



**Henderson County Local Government**  
Public Information Office  
[www.hendersoncountync.org](http://www.hendersoncountync.org)

Contact: Christina Hallingse, PIO  
(828) 694-5003 (O)  
(828) 545-8509 (C)  
[pio@hendersoncountync.org](mailto:pio@hendersoncountync.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Volunteer Named Youth Soccer National Coach of the Year

**HC-2014-03**

**Hendersonville - Friday, January 24, 2014**

Michael Ericksen, a local elementary teacher and volunteer recreation soccer coach, was awarded the “2013 Boys Recreation Coach of the Year Award” from the US Youth Soccer Association at the Youth Soccer Awards Gala in Philadelphia on January 17, 2014.

Ericksen had received the NC Youth Soccer Association “Boys Recreation Coach of the Year” award for the 2012 year. He was then nominated for the 2013 US Youth Soccer Region III “Boys Recreation Coach of the Year” which he was awarded in December of 2013. The US Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors determines the recipient of the “Recreation Coach of the Year” award on the basis of sportsmanship, player development, personal coaching development and community involvement.

Ericksen has been a long-time volunteer with the Henderson County Parks & Recreation Department’s soccer program. He started volunteering in 2005, and has coached 17 teams over the past nine years. He instills in his participants the value of sports, and ensures that each child is challenged and grows as a player in a supportive and positive environment. He continues to be one of the most reliable recreation coaches year after year.

The Henderson County Parks & Recreation Department’s recreation soccer program provides opportunities for children ages 5-18 to play soccer in a safe and developmental environment. The program is sanctioned under the NC Youth Soccer Association and has two seasons of play, fall and spring. There are no try-outs and every participant plays. The program is currently accepting registrations for the spring 2014 season.

For more information contact Laura Rice, Recreation Program Supervisor, at (828) 697-4884 or at [lrice@hendersoncountync.org](mailto:lrice@hendersoncountync.org).

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