CTRS (NCTRC board member 2025-2027)*

“Happy 45th Anniversary National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC)! I am beyond proud to be part of this beautiful, rewarding, and growing field of work. Professionals who serve as Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRSs) have brought advocacy, compassion, and evidence-based practice to the field of therapeutic recreation. As a result, this field is now and continues to be more valued, respected, and appreciated. Let’s celebrate the past and get excited for the future! Here’s to 45 years and many more to come.” - *Karla Palacios-Reagor, CTRS (NCTRC board member 2026-2029)*

“NCTRC continues to grow and evolve to meet the ever changing needs of and demands upon the TR profession. The recognition of NCTRC and the CTRS credential worldwide is proof of both the need for TR services and the importance of RT to peoples’ lives. NCTRC continues to be tireless in ensuring there are qualified providers.” - *Donna L.V. Lozano, CTRS (NCTRC Board of Directors - Vice Chairperson)*

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“For the past 45 years, NCTRC has provided Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRSs) with the confidence and professional foundations needed to promote competency and demonstrate their qualified skills in all diverse settings. Through its comprehensive credentialing process, NCTRC has amplified our professional importance.” - *Kendrell Ringer, CTRS/L (NCTRC board member 2026-2029)*

“The CTRS credential and NCTRC have impacted the TR profession by transforming recreation therapy into a recognized, standardized healthcare profession. The CTRS credential issued by NCTRC ensure that practitioners possess the education, experience, and knowledge which is necessary to practice as a qualified provider of RT services.” - *Kathleen M. Davis, CTRS-Geri (NCTRC board member 2024-2027)*