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Why Trails Matter: Workforce Development

Are you wondering how you could be part of the green workforce, helping create active transportation, recreation, and greenway infrastructure that helps foster community cohesion, build climate resilience, and sustain local economies? Interested in getting to the next level in your trails career development journey? Want to see what is coming up in our webinar series or other learning opportunities? Check out the new [Career Pathways Portal](#) at American Trails!

This newest addition to our website is a centralized hub of career and professional development information related to trails. Emerging and established trails professionals can explore continuing education options, and discover the latest job postings. Visit the Career Pathways Portal to learn about the specific competencies important for a career in trails, and explore the professional development opportunities American Trails offers. Read [profiles of working professionals](#) to learn the pathways they took into the trails world, and the skills and competencies necessary for their jobs.

Also available through the Portal is the new [Foundations of Sustainable Trails online training](#), developed by American Trails. This introductory five-part micro-learning course discusses what it means for a trail to be sustainable. It describes the lifecycle of sustainable trails and includes lessons on hydrology, structures, tools, tread, and alignment.

If you are looking for a job, visit the Career Pathways Portal first for [listings of the latest trail positions](#) from across the country, or use the link from the Portal to search for job opportunities on USA Jobs, The Bridge Program, ASLA Joblink, and our sister website [TrailSkills.org](#) which has a frequently updated list of job postings in the trails industry.

[Find out more](#)



American Climate Corps

From the White House: President Biden is announcing a new initiative to train young people in high-demand skills for jobs in the clean energy economy. Sign up to learn about how you can join the American Climate Corps. [Find out more >>](#)



Workforce Development and Career Exploration in Parks and Recreation

Workforce development and career exploration programs are critical contributors to the future success of parks and recreation. The National Recreation and Park Association Research team surveyed park and recreation leaders to gain a better understanding of the current state of workforce development and career exploration programs at park and recreation agencies. [Find out more >>](#)



USDA Resource Guide for Rural Workforce Development

This guide was created for community leaders and other local entities to help them access resources to create jobs, train talent, expand educational opportunities, and provide technical assistance. [Find out more >>](#)



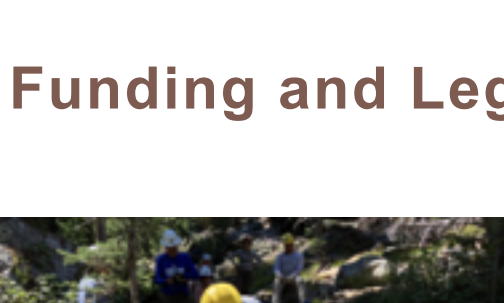
Where Do You Fit in the Outdoor Industry?

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable's Workforce Hub lets you select what best fits your goals. You can learn about outdoor careers, or learn how to help the workforce grow. [Find out more >>](#)



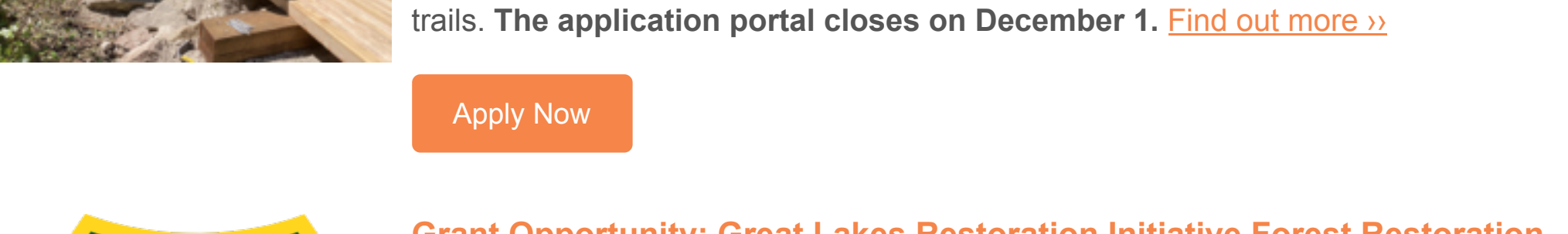
Finding Your Path: A Guide to Careers in Trails

For those who are passionate about the great outdoors, a career in trails can be both rewarding and fulfilling. Whether you dream of becoming a trail designer, builder, manager, or advocate, there are countless opportunities to turn your passion for trails into a meaningful career. This article is by the Greenways Foundation, a charitable trust working to promote the growth, enhancement, and use of Indiana greenways. [Find out more >>](#)



Forest Service Introduces VSPortal

The Forest Service effort to diversify their workforce and develop the next generation of natural resource stewards is opening the doors to good paying federal jobs for many. Tracking the entirety of these accomplishments is critical to meeting their goals of striving to be a multicultural organization, reflective of and responsive to the communities they serve. To help with this effort, the Forest Service launched a new web-based application for called the Volunteers and Service Portal, or "VSPortal." The VSPortal will effectively report these contributions to projects and track progress of individuals enrolled through partner organizations. [Find out more >>](#)



Funding and Legislation



Grant Opportunity: Legacy Trails Grant Program

American Trails is pleased to partner with the U.S. Forest Service in continuing the Legacy Trails Grant Program. We will be looking to fund projects that restore fish and aquatic organism passage, improve trail resiliency, preserve trail access, decommission unauthorized trails, and convert unneeded Forest Service roads to trails. The application portal closes on December 1. [Find out more >>](#)

[Apply Now](#)



Grant Opportunity: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Forest Restoration

The U.S. Forest Service awards competitive grants to assist organizations and communities who are taking creative approaches to improve habitats and water quality. Anticipated funds will be distributed across three program areas. Applications are due by October 23. [Find out more >>](#)



WSP measures the Forest Service's accomplishments in wilderness stewardship. This information guides the Forest Service and its partner organizations in setting performance goals and identifying funding needs. Applications are due by November 30. [Find out more >>](#)



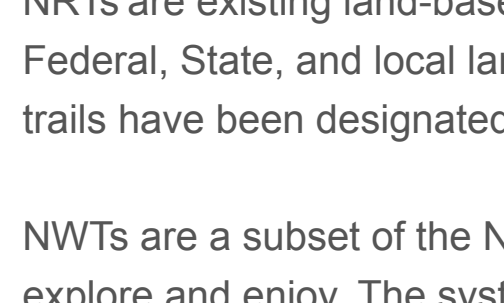
Interior Department Announces First Indian Youth Service Corps Grant Awards

The Department of the Interior has recently announced the allocation of almost \$3.5 million in Indian Youth Service Corps grants for 2023. The funding will be utilized by eight projects that involve over 20 Tribes and Tribal organizations, allowing Indigenous youth to participate in significant public service projects on both federal and Tribal lands. [Find out more >>](#)



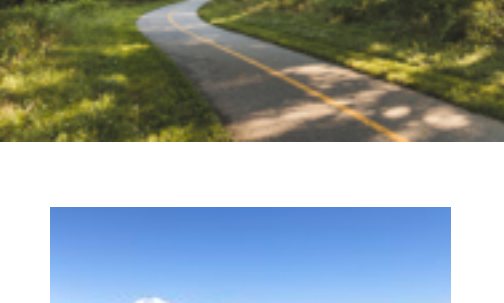
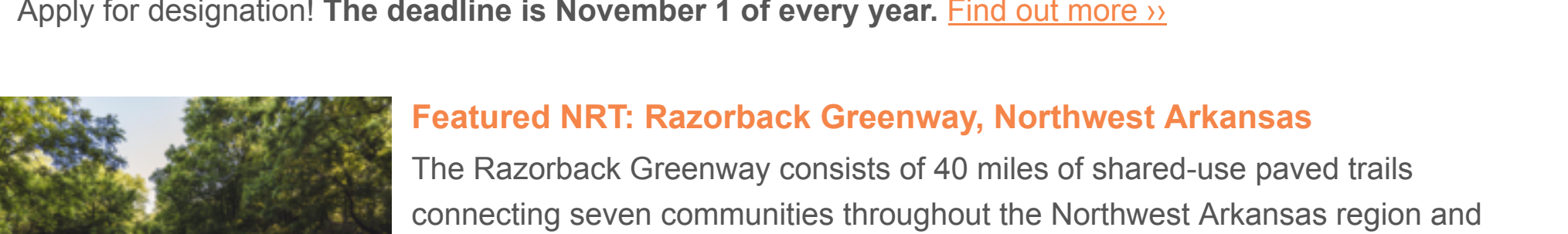
2024 Environmental Excellence Awards (EAs) Program Open for Nominations

The EAs recognize outstanding transportation projects, processes, and organizations that incorporate environmental stewardship into the planning and project development processes using Federal Highway Administration funding sources. Nominations are due by November 3. [Find out more >>](#)

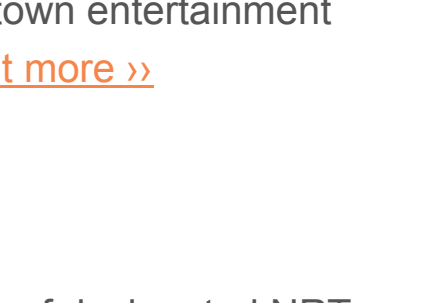


2023 Recreational Trails Program Achievement Awards

The Coalition for Recreational Trails is excited to announce its 2023 achievement awards to recognize outstanding trail projects funded by the Recreational Trails Program. We invite you to nominate an outstanding project and/or encourage the sponsor(s) of an excellent project in your state to submit a nomination. Deadline for nominations is 5 pm Eastern, November 17. [Find out more >>](#)



The National Recreation Trails (NRT) and National Water Trails (NWT) System



NRTs are existing land-based and water-based trails that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities on Federal, State, and local lands in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Over 1,300 of these trails have been designated throughout the nation.

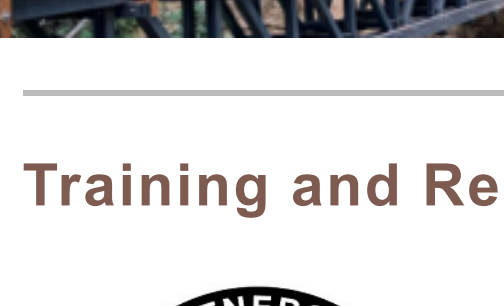
NWTs are a subset of the NRT Program. The NWT System is a network of water trails open to the public to explore and enjoy. The system also serves as a community of water resource managers that benefit from information sharing and collaboration. Currently, 90 NWTs are listed in the NRT database hosted by American Trails.

Apply for designation! The deadline is November 1 of every year. [Find out more >>](#)



Featured NRT: Razorback Greenway, Northwest Arkansas

The Razorback Greenway consists of 40 miles of shared-use paved trails connecting seven communities throughout the Northwest Arkansas region and providing access to world-class art museums, multiple downtown entertainment districts, parks, and classic Ozark Mountain scenery. [Find out more >>](#)



Submit Your Photos for the NRT Photo Contest

American Trails sponsors the annual contest for photographs of designated NRTs across the country. Our annual contest provides awards in several categories and shows off entries (and previous winners) on the NRT website. The deadline is December 15 of each year. [Find out more >>](#)



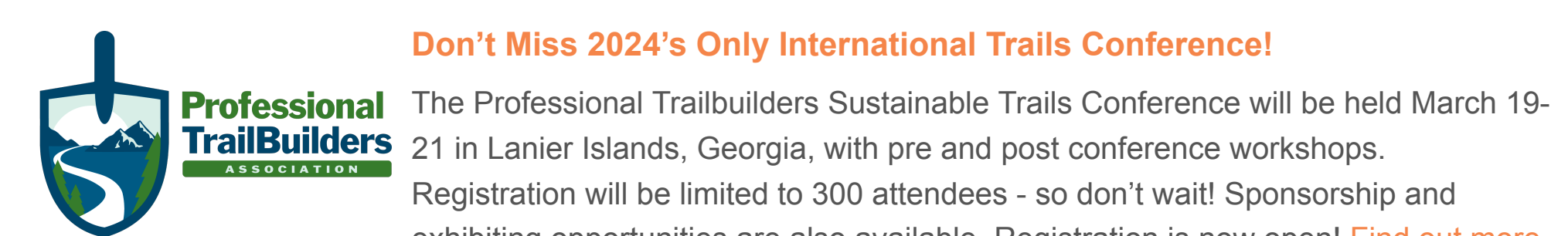
Board on Geographic Names Completes Renaming of Mount Evans

The U.S. Board of Geographic Names voted to rename Mount Evans in Colorado to Mount Blue Sky, honoring the indigenous Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes. [Find out more >>](#)



October Marks 55 Years of the National Trails System Act

The Act is perhaps best known for enshrining the development and protection of the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, and our nation's other long-distance scenic trails. View the historical events that led us to a robust nationwide movement for trails of all kinds. [Find out more >>](#)

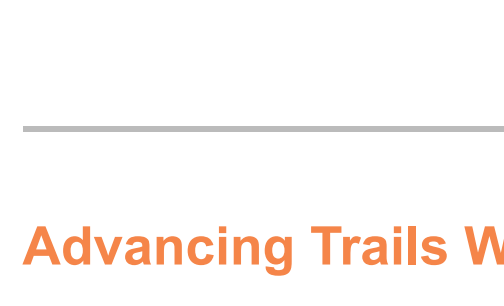


Training and Resources



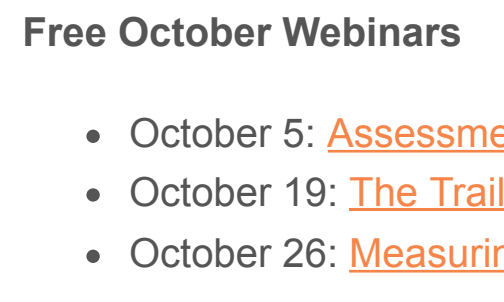
Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) National Trails Workshop November 7-9

PNTS hopes to see you in Orlando for three days of learning, collaboration, and networking for trail professionals and emerging leaders within the trails community! [Find out more >>](#)



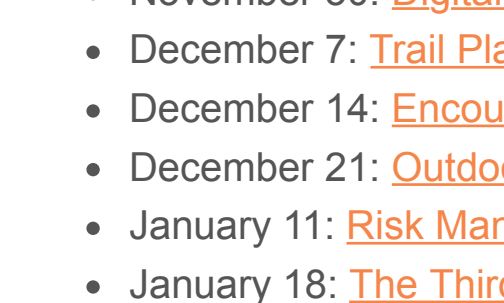
New Online Event Series Intentional Hiking to Feature American Trails

Intentional Hiking: a conversation is a new online discussion series focused on our relationship with the environment, our trails, and each other. Join us for the launch event on Monday, October 23 at 5 pm Pacific for the topic: How Can We Improve the Hiking Experience, and hear from Executive Director Mike Passo about how American Trails approaches our work with intention. [Find out more >>](#)



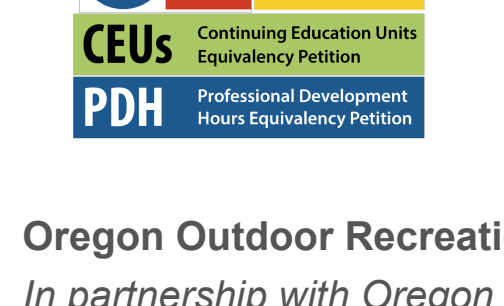
Opportunities to Present at the 35th Annual National Service-Learning Conference®

Proposals will be assessed on content quality, creativity of delivery, and audience participation. They strongly encourage proposals from young people. You can present a workshop, a lightning talk, or a showcase! Applications are due by October 20. [Find out more >>](#)



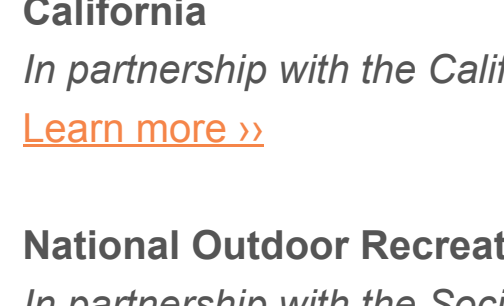
Don't Miss 2024's Only International Trails Conference!

The Professional Trailbuilders Sustainable Trails Conference will be held March 19-21 in Lanier Islands, Georgia, with pre and post conference workshops. Registration will be limited to 300 attendees - so don't wait! Sponsorship and exhibiting opportunities are also available. Registration is now open! [Find out more >>](#)



National Outdoor Recreation Conference Call for Proposals

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals is proud to present the 2024 National Outdoor Recreation Conference (NORC) May 6-9 in South Lake Tahoe/Stateline, Nevada. View the detailed [Call for Proposals](#) before completing and submitting your proposals to learn more about this goal and additional details on the program and presenter expectations. Deadline for submissions extended to October 27. [Find out more >>](#)



Featured Business Directory Advertiser: Arété Structures

Areté Structures supplies prefabricated truss and I-beam bridges using pultruded fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) materials. FRP bridges are an ideal solution for pedestrian, bicycle, equine, and light vehicular use. Arété trail bridges are the best option for remote bridge sites, and come in an easy to assemble bridge kit. [Find out more >>](#)

Advancing Trails Webinar Series



American Trails brings agencies, trail builders, planners, architects, advocates, and volunteers the latest in state-of-the-art information on all aspects of trails and greenways.

All webinars are recorded and can be accessed for free via our [online store](#) at any time. Recordings of past webinars are also being added to our [YouTube channel](#) on a weekly basis.

Free October Webinars

- October 5: [Assessment and Repair of a Trail After Catastrophic Damage: The Elroy-Sparta State Trail](#)
- October 19: [The Trail Research Hub](#)
- October 26: [Measuring Our Success in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

Free Future Webinars

- November 2: [Approvals, Permits, and Compliance: Navigating the Regulatory Waters from Trail Plan Through Construction](#)
- November 9: [Indigenous Placemaking Along Canadian Trails](#)
- November 16: [Water Management on Legacy Trails: The SET \(Sustainable, Effective, Traversable\) Standard](#)
- November 30: [Digital Transformation of Trail Management and Monitoring](#)
- December 7: [Trail Planning and Design: Foundations of Success](#)
- December 14: [Encouraging Indigenous Participation in Trail Management and Interpretation](#)
- December 21: [Outdoor Electric Assist Devices: Opportunity or Opposition](#)
- January 11: [Risk Management During Trail Construction](#)
- January 18: [The Third Mode: Bonus Chapters](#)
- January 25: [The Path to Mental Health: Using Trails to Equip Healthy Communities](#)
- February 8: [Systemic Condition Analysis and Management for Multi-Use Trails](#)

Additional Free Learning Credit Opportunities

American Trails is partnering with the following organization(s) to offer [free learning credits](#) to attendees.

Send us an [email](#) if you wish to offer learning credits for FREE to your attendees for your conference, webinar, workshop, etc. (virtual or in-person).

Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit – November 2-4, 2023 – Coos Bay-North Bend, Oregon

In partnership with Oregon Trails Coalition

[Learn more >>](#)

California Trails and Greenways Conference – April 30-May 3, 2024 – North Lake Tahoe/Olympic Valley, California

In partnership with the California Trails Conference Foundation

[Learn more >>](#)

National Outdoor Recreation Conference – May 6-9, 2024 – South Lake Tahoe/Stateline, Nevada

In partnership with the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals

[Learn more >>](#)

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Group
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