

PARTNERS OUTDOORS 2016: GREAT IDEAS FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Dates: June 1-2, 2016

Location: U.S. Department of the Interior
South Building, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.
Main Building, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Overview: Partners Outdoors 2016 will be held in the Nation's Capital and will be linked to the celebration of Great Outdoors Month® in June. This extraordinary gathering, which is coordinated by the American Recreation Coalition, is designed to promote public-private brainstorming that is focused on identifying workable, innovative solutions to recreation-management challenges while also recognizing visionary people and programs. The federal supporters of Partners Outdoors, who play leading roles in structuring and supporting the conference, include: Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Federal Highway Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

Partners Outdoors 2016 will bring together leading members of the outdoor recreation community as well as allied groups from the healthcare and travel/tourism communities for two distinct but related day-long events: **RECx: Great Ideas for the Great Outdoors** and the **Outdoor Recreation Leadership Summit**. Both days will be livestreamed for a nationwide audience.

RECx – Day One of Partners Outdoors – is a showcase for 12 great ideas about outdoor recreation presented in brief TED-like talks. These presentations were selected from proposals submitted after a national call for new ideas or success stories that demonstrate how outdoor recreation experiences, opportunities and resources can be enhanced. There will be four presentation categories: **Policy and Technology Innovation; Building Awareness and Engagement; Perspectives on Urban Outreach;** and **Thinking Outside the Box**. Each group of presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Interspersed among the presentations will be short recreation-related videos chosen for presentation through a national competition.

The Outdoor Recreation Leadership Summit – Day Two of Partners Outdoors – includes a series of presentations and discussions focused on reviewing successful program initiatives of the current Administration, determining how those initiatives can be maintained during a period of political transition, and exploring new program ideas for implementation in the future. Administration initiatives to be highlighted include: **America's Great Outdoors;** the **National Travel and Tourism Strategy; Every Kid in a Park;** and **Find Your Park**. Future-focused sessions will include: **Navigating Transitions Successfully**, featuring a bipartisan group of transition veterans; **Building Partnerships for the Future**, featuring representatives of the health, education and travel and tourism communities; **Planning for Success**, featuring representatives of public land foundations; and **New Action at the State Level**, featuring the new state recreation "czars."

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

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 2016 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 time of registration. ***No refunds for cancellations will be honored after May 25, 2016.*** 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 on-line participants that will be archived and accessible following the meeting and will include practical guidance regarding use of technology, effective outreach and promotion, and connecting with urban populations. 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 key recreation programs and initiatives as well as strategies for incorporating and building on successful programs in future Administrations.

Attire: Dress during the meetings at Partners Outdoors 2016 will be “business casual.”

Contact: Catherine Ahern at cahern@funoutdoors.com or Ben Nasta at bnasta@funoutdoors.com or call 202-682-9530.