

Recreation Leaders: Share Your Needs and “Big Ideas,” Help Identify Needs and Opportunities

Recreation leaders and others who understand the benefits arising from recreation in America will have an extraordinary opportunity to shape the future of recreation opportunities through participation in a series of Recreation Forums to be held across the nation in March and April 2007.

Regional forums will be held in Colorado, Georgia, California, Oregon and Illinois, convened by the American Recreation Coalition and the National Forest Foundation. The Forest Service and other federal agencies will play an active role in the series of meetings. The single day forums are free, open to all and will seek to:

- 1) document the importance of recreation to important societal goals ranging from improved physical, mental and spiritual health to improved educational systems, from local and regional economic vitality to deterrence of crime;
- 2) identify key needs and challenges to meeting the recreation needs of the nation; and
- 3) local and regional successes in increasing the quality and quantity of recreation opportunities which deserve consideration for expansion and replication.

In addition to invited presentations, each forum will provide for public comments on general recreation issues and on identified topics ranging from access to public lands and waters to the challenge of providing outdoor recreation opportunities for today's youth. Reports on each forum will be prepared and used at the national forum.

“Twenty years ago, the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (PCAO) invited citizens and organizations to share visions and experiences to help us enjoy and protect our public lands and waters. The ideas offered came in a flood and helped the nation move ahead on scenic byways and greenways and volunteerism and rail-trails. It is time to once again invite the public to fill our idea banks with innovative thoughts and successes, especially as we address such challenges as decreased time spent in the outdoors by America's youth,” said Derrick Crandall, President of ARC and one of PCAO's fifteen members.

The national Recreation Forum will be held in April in Washington, DC. The national forum is expected to generate discussions among national leaders in the public and private sectors that will unify public policy efforts by those seeking to sustain recreation's positive contributions to life in America.

Up-to-date information on the forums, including information on locations and schedules, will be provided upon request. To receive this information, simply print out the form below and FAX it to 202-682-9529.

<u>Forum</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Special Topics</u>
Colorado	American Mountaineering Center Golden, CO	March 1	Volunteers
Georgia	East Cobb Multi-Purpose Center Marietta, GA	March 9	Tourism, wildlife
California	Los Angeles County Arboretum Los Angeles, CA	March 12	Kids, technology and the outdoors
Oregon	TBD (Portland)	March 15	Kids, health, tourism
Illinois	South Shore Cultural Center, Chicago	March 22	Urban partnerships, education, public waters



2007 Recreation Forum Interest Sign-Up

I am interested in receiving information on the following Recreation Forums via email:

- Colorado (Golden)
- Georgia (Atlanta area)
- California (Los Angeles area)
- Oregon (Portland)
- Illinois (Chicago area)
- National (Washington, DC)

Your name: _____
Your email: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____

Please return this request by FAX to 202-682-9529 or attach it as a Word or PDF file to an email addressed to dshea@funoutdoors.com.