



Feb. 15, 2018

AORE & WEA announce joint national conference location

Snowbird, Utah selected as site of 2018 conference for outdoor recreation and education professionals

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Oct. 24-26, Snowbird will serve as the site of the 2018 AORE WEA Joint National Conference co-hosted by the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE) and the Wilderness Education Association (WEA) with support from the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (Army MWR).

Averaging more than 500 inches of annual snowfall per year and conveniently located just 29 miles from the Salt Lake City International Airport, Snowbird is North America's most accessible alpine resort destination.

"We are excited to return to Utah in celebration of AORE's 25th anniversary. The Snowbird facility is a unique venue for its location and layout. Both the scenery and the remote feel present a perfect backdrop to provide professionals, students and organizations who advance the field of outdoor recreation and education the opportunity to effectively learn and network," said Jeannette Stawski, executive director of AORE.

Utah is home to some of the most iconic landscapes in the world. From the Greatest Snow on Earth at Snowbird to the breathing redrock towers in Utah's Deserts, the experiences are unmatched. With 67% of the state federally managed, these iconic landscapes also come with debate.

AORE and WEA intend to use their respective platforms to inform and educate those who wish to better understand the people, positions and politics of the outdoor recreation and education community.

"This year's conference anticipates an audience of nearly 800 attendees and 50 different exhibitors, with representation from nearly all 50 states plus a handful of international destinations," said Francois Guilleux, president of WEA.

Additionally, the conference promises high-quality pre-conference and breakout sessions; an array of topics and learning formats; career services intended to support growth and advancement; a number of socials and receptions to promote networking; an annual business meeting; and a celebratory awards banquet where industry leaders will be recognized for their contributions.

New elements will include an engaging, three-part keynote presentation in partnership with Utah Diné Bikéyah, an organization that works with elders, youth, communities and Tribes to defend Bear Ears National Monument.

“A reimagined exhibit show layout and experience, to include even more auction items, as well as a flexible participant meal program are also planned as part of this year’s event,” said John O’Sullivan, program manager, Army Outdoor Recreation & Warrior Adventure Quest, Army MWR.

To get involved in the most anticipated outdoor recreation and education event of the fall conference season:

- Be the first to receive information about the 2018 AORE WEA Joint National Conference! Complete this [form](#) to receive detailed conference information as it becomes available.
- Register for the 2018 conference and save money using the discounted early registration rate. Registration is anticipated to open in March.
- [Volunteer your time](#) as a planning team project lead or committee member.
- [Submit your presentation proposal](#) to help illuminate the topics, challenges and best practices currently facing the outdoor industry.
- Become a member or supporter of [AORE](#), [WEA](#) and/or [Army MWR](#).
- [Spread the word](#) about this year’s program, featuring the best the industry has to offer.

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About Association of Outdoor Recreation & Education (AORE)

The mission of AORE is to provide opportunities for professionals and students in the field of outdoor recreation and education to exchange information, to promote the preservation and conservation of the natural environment, and to address issues common to college, university, community, military and other not-for-profit outdoor recreation and education programs. Learn more about [AORE](#).

About Wilderness Education Association (WEA)

The mission of the WEA is to promote and support the professionalism of outdoor education and leadership by establishing standards through curriculum design, implementation, advocacy and research-driven initiatives. Learn more about [WEA](#).

About U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (Army MWR)

The G9 Division of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, known as Army MWR, manages programs and services that support readiness and resilience for Soldiers and Families. Learn more about [Army MWR](#).

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