

My name is Deborah Ann Stuart. I've been a nationally certified therapeutic recreation specialist for 35 years. For 25 of those years, I've participated and presented in the Midwest Therapeutic Recreation Symposium. I think particularly this conference is a wonderful size. It allows for interactions both during sessions as interactive sessions, discussions, and an opportunity to meet other therapeutic recreation professionals, which often leads to collaborations.

I've found that after a presentation, I was encouraged by conference coordinators to write up the ideas and the responses of clients and our documentation strategies which were based on standards, and that led to having collaborations with another colleague. And from presenting, and that being heard by a publisher, it led to the opportunity for a textbook. So, you never know what unforeseen opportunities may come from participating in the conference.