



13th National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference

May 14-18, 2011 - Abingdon, Virginia



Healthy Trails → Healthy Communities

Health issues have captured the public's attention— from concerns about epidemics of childhood obesity and asthma, to the economic health of communities, to the health of coastal ecosystems inundated with spilled oil.

The 13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails will focus on how trails can contribute to human, environmental, community economic, and educational health. We know that communities such as Abingdon and Damascus, Virginia act as successful gateways to scenic and historic trails. Trails, in turn, serve as gateways for healthy recreation and linking people to nature and their heritage.

We understand our scenic and historic trails as assets, but they are often not fully appreciated and therefore undervalued by the communities they touch. How can we demonstrate the value of trails to communities so that they will appreciate, use, support, and sustain them? The more trails are valued by communities, the healthier and more sustainable the trails will be for the decades to come.



Workshop Tracks

Economic Health:

The Demonstrable Value of Trails to Communities

The 30 national scenic and historic trails pass through or near 100 communities of 50,000 or more people and can be a part of the daily lives of millions of Americans. For communities, trails bolster economic health through eco or heritage tourism and are part of a green infrastructure that increases the attractiveness of an area.

Environmental Health:

How Trails Help Preserve and Restore Our Natural and Cultural Communities

The National Trails link nationally-designated conservation and historic sites to create a nation-wide network of "green infrastructure." By making scenic and historic trails environmental corridors they, provide migration ways for wildlife and serve as rural and urban recreation areas.

Educational Health:

Trails as Living Outdoor Classrooms

Scenic and historic trails are an asset to communities' schools as they provide authentic experiences of nature and cultural history. By making nature "real" and history fun, trails offer engaging and relevant education and can inspire a life-long dedication to community and learning.

Human Health:

Trails as Pathways to Health and Fitness

As national health places an ever-growing emphasis on fitness, trails are surfacing as a crucial element in the battle against lifestyle diseases. Learn from health experts encouraging "trail prescriptions" and community advocates how your trail can become part of these initiatives and provide yet another service to local communities.

General Schedule (Details coming soon!)

Saturday, May 14

- Damascus Trail Days Festival
- Trail Days Parade (Representation of all NSH Trails Encouraged)
- Welcome Reception and entertainment at Heartwood Artisan Center

Sunday, May 15

- Opening Ceremony & March to Muster Grounds
- Overmountain Victory Trail Educational Showcase
- Dinner, traditional Appalachian folk music group "Fire in the Kitchen"

Monday, May 16

- Federal Plenary: America's Great Outdoors
- Track Sessions
- Keynote Speaker: TBD
- Open Discussion Period
- Land Preservation Evening Workshop

Tuesday, May 17

- Mobile Workshops
- Dinner as a group with guest speaker, TBD
- Optional evening showing of OCTA's film about youth traveling the Oregon Trail, "In Pursuit of a Dream."
- Optional evening performance at historic Barter Theater

Wednesday May 18

- Trail Caucus Meetings
- Agency Meetings
- Track Sessions
- Federal Plenary
- Youth Apprentice Plenary Session
- Formal Dinner, Closing Celebration, and Auction

Overview ~ Conference Online Registration Options

(as listed in the online registration system)

Program Registration Packages

Full Conference Registration \$115 on/before April 20, (\$165 after)

Full Registration for the 13th NSHT Conference includes: Plenary sessions/Keynote Speakers, Workshop Track Sessions, Overmountain Victory Trail "A Call to Arms" Program; Evening Entertainment NOTE: To facilitate convenient billing for our federal partners, the full conference meals package is listed separately under "optional items" later in the registration process.

Guest Registration (no session attendance) no charge

We encourage you to bring your family and friends! Guests are individuals accompanying a FULL-PAYING conference attendee and are NOT attending sessions. Meal packages and mobile workshops are available for your guests.

One Day Conference Registration - Wednesday, May 18

\$50 on/before April 20, (\$100 after)

Includes Plenary Session/Keynote Speaker, Workshop Track Sessions, Evening Open Discussion Session. NOTE: To facilitate convenient billing for our federal partners, the full conference meals package is listed separately under "optional items" later in the registration process

One Day Conference Registration- Monday, May 16

\$50 on/before April 20, (\$100 after)

Includes Opening Plenary Session/Keynote Speaker, Workshop Track Sessions, Evening Open Discussion Session. NOTE: To facilitate convenient billing for our federal partners, the full conference meals package is listed separately under "optional items" later in the registration process.

OVRTA/Local Volunteer for Sunday, May 15

A special thanks to the volunteers from the OVRTA and Abingdon area helping to make the Sunday Call to Arms Showcase a reality! This registration option is for SUNDAY volunteer attendance only; it does not include sessions or any other days; please choose the registration option that best fits your desired participation in the conference.

Mobile Workshops

- **Traveling the Overmountain Victory Trail: Partnerships for keeping History Alive.** Travel the Commemorative Motor Route and learn from planners and managers about the unique partnerships that define this historic trail. \$50/person
- **Cycling the Virginia Creeper:** Bike one of America's most famous National Recreation Trails – the Virginia Creeper. Enjoy scenic vistas of the Appalachian mountains and learn about how this multi-use trail builds economic value for local communities. \$65/person.
- **Appalachian Trail Flora, Fauna, and Ecotourism.** Hike a segment of the famed Appalachian National Scenic Trail while learning about local flora and fauna of the area. This hike will stop frequently for species identification and discussion on ecotourism. \$50/person.
- **Exotic Species Inventory on the Appalachian Trail:** Hike a section of the Appalachian Trail while using GPS units, data sheets, and ATC's trail-wide inventory protocol to document the presence of invasive exotic plants. \$50/person.
- **Trail Town USA: Embracing Trails and Nature for Community Development.** In this half-day workshop, visit nearby Damascus, Virginia, to learn how this town has strengthened its economy through the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Creeper Trail. \$50/person
- **Trail Town USA: Embracing Trails and Nature for Community Development.** In this **half-day** workshop starting early afternoon, visit nearby Damascus, Virginia, to learn how this town has strengthened its economy through the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Creeper Trail. Meet with town staff and planners and discuss what elements of this model may apply to your trails. Includes lunch and transportation. \$50/person.

Meal Packages

Full Conference Meal Package \$185

Includes: Sunday Lunch & Dinner, Monday Lunch and am/pm Snacks, Tuesday Dinner, Wednesday Lunch, am/pm Snacks, and Closing Dinner

Sunday, May 15

Includes a barbecue lunch at the Muster Grounds and dinner in the conference center on Sunday, May 15.

Monday, May 16 Meal Package \$39

Includes lunch and am/pm snacks on Monday, May 16th.

Tuesday, May 17 Dinner Package

Includes Dinner at the Ballroom and guest speaker.

Wednesday, May 18 Meal Package \$68

Includes Wednesday lunch, am/pm snacks, platd dinner, evening entertainment, and auction.

- Optional Registration - Monday Trail Corridor Protection Working Dinner

How have trails successfully protected their trail corridors in the past? How can a trail organization and its partners gear up to carry out a land protection effort? What national strategy can we conduct together to support this work on each trail? Who cares for these lands and waters after they have been acquired? If you are interested in these questions, come join us for this working session over supper. Moderator: Steve Elkinton, National Park Service. Price includes dinner. \$20/person.

Registration Process Information

- Register before **April 20** to avoid late fees! After April 20 a \$50 late fee will apply
- Registration is online. The link can be found on the Partnership website, www.pnts.org. If you would like to register by phone, contact Julia Glad at 414-617-2525.
- **Bring your family!** Our new registration process allows you to register family members for field trips and meals to join you between sessions. TO REGISTER FAMILY/FRIENDS: Guests can be added to the online registration for conference participants in the “Add Guests” area of the registrant information page. Registrants can add mobile workshops and meals packages for their guests during the registration process; check towards the top right of each registration page for the name registrant/guest to make sure you are selecting the right options for the right person.
- **Definition of a “GUEST”:** A guest is someone accompanying a full-paying conference registrant. Guests are NOT attending sessions but are eligible to be registered for meal packages and mobile workshops.
- **Program Registration and meal packages are separate.**
- **Mobile Workshops** are separate, optional, and include lunch and transportation.
- **Daily Registration** for Monday and Wednesday, the days including track sessions, is available.
- **Refund Policy:** Full Conference Registrations cancelled before April 20 will receive a full refund. Any registrations cancelled after April 20 but before/on May 6, including meal packages and mobile workshops, will receive a 50% refund. Any registrations cancelled after May 6 are entirely at the refund discretion of the PNTS.

Need to charge different conference items to different cards? No Problem!

- 1.) Go through the entire registration, selecting all items for your total registration as if you were paying for it all together, until you reach the payment page.
- 2.) On the payment page, modify payment amounts listed so that there is \$0 of payment towards the items you would like to pay with the second card.
- 3.) Enter the information for your first credit card, hit “finish”, and make note of your confirmation number.
- 4.) Re-log into your reservation account (link on PNTS website) and enter your confirmation number.
- 5.) Proceed through your reservation to payment page, modify payment amounts to add payments for the second card, and enter in your second credit card information (or select pay offline for check payment.) Click finish.

Conference Questions? Registration Issues?
Email Julia Glad at PNTSCommunications@gmail.com
or call (414) 617-2525.

Register online at
www.pnts.org

Special Conference Kickoff -

Damascus Trail Days

Represent your trail at one of the nation's largest hiking festivals! Every year, Damascus, Virginia, “Trail Town USA,” hosts this massive event only a short distance from our host town of Abingdon. The biggest day of the event is **Saturday, May 14**, featuring a parade for anyone to join. Conference attendees are encouraged to take advantage of this unique outreach opportunity just before the opening reception that same evening. The Partnership for the National Trails System will have a tent; trail organizations can request booth space through the PNTS at PNTSCommunications@gmail.com. **Please plan to arrive by Friday, May 13 to attend Damascus Trail Days.**

Travel and Lodging Information

- Nearest Airport: **Tri-Cities (TRI)** - 30 minutes from Abingdon
- Car rental encouraged, but not required
- Shared shuttles will be arranged to assist with transportation to and from Airport on Saturday, May 14 and Thursday, May 19. **Please contact PNTS to reserve your spot** on a group shuttle, departing TRI airport 8pm on **Friday, May 13 and 5PM on Saturday, May 14.**
- Transportation between hotels and meeting facility: Most hotels ARE NOT within walking distance of the conference center (The SW Virginia Adult Education Center). However, the Town of Abingdon has generously donated use of its town trolleys for transportation between conference center and the **Comfort Inn** and the **Comfort Suites, which are very near the conference center (walk is about 10 minutes)**
- **Please arrange your own accommodations!** We have requested blocks of rooms at the hotels listed at right. If you plan to rent a car, you may want to consider one of Abingdon's many historic bed and breakfasts (www.abingdon.com).
- NOTE: The government rate for the valley is \$86.

We have arranged block rates with the following hotels:

Comfort Inn

276-676-2222
 Cost per night: \$69
 Shuttle to CC available

Comfort Suites

276-698-3040
 Cost per night: \$109
 Shuttle to CC available

Quality Inn & Suites

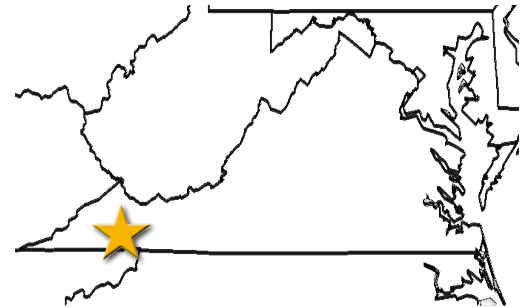
276-676-9090
 Cost per night: \$92
 (BEST VALUE FOR THOSE WITH VEHICLES)

Rates shown above do not include 12% tax.

About Abingdon, Virginia

Abingdon, Virginia captures both the exquisite natural beauty championed by the National Scenic Trails and the living history and heritage embodied by the National Historic Trails. A historic town and model trail community, Abingdon is nestled in the grandeur of the Appalachian Mountains.

History seems to ring from the hills as the story of the Overmountain Men, heroes of the Revolutionary War, is commemorated along the Overmountain Victory NHT and throughout the town. The Virginia Creeper Trail, a national recreation trail, also runs through town, allowing hikers and cyclists to appreciate the lovely natural setting of the town. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail offers breathtaking vistas nearby and hiking experiences for a lifetime.



Hosted by the Partnership for the National Trails System, the **Overmountain Victory Trail Association**, the **Town of Abingdon, Virginia**, and the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy**. Supported through the generous assistance of the **National Park Service**, the **Bureau of Land Management**, the **USDA Forest Service**, the **US Fish and Wildlife Service**, and the **Federal Highway Administration**.

