



Top Young Professionals

**Under
37**



Nominee: Kayla Counts, CGMP, CMP

Membership Category: Government Planner

Employer: Tennessee Valley Authority

Chapter: Tennessee

Member Since: 2012

According to Kayla Counts, CGMP, CMP

Who/What influenced you to become involved in the government meeting industry? *I fell into the government sector by accident, landing a job that fit my professional skill set. I have stayed because few planners get to say their work contributes to a better quality of life for people in their region!*

Share an accomplishment that you are very proud of...*As a government meeting planner, I have the unique opportunity of getting to produce every event for the greater good. Everyday I get to support efforts to create and retain jobs for people in the seven state region of the Tennessee Valley footprint.*

How would you prepare for the future success of the government meeting industry? The keys to prepare for success depend on upfront communication, constant flexibility, and nurtured relationships between both planners and suppliers.

Nominated by Kimberly Bean

Kayla Counts should be recognized as one of the "Top 37 Under 37" due to her impressive commitment to the Society for Government Meeting Professionals Association. She has worked tirelessly for the Tennessee Chapter since joining in 2012. Kayla's willingness to lead, learn and galvanize members and guests has been paramount in the success of this chapter. Her knowledge, professionalism and charisma make her a natural leader and a person who honorably represents what all meeting professionals aspire to become. Personally and professionally, Kayla is an outstanding manager who embodies honesty, integrity and remarkable character.

SGMP Leadership Positions:

1. President of Tennessee Chapter - July 2016- June 2018
2. 1st Vice President, Programming of Tennessee Chapter - July 2014- June 2016
3. Secretary of Tennessee Chapter - July 2012-June 2014
4. *Current Past President of Tennessee Chapter - July 2018 - June 2020

Additional: Received CGMP Certification in August 2013

Received CMP Certification in May 2015

Community Service:

1. Junior League of Nashville - Logistics Chair of the 2018 Junior League Gala, Active since 2014
2. American Heart Association - 2018 Heart Ball Committee (logistics and fundraising)
3. Green Hills Rehab & Nursing Home - Pet Therapy Volunteer 2010 - 2018
4. Make a Wish of Middle TN - Young Leaders Board Member & "Wish Granter" 2014-2018
5. Nashville Ballet - Board Member, Friends of the Nashville Ballet, 2017 – 2019
6. Former "Big Sister" Mentor in Big Brothers Big Sisters - 10 Years