



## Call for Presentations

**American Trails  
19<sup>th</sup> National Trails Symposium  
November 15 – 18, 2008**

***Innovative Trails:  
Transforming the American Way of Life***

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Join us in November for American Trails 19th National Trails Symposium. American Trails, the leading national organization that promotes the interests of all types of trail users, is your host for the Symposium, along with local partners: City of Little Rock, City of North Little Rock, Office of Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, US Army Corps of Engineers – Little Rock District, Pulaski County, Heart Clinic Arkansas, Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield, and St. Vincent Infirmiry Medical Center.

American Trails would like to recognize and thank our federal agency partners: the US DOT Federal Highway Administration, the USDA Forest Service, the US DOI Bureau of Land Management, the US DOI National Park Service - RTCA Program, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service for their ongoing sponsorship of the Symposium. Visit our website for the full list of sponsors at [www.AmericanTrails.org/2008/sponsors](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/2008/sponsors).

The Symposium is a premier opportunity for greenways and trails advocates, managers, planners, builders, and users, as well as, environmental, tourism, developers, and business interests, to come together to strengthen America's remarkable network of trails and to experience an inspirational, educational, and fun-filled conference.

### **Theme**

The 2008 Symposium theme is ***Innovative Trails: Transforming the American Way of Life***. Trails have been transforming our nation and the way we live from its beginnings. This transformation continues today as trails have become a prominent factor in how and where we choose to live our lives creating transportation, recreational and educational opportunities; encouraging health and well-being; exploring history and heritage; bringing together people of all ages and abilities; and connecting communities. This theme is also a brand for American Trails, an innovative organization working on behalf of all trail interests to enhance and protect America's growing network of interconnected trails by finding common ground and promoting cooperation among all trail interests.

## Call for Presentations/Topics

To help us develop an exciting and motivating program for the Symposium, we invite you to submit ideas for presentations in support of the Symposium's theme. We expect to offer 40 concurrent sessions, each lasting 75 minutes.

Another opportunity, in a smaller scale format, to display information about your project or issue to a wide audience is creating a poster. Posters will be displayed in a common area throughout the Symposium. Individuals displaying posters will also have an opportunity to share their "story" and to meet with interested attendees at designated times during the Symposium.

The Program Committee is particularly seeking presentations that introduce new ideas, convey useful strategies, identify lessons learned, and strengthen participants' existing skills and knowledge — in the spirit of the Symposium theme. Potential topics for presentations include, but are definitely not limited to, the general topic areas attached.

For additional information about the program, please contact the Program Committee Chair: Rory Robinson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Park Service, RTCA Program, 2179 Everett Road, Peninsula, OH 44264; Tel: (330) 657-2951; Fax: (330) 657-2955; [rory\\_robinson@nps.gov](mailto:rory_robinson@nps.gov).

## Submissions

The Program Committee looks forward to receiving your ideas. Due to the tremendous number of proposals expected, we will not be able to accept every proposal, and we may combine individual proposals with similar topics to create a Panel Session. If you know of someone who would complement your proposal, please forward the Call onto them.

We anticipate over 150 presenters. We hope you understand with these numbers, we are unable to cover expenses, so **speakers are expected to pay the Symposium registration fee and travel expenses.** It is considered an honor to present in front of your peers. A limited number of scholarships may be available to offset some costs. But these scholarships are primarily for presenters outside of the trails community that wouldn't otherwise be attending.

To submit a proposal, please refer to the submission instructions below.

**Proposals are due by April 18, 2008.**

## Why Little Rock?

Why did we choose Arkansas as the location for the next National Trails Symposium? We are excited to share some of the "wow factors" that led to the final decision in making Little Rock the place to be in November of 2008.

First, we are all trying to make the connection between trails and health. Little Rock's cutting-edge Medical Mile project, coordinated by trail innovator Terry Eastin, is a linear outdoor health museum. It is "lighting the way" for us to learn how to work with the medical community and bring hospitals and physicians across the country "on board" with trails.

Then there is the Big Dam Bridge project, over the Arkansas River, that is a shining example of how to take a BIG vision and make it happen. Judge Buddy Villines of Pulaski County had the concept and worked tirelessly to make it happen. He says "We build roads because we have to move cars in commerce. We build trails to improve the quality of life for our citizens."

In fact, Jim Dailey, Past-Mayor of Little Rock, states "The artistry of our landscape, the health of our citizens, and the desire for innovative economic stimulus that harmonizes with the environment have given us a mandate for developing the Arkansas River Trail."

Mayor Patrick Hays of North Little Rock believes, "The River Trail is one of the most scenic bicycle and walking trails in the country."

The leaders and people of Little Rock are enthusiastic about their trail projects and are just as excited to share them with you at the 2008 National Trails Symposium. So mark your calendars and join us in Arkansas in 2008! To learn more about Arkansas trail opportunities, visit the American Trails website: [www.AmericanTrails.org/2008](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/2008).

### **Registration and Accommodations**

**Online registration will be available June 1, 2008** and a detailed registration booklet will be sent out in July. But to help you plan now, the cost of the Symposium will range from \$325 early registration for an American Trails member to \$450 for regular registration, non-member. Lodging will range \$79 – \$95, plus tax. Hotel information will be released in March.

The main events and Exhibit Hall for the National Trails Symposium will be held at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

For the most current information about the Symposium, please visit **[www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org)**, or contact the American Trails office at **(530) 547-2060** or by email at **[Symposium@AmericanTrails.org](mailto:Symposium@AmericanTrails.org)**.

***DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS: April 18, 2008***

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

***Innovative Trails: Transforming the American Way of Life***

Please submit the following information for your proposal by **April 18, 2008**.

Please limit your response to items 1 through 5 to a single page, left justified, 11 point font minimum:

1. Proposed Title of Presentation (think creatively).

2. Describe the presentation and its purpose.

3. List three learning objectives. Examples:

Topic: **“Armored Crossings – A Bridge Under Troubled Water”**

Objectives:

- a. To explore alternatives to bridge building
- b. To outline how to repair and prevent erosion in trouble-prone areas
- c. To list alternative ways to reinforce loose soils

Topic: **“Transportation Alternatives, Connectivity, and Walkability”**

Objectives:

- a. To describe how land use and transportation facilities affect transportation mode choice
- b. To discuss initiatives and methods to improve walking and bicycling conditions, leading to improved quality of life
- c. To list types of facilities and land uses that support walking and bicycling for destination-oriented trips, as well as for recreation

Suggested verbs for writing learning outcomes include:

<b>count</b>	<b>define</b>	<b>describe</b>	<b>identify</b>	<b>list</b>
<b>name</b>	<b>outline</b>	<b>read</b>	<b>recall</b>	<b>summarize</b>
<b>recognize</b>	<b>reproduce</b>	<b>state</b>	<b>write</b>	<b>discuss</b>
<b>give</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>examples</b>	<b>predict</b>	

Do not use:

<b>know</b>	<b>understand</b>	<b>appreciate</b>	<b>enhance</b>
<b>grasp</b>	<b>improve</b>	<b>learn</b>	

4. What benefits do you expect that attendees will gain from your presentation?

5. How will your proposed session relate or contribute to the Symposium theme: *Innovative Trails: Transforming the American Way of Life?*
6. Under what general topic area(s) do you think your proposal falls? Please refer to the list of potential topics attached.
7. Which presentation type do you propose? Choose your first priority from the following:
  - a. Individual Presentation (single speaker)
  - b. Panel Presentation (multiple speakers on a related topic)
  - c. Posters — displayed throughout the length of the Symposium
8. Please list your anticipated speaker(s), along with their title and affiliation/organization (speaker(s) can be changed later).
9. What is your contact information? Please provide the following:
  - Name
  - Title
  - Affiliation/Organization
  - Address
  - Phone Number
  - Fax Number
  - Email Address
  - Website Address (if applicable for your topic or organization)

*If proposing a Panel Presentation, please provide the same contact information for each speaker and the moderator.*
10. Please list any anticipated A/V equipment needs.
11. We might be considering the possibility of taping sessions. If you **object** in any way, please check the box and make any comments below.

I **object** to having my session taped:  Comments:

In order to expedite the presentation review process, **we require that all proposals be submitted electronically (email, floppy disk or CD)**. If possible, save the document in Rich Text Format (RTF) or Microsoft Word (doc) and scan for viruses prior to submission. Applicants are welcome to submit up to two attachments (documents, photos, brochures, publications, videos, etc.) that help to further describe or clarify the topic/presentation. Attachments need not be in electronic format, but they must be submitted with the proposal.

<p><i>To submit by disk, mail your proposal on disk and any hardcopy attachments in the same envelope to:</i></p> <p>Rory Robinson, Outdoor Recreation Planner National Park Service, RTCA Program 2179 Everett Road Peninsula, OH 44262</p>	<p><i>To submit by email, send your proposal and any electronic attachments in the same email to:</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:rory_robinson@nps.gov">rory_robinson@nps.gov</a></p> <p>Please type “NTS Proposal” in the subject line.</p>
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For questions regarding the program or submitting proposals, please contact the Program Team Chair: Rory Robinson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Park Service RTCA Program, 2179 Everett Road, Peninsula, OH 44262. Tel: (330) 657-2951; Fax: (330) 657-2955; [rory\\_robinson@nps.gov](mailto:rory_robinson@nps.gov).

The Program Team will review all submissions and contact session coordinators and presenters no later than June 30, 2008.

***Deadline for Submitting Proposals: April 18, 2008***

## Presentation Topics to Consider - (other topic ideas welcome)

### 2008 Conference Theme - *“Innovative Trails: Transforming the American Way of Life”*

**Advocacy** - build and sustain advocacy for trails organizing; lobbying; outreach

**Benefits of Trails** – the triple bottom line – economic, environmental and health: other benefits; recognizing and promoting

**Building Strong Organizations for Trails** – leadership; how to recruit, organize, educate, implement organizations; board selection and development; liability; membership; fundraising; use of volunteers; website development

**Cultural/Historical Issues** - trail development in historical context; preserving working landscapes; diversity of users; preserving/using historic structures; working with Native Americans; the arts

**Design and Construction** - sustainability; accessibility; Universal Trail Assessment Process; design standards; mapping; viewshed analysis; funding; trail-building techniques, materials, products and equipment; specialized construction practices; hybrid contracting; citizen-built trails; signage; multi-season and multi-use trail design, minimizing user conflicts; art and trails;

**Economic Issues** - ecotourism; greenways and trails to support infrastructure; projects in low-income areas; projects in brownfields

**Educational Opportunity of Trails:** trails developed *or used* as non-traditional classrooms; teaching opportunities for history, natural history, geography, survival skills, cultural issues, orientation/geocaching, or other topics.

**Environmental Issues:** Stewardship; benefits; impacts of projects; designation and protection of ecological infrastructure; wildlife interface; trails as a resource management tool; global/green living

**Funding:** Public funding, private sources, creative funding, funds for operations and maintenance

**Future of Trails** - anticipating change; emerging technologies, trends; new trail users or user groups, meeting the needs of changing demographics

**Health** - health benefits of trails; promoting trails for mental, physical, social, and spiritual well-being; partnering with/engaging the health community

**Information Systems:** internet/websites; software applications; GIS/GPS;

**Land Acquisition** – strategies; tools for acquiring, partners, mineral rights, NIMBY’s

**National Trails System** – future of the system; partnerships, management, NRT program

**Natural Disasters and Trails** – impacts on trails, reconstruction strategies; trails for access

**Operations and Maintenance:** Funding; partnering; volunteers; effective management organizations; equipment; cost-effective maintenance

**Partnerships** - partnering for trail funding, construction, or maintenance; partnering with agencies, different trail user groups, developers, private landowners, utility companies, stakeholders; coalition building; consensus building tools; sustaining long-term relationships; diversity

**Policy** - legislation; funding, federal highway funding reauthorization; compliance; liability; access; user fees

**Promoting Greenways & Trails** - selling benefits; fundraising; media; special events; designation and recognition

**Safety and Security on Trails** – building safe trails; changing perceptions; emergency access and communications; trails as community watch

**Trail System Planning** – objectives; laying out the trails; agency involvement & cooperation, environmental impacts; funding; regional and national connectivity; crossing boundaries; ecological infrastructure; master planning; the urban/rural interface; shared use; user conflicts; alternative transportation; rails with trails

**Trail User Groups** - opportunities to partner; securing easements; shared-use; design; operations; maintenance; funding

**Water Trails** - design; facility needs; management; signage

**Youth and Trails** – engaging youth in design, construction, operations; getting them on the trail