

PARTNERS OUTDOORS 2017: THE EXCITING FUTURE OF RECREATION

Dates: May 31 - June 1, 2017

Location: U.S. Department of the Interior
South Building, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Overview: Partners Outdoors 2017 will bring partners from the public and private sectors together to unify and focus recreation community efforts on core issues and showcase innovation in thinking and action. Brainstorming, visioning and action will be expected of all participants, and the program will celebrate the start of Great Outdoors Month. The Washington, D.C., area will once again host the event. The program will be a joint undertaking of private sector interests, coordinated through the American Recreation Coalition, federal agencies coordinated through the Federal Recreation Council, and state park agencies coordinated by the National Association of State Park Directors.

The 2017 Partners Outdoors program will have two distinct parts:

REcx: Great Ideas for the Great Outdoors, a showcase for great ideas about outdoor recreation presented in brief TED-like talks on Wednesday, May 31. The presentations will focus on pitching a new idea or telling a success story that demonstrates how outdoor recreation experiences, opportunities and resources can be improved. Presentation topics will include: innovative partnerships and programs; enhancing visitor experiences; engaging people – especially children – in the Great Outdoors; and using technology to create and protect recreation resources.

The second day, Thursday, June 1, will be the **Annual Outdoor Recreation Leadership Summit**. During a series of presentations and discussions, leaders of the new Administration, recreation and tourism industry executives and key federal and state agency representatives will look at the future of outdoor recreation, focusing on the short-term and long-term implications of developments affecting people, places, products, programs, partnerships and politics. Like the previous day's REcx presentations, those discussions will be shared with a national audience via livestreaming.

The Partners Outdoors program will also include the presentation of the **Legends** and **Beacon Awards** for outstanding service to the recreation community by an amazing cast of federal employees and partners.

Participation: Participation in the entire Partners Outdoors conference is by invitation only and will be restricted to approximately 100 persons. Invitations are extended by sponsoring organizations, including the federal agencies, the National Association of State Park Directors, and the American Recreation Coalition. Attendees hold senior management positions in the recreation and resources fields or are identified as candidates for such posts. Senior officials from federal agency partners will be welcome to attend the presentations without registering for the entire conference.

Accommodations: There will be no headquarters hotel for Partners Outdoors. Participants from out of town will be responsible for their own accommodations and are encouraged to make arrangements as early as possible. Among the hotels located within walking distance of the U.S. Department of the Interior are: Courtyard by Marriott Washington, D.C./Foggy Bottom, 202-296-5700 and State Plaza Hotel Washington, D.C., 202-861-8200. Other nearby hotels include: Hampton Inn Washington, D.C., 202-296-1006; Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C., 202-783-7800; Hotel Lombardy, 202-828-2600; J.W. Marriott Hotel Washington, D.C., 202-393-2000; and W Hotel Washington, D.C., 202-661-2400

Transportation: Washington, D.C. is served by three airports: Reagan National Airport (approximately 12-minute drive to the city); Washington Dulles International Airport (approximately 26 miles west of the city); and Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (approximately 33 miles east of the city). Additional information about transportation options at the airports is available at dc.about.com/od/transportation/a/WashDCAirports.htm.

Tuition/Event Costs: Each participant will be charged a registration fee of \$250 for all materials and services offered in conjunction with the Partners Outdoors 2017 conference. Fees should be sent to the American Recreation Coalition (1200 G Street, N.W., Suite 650, Washington, D.C. 20005) before the conference or may be paid on site at the start of the conference. ***No refunds for cancellations will be honored after May 24, 2017.*** Checks should be made payable to the American Recreation Coalition. Credit card payments may be made via PayPal with the addition of a \$7.50 administrative fee. Contact ARC for additional information.

Planned Outcomes: 1) Dynamic and informative presentations for in-person and online participants that will be archived and accessible following the meeting and will include future-focused information regarding key aspects of outdoor recreation experiences. 2) The creation of a virtual library of great ideas for enhancing outdoor recreation experiences and resources suitable for adaptation and use by partners nationwide. As the library is further developed, topics to be covered are likely to include: obtaining funding and related resources beyond appropriations; using technology to interpret, educate and entertain in the Great Outdoors; measuring and reacting to visitor experiences; outreach and promotion strategies for the 21st Century; events and special programs as tools for reaching key audiences, including youth. 3) Enhanced understanding of the new Administration's plans for outdoor recreation programs and initiatives.

Attire: Dress during the meetings at Partners Outdoors 2017 will be "business casual."

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