

Biography

Patrick T. Tierney Ph.D.

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Patrick Tierney received a Ph.D. from Colorado State University in Recreation Resources Management in 1991 and a master's in Recreation Resources, from CSU in 1979, with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Biology in 1976. Currently he is chairman and professor of the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Department at San Francisco State University. In addition to his academic pursuits, Pat was co-owner/operator for 25 years, of Adrift Adventures, a touring and experiential education business offering summer whitewater rafting and adventure learning programs in Colorado, Utah and Alaska. Adrift was a concessionaire in Dinosaur National Monument with the National Park Service, and also held permits with the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service. He was manager of daily operations for a seasonal staff of 27 and the primary National Park Service liaison. The company was nominated for the Conde Nast Traveler Magazine International Ecotourism Award. In 1979 he completed his master's thesis entitled "Boater Impacts In Dinosaur National Monument."

Pat is also actively involved in recreation research, having completed projects for clients like the California Division of Tourism, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, California Coastal Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, Belize Tourist Board, Alcatraz Cruises and Great America theme park. He is the author of many articles and is co-author of the textbook Recreation, Event and Tourism Businesses; Startup and Sustainable Operations (2009).

He is co-recipient of the 1997 Best Tourism Research Award from the California Division of Tourism, the 2009 and 1991 Excellence In Research Award from the Commercial Recreation and Resort Association, as well as co-recipient of the 1990 Colorado Rural Tourism Achievement Award. He was director of the Bay Area Partners in Responsible Tourism. Pat served on the Board of Directors of the California Tourism Industry Association.