

## NCCAP February Newsletter 2026

From: National Certification Council for Activity Professionals <nccap@memberclicks-mail.net>

Sent: Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 4:04 pm

To: bryan.rife@nccap.org

## NCCAP February Newsletter 2026



# NCCAP®

Enriching Lives Through Person-Centered Engagement



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we move into February, Valentine's Day serves as a reminder of the importance of connection—both personal and professional. I encourage you to take time to reflect on your professional goals and consider how you can continue to elevate the role of activities within your organization. Your voice, your expertise, and your leadership make a meaningful difference.

NCCAP is pleased to introduce a new educational opportunity designed to support and strengthen the Activity Professional. This month, we are launching the on-demand Bridge to ADC class. This independent study program is designed for individuals who are Activity Professional Certified (APC) and are pursuing Activity Director Certified (ADC) status. The course may be started at any time and completed at your own pace, providing flexibility while advancing your professional credentials.

In the year ahead, NCCAP remains committed to delivering high-quality education and upholding professional standards that strengthen our field. We will continue to emphasize competency-based practice and meaningful engagement—ensuring Activity Professionals are recognized not only for the services they provide, but for the clinic insight and expertise they contribute to interdisciplinary care teams.

Thank you for your continued commitment to professional growth and for the essential work you do each day.

Debbie Hommel, ACC/MC/EDU, CTRS  
NCCAP President

### NCCAP is Movin' Fast!



This music track was officially released in **January 2026** by NCCAP to coincide with **National Activity Professional Week**. It serves as a tribute to the energy, creativity, and commitment of those who work in the profession, specifically highlighting the achievements of NCCAP-certified individuals.

### NCCAP on Demand!



We are pleased to inform you that the Standardized ADC course is now available on demand. This format allows you progress at your convenience. For registration details, please visit: <https://www.nccap.org/nccapondemand>.

# NCCAP'S STANDARDIZED ACTIVITY DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION (ADC) NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COURSE



ACCEPTED BY CMS SINCE 1987, NCCAP'S MODULAR EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS (MEPAP) IS THE REQUIRED CURRICULUM FOR NCCAP CERTIFICATION

**ON DEMAND**

**1 YEAR TO COMPLETE AT YOUR OWN PACE  
TO HONOR YOUR LEARNING STYLE**

### COURSE FEE INCLUDES:

- ONLINE COURSE ACCESS FOR A YEAR
- 2 YEARS OF NAAP MEMBERSHIP
- 2 YEARS OF INITIAL ADC CERTIFICATION
- 1 NATIONAL EXAM ENROLLMENT
- THE ART OF LIFE ENRICHMENT RESOURCEBOOK

**REGISTER NOW**



[WWW.NCCAP.ORG](http://WWW.NCCAP.ORG) | [INFO@NCCAP.ORG](mailto:INFO@NCCAP.ORG) | 757-552-0653





# NCCAP'S STANDARDIZED ON DEMAND BRIDGE TO ADC NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COURSE

1 YEAR TO COMPLETE AT YOUR OWN  
PACE TO HONOR YOUR LEARNING STYLE

## FEE INCLUDES:

- COURSE
- RESOURCE BOOK
- NATIONAL EXAM
- 2 YEARS ADC CERTIFICATION

\*MUST HAVE COMPLETED APC

**REGISTER NOW**



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**NAAP Conference!**



Mark your calendar for April 27–29, 2026, and join NAAP at the Sheraton Suites Chicago O’Hare for their highly anticipated Annual Conference. This vibrant three-day event offers cutting-edge workshops, inspiring keynotes, peer networking, NCTRC and NCCAP-approved CE hours. Immerse yourself in hands-on learning, enjoy themed celebrat and connect with fellow professionals who share your commitment to enriching lives through engagement. Be part of movement shaping the future of resident-centered care! [Register here!](#)

**NAAP Webinars!**

A webinar promotional card for NAAP. It features the NAAP logo (a globe with three stylized figures) and the text 'NAAP NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS NAAP.INFO'. The webinar title is 'Creating Calm: How Dementia Capable Text Supports Residents and Staff'. The date is 'LIVE WEBINAR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026 1-2PM EST'. The speaker is Susan Ostrowski, MA, MS, CCC-SLP. There is a 'Register Today' button and the NCCDP logo at the bottom.

A webinar promotional card for NAAP. It features the NAAP logo and the text 'NAAP NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS NAAP.INFO'. The webinar title is 'Start with Who: Pause, Align, and Thrive in the AI-Driven Era'. The date is 'LIVE WEBINAR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026 1-2PM EST'. The speaker is Dr. Bobby Hulme-Lipp, Doctor of Ministry, Birkman Ce Professional. There is a 'Register Today' button and the NCCDP logo at the bottom.

A webinar promotional card for NAAP. It features the NAAP logo and the text 'NAAP NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS NAAP.INFO'. The webinar title is 'NeuroShifts: Elevating Performance Beyond Extraordinary'. The date is 'LIVE WEBINAR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 1-2PM EST'. The speaker is Edie Raether, CSP Certified Speaking Professional BS Occupational Therapy, MS Clinical Counseling, Ph.D. Credits in Neuroscience. There is a 'Register Today' button and the NCCDP logo at the bottom.

A webinar promotional card for NAAP. It features the NAAP logo and the text 'NAAP NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS NAAP.INFO'. The webinar title is 'Voice AI in Senior Living: Enhancing Connectivity &amp; Engagement'. The date is 'LIVE WEBINAR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026 1-2PM EST'. The speaker is Ana Olano, Full-stack software engineer, AI/ learning developer, A.B. from Ha Applied Mathematics, 2+ B2B busi the healthcare space, 4+ business AI space. There is a 'Register Today' button and the NCCDP logo at the bottom.

**Stronger Activity Programs: Reducing Falls and Meeting CMS Regulations**



Falls among residents in skilled nursing homes are a persistent concern, affecting quality of life, recovery outcomes, and overall safety. While many factors contribute to fall risk, one of the most effective strategies to prevent falls is a **robust resident-centered activity program** that focuses on physical strength, balance, cognitive engagement, and overall wellness.

#### Why Activity Programs Matter

A strong activity program goes beyond entertainment. It:

- **Improves balance and strength** through tailored movement and exercise.
- **Enhances cognitive function** by engaging residents in social and mentally stimulating activities.
- **Builds community and motivation**, reducing isolation and encouraging participation.
- **Supports functional mobility**, helping residents maintain independence with daily tasks.

These benefits directly influence a resident's fall risk. Engaged, physically active residents with better balance and strength have fewer falls, fewer injuries, and improved overall health.

A strong activity program is far more than a daily calendar of events—it's a **clinical strategy for safety and well-being**. When activity staff are **NCCAP certified**, they bring evidence-based skills and a deep understanding of **resident-centered care** that help skilled nursing homes achieve CMS compliance and produce meaningful outcomes, such as reduced falls.

By emphasizing functional mobility, tailored interventions, and documentation that aligns with regulatory expectations, certified Activity Professionals become essential partners in quality care and fall prevention.



**ADVANCING EXCELLENCE**  
IN LONG-TERM CARE COLLABORATIVE

NCCAP is grateful to continue our collaboration with AELTC as part of a shared commitment to strengthening post-acute and long-term care.

AELTC serves as an important forum for leaders across government, clinical practice, consumer advocacy, and professional organizations to exchange information, take collective action, and develop policy recommendations that support quality care and quality of life.

Through ongoing meetings and collaboration, NCCAP is proud to support AELTC's vision of ensuring individuals receiving post-acute and long-term care services have their goals, preferences, and priorities honored—while advancing equity, combating ageism, and promoting best practices across the continuum of care.

### Approved Educators

An Approved Educator is an individual or organization that has been formally reviewed and authorized by the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals (NCCAP) to provide educational and training programs that meet established NCCAP standards and criteria. Approved Educators offer courses eligible for Continuing Education (CE) credit hours, provided those courses carry an NCCAP approval number and adhere to required content, instructional quality documentation guidelines.

The Approved Educators recognized for the month of February are listed below. They meet NCCAP standards and criteria for providing educational and training opportunities. Please look for the NCCAP approval number on all eligible courses.

Have questions regarding an individual or organization who is an approved educator, or want more information regarding the Approved Educator Program? Email us at [info@nccap.org](mailto:info@nccap.org).

**Apply to be an NCCAP Approved Educator today!**



### A New Resource for your Profession Toolbox & Reference Library!

#### The Art of Life Enrichment

A practical guide for all who impact quality of life and wellbeing



Senior Living | Active Adult | Memory Care  
Skilled Nursing/LTC | Adult Day Services | Home Care

The new edition of the MEPAP® learning resource, 'The Art of Life Enrichment', is available for purchase. This project was a collaborative effort involving experts, thought leaders, and practitioners in long-term care and aging services. This book serves as the authoritative guide for students pursuing the MEPAP® Course for NCCAP® Certification.

This comprehensive resource proves invaluable for both clinical and non-clinical staff. Rooted in the person-centered Values and Principles of the Pioneer Network, this guide offers practical applications for achieving positive therapeutic outcomes through the Social Model of Care. Its content serves as a roadmap for interdisciplinary teams, empowering them to deliver individualized care tailored to the unique needs and preferences of each individual.

Enrich your library with this indispensable resource, equipping yourself with the knowledge and insights essential for providing exceptional care. **Get your copy here!**

The required curriculum for NCCAP® certifications



Validation for Activity Professionals is an 11-week online course that helps you build deeper, more meaningful connections with residents—especially those living with cognitive decline.

By the end of the course, you will:

- Enhance communication with older adults in all phases of cognitive change
- Strengthen your ability to connect with older adults on an emotional level
- Use practical Validation techniques to respond compassionately to distressing behaviors
- Creatively integrate the Validation Attitude to improve engagement and participation in individual and group activities and programs

#### Who Should Attend

This course is ideal for anyone who works directly with older adults, including:

- Activity Professionals and Life Enrichment staff
- Nursing assistants and care staff
- Adult day center team members
- Volunteers in long-term care communities

Whether you're brand-new to the field or a seasoned professional, the skills you'll learn are practical, adaptable, and immediately useful in your daily work. Register today! <https://vvalidation.org/product/validation-for-activity-professionals/>

### Assisted Living Enrichment Certification!



**ASSISTED LIVING ENRICHMENT CERTIFICATION**

*Big news alert! NCCAP is now offering a new certification option **EXCLUSIVELY** for Assisted Living Life Enrichment Professionals!*

Start your **ALEC** Certification Journey Today




### NCCAP Marketplace



**NCCAP MARKETPLACE**

NCCAP MARKETPLACE offers cost-effective and practical activity department tools. Check out our initial offerings focused on the Domains of Wellness. Sign up to receive monthly notifications of new products. And let us know what things you want us to add!

[SHOP NOW](#)

### Continuing Education Hour Requirements



NCCAP's Certification Standards reflect the CE requirements to align with the professional standards of related health organizations. Specifically, we reflect the CE requirements for Therapeutic Recreation and Occupational Therapy.

Our current renewal requirements are:

- Activity Consultant Certified (ACC): 30 hours every 2 years.
- Activity Director Certified (ADC): 20 hours every 2 years.
- Activity Professional Certified (APC): 10 hours every 2 years.



### Elevate Eldercare Podcast

The podcast, "Elevate Eldercare," by Aging In, was created in an effort to bring together thought leaders, activists, and advocates in the field of aging services foster thoughtful discourse and diverse perspectives aimed at elevating eldercare.

Join **Susan Ryan**, **Alex Spanko**, and other GHP team members every Wednesday for enlightening, provocative, and sometimes uncomfortable

conversations. Together, the hosts and guests explore the opportunities and challenges to actualizing a vision for dignified eldercare through the lens of the Green House and Pioneer models [here](#).



### NCCAP Certification

In 1986 the National Association of Activity Professionals (NAAP) created NCCAP as the official credential of the Activity Profession. Based on CMS F658, NAAP establishes Professional Standards of Practice requiring the Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals (MEPAP) for NCCAP Certification. For over 30 years, NCCAP Certification has been the Gold Standard for life-enriching activities and is the only certification that meets the credentialing standards of ICE and NCCA. NCCAP offers the following **Professional Certification** to meet Federal and State requirements.

### How to Renew your NCCAP Certification

Want to learn more about how to renew?

It's important to make sure that your correct email is on file so that you receive an email link beginning 4 months before your certification expiration date. If you don't receive this email, please contact the NCCAP office to update your email. You will then be able to renew through the link sent to you from NCCAP via email.

NCCAP is now following an audit process for continuing education.

You will not need to upload your certificates of proof of continuing education clock hours to your online profile on the NCCAP website or mail to the office. If you are chosen for an audit, you will be sent an email within days of your renewal submission and at that time you will be instructed on how to send in your certificates.

**Please Note: When submitting CEs for renewal they must be within the 2 years of expiration date. For example, if expired on 12/1/2025, the CEs must be between 12/2023-12/2025.**

When your application for re-certification has been reviewed and approved you will receive your NCCAP certificate as a PDF via email. Contact the office if you wish to have a hard copy of your certificate for a nominal fee at [info@nccap.org](mailto:info@nccap.org)

### Support our Professional Association, NAAP is Seeking Qualified Speakers

NAAP provides education, resources, and a voice in unison with NCCAP! NAAP annual membership is \$85 USD/year. Do you have leadership and expertise in a topic that you would like to share with a targeted, interested audience to gain visibility and expand your network? NAAP is seeking online webinar speakers to provide quality education for Activity Professionals. For questions or to learn more contact: [office@naap.info](mailto:office@naap.info)

[Go to NAAP](#)





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