



Call for Presentations (CFP)

**24th American Trails
International Trails Symposium
and Training Institute**

*Featuring the
Professional TrailBuilders Association (PTBA)*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: June 1, 2018

Join us in April 2019 for the [24th American Trails International Trails Symposium and Training Institute](#) (ITS). The ITS is the premier opportunity for greenways and trails advocates, managers, planners, builders, and users, as well as environmental, tourism, development, and business interests, to come together to strengthen America's remarkable network of trails. With your help, American Trails will again host an inspirational, educational, technical, and fun-filled conference, with a lot of networking and sharing opportunities for the national and international trails community! The Symposium includes numerous educational sessions covering a broad range of trail issues and solutions.

This biennial Symposium is a gathering of trail enthusiasts and professionals representing all types of trail users. This is the only international gathering of all trail interests who believe their combined voices are the best way to strengthen trails for everyone. The Symposium includes numerous educational sessions covering a broad range of trail issues including nationally and internationally prominent presenters, informative and interactive workshops, a state-of-the-art Exhibit Hall, and the all new **Trails Training Institute** featuring the [Professional TrailBuilders Association \(PTBA\)](#) and other national trails training leaders.

Please visit the Symposium website at www.AmericanTrails.org/symposium to learn more about the Symposium.

Share Your Expertise With the Trails Community

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, "**Health, Heritage, & Happiness.**" Proposals can be for nationally or internationally focused presentations.

This year, American Trails is extremely excited to announce that the **Trails Training Institute** will run concurrently with the International Trails Symposium, in partnership with the *Professional TrailBuilders Association*, and will provide a full series of sessions and workshops focused on:

- technical trail building
- contracting
- design
- planning
- mapping and data gathering
- interpretation
- equipment and tool use
- maintenance techniques and methods
- volunteer engagement

Trails Training Institute sessions should feature solutions-based topics. We will choose proposals that are quantifiable educational opportunities. Actionable outcomes and tangible take-aways are required to be included in the Training Institute. All Training Institute sessions will offer CEU /Learning Credits, and will be submitted for approval through the *DOI Learn* training platform, a federal platform for training opportunities for federal employees.

Types of Presentations:

There are several types of presentations you can propose, each with a different time allotment depending on the depth of material you would like to incorporate (see paragraphs below for details):

Poster Presentations

- Posters will be displayed in a common area in the Exhibit Hall throughout the Symposium.
- 5 minute presentation opportunity to share your "story" and to meet with interested attendees at designated times during the Symposium.
- Presenters should attend the Symposium and are responsible for the shipping, construction, and assembling of their own posters on site. Shipping information will be provided to you upon acceptance.

ALL NEW TRAILx Sessions

- An entire track of compact sessions that explore today's hottest trail topics in highly engaging sessions.
- Modeled after the now famous TEDx sessions, our program committee will work closely with TRAILx presenters to craft exciting and provocative 20-30 minute sessions.
- Sessions will be video taped and made available to the public, greatly expanding your potential audience.

Trail Talks (a.k.a. *Breakfast with an Expert*)

- Presenters convene at a reserved and designated topic table and facilitate a 60 minute informal discussion and exchange of ideas during the Continental Breakfast provided each morning.
- No A/V is available at these informal conversations.

Concurrent Sessions

- 1.25 hour sessions (60 minutes of presentation and 15 minutes of questions).
- Perfect format for inclusion in the Trails Training Institute.

Core Tracks

- 3 hour sessions (including breaks).
- Explore subjects in greater depth than is possible in other sessions (ideal for the Trails Training Institute).
- If you'd like an outdoor field experience, consider pairing a Concurrent Session with an outdoor component in the form of a Core Track to maximize the learning potential.

Theme ~ Health, Heritage, & Happiness

Trails are the most intimate way to see nature's hidden treasures, get to destinations you want to be, reinvigorate community economies, and the easiest way to encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyles.

Health: Beyond the physical health that trails promote is a range of psychological benefits—reduced levels of stress, anxiety, anger, depression, increased alertness and even memory capacity. Trails do even more. They contribute significantly to the health and viability of entire communities. Trails promote economic health as well as environmental health, adding a critical feature that boosts real estate values, promotes clean transportation, and enhances the quality of tourism.

Heritage: Trails (such as the Erie Canalway Trail) connect us to our natural and cultural heritage. They lead us to revered places of beauty, history, and natural wonder. They beckon us to take pilgrimages to special places and return renewed and inspired.

Happiness: Trails make us happy. They bring friends, families, and communities together. They bring people of all walks of life, ages, and backgrounds outdoors. Trails are a refuge from our busy, work-driven world. People can relax, recalibrate, and feel restored along trails.

Preferred Topics for Presentations:

- * **Tourism and Trails** - explore how trails can and do support tourism, and vice versa
- * **Funding, Planning, and Management** - making trails happen
- * **Design and Interpretation** - making trails make happy people
- * **Building and Maintenance** - sustainable and innovative ways to dig in the dirt
- * **Advocacy and Promotion** - realize the value of trails in all people's experience
- * **Research and Data** - uncovering the sustainability, health, and economic benefits of our trails
- * **Breaking Down the Silos** - partnerships, cooperation, social equity, and new ideas benefitting the trails community

We strongly suggest that presenters address one or more of the topic areas above, as it relates to the theme. Presentations on other clearly-related topics certainly will be considered, but in general, preference will be given to those listed.

Preparing Your Education Session Proposal

Fill out the [Call for Presentations Proposal Form](#) completely! If you do not provide certain requested information, your proposal will not be processed. You may also download a [MS Word Proposal Form](#) if it is easier for you to share and gather information in that format. Please, submit your proposal via our online form. If you cannot do this for any reason, you may also email to the proposal contacts below.

Be sure to provide complete contact information for all speakers. We will use this to contact them as we prepare for the conference. All session correspondence will be sent directly to the lead speaker and all speaker correspondence will be sent to each individual speaker. Enter all session information as indicated by the required fields. If you leave a required field blank, you will be unable to submit the proposal.

GENERAL PROPOSAL TIPS

Session proposals that present a complete overview of a topic are the ideal type of proposal. Complete session proposals compete more successfully.

Sessions should provide a variety of perspectives. Do not propose a session in which three team members from the planning department talk about the same project. Provide comparisons from community to community, from different perspectives within the community, from different parts of the country, or from differing points of view. We're looking for multifaceted discussions. Understand that all speakers are giving a live presentation; make certain your speakers are good speakers.

Put effort into the proposal. The more thought you put into the proposal up front, the smoother the process of pulling your session together will be. Be certain to review and edit your proposal. It may be helpful to have someone else look it over to make certain your ideas are expressed clearly. Consider using elected and appointed officials or colleagues from allied professions, agencies, and departments as speakers.

The maximum number of speakers for sessions are:

- One for 20-30 minute TRAILx sessions
- Two for a 1.25 hour session
- Four for a 3 hour session

If your proposal is selected, we request that you remain as flexible as possible regarding your session's assigned day and time within the conference schedule.

Try something new! We encourage innovative and well-designed sessions. Please note that due to the large attendance at sessions meeting rooms will be set up to accommodate as many attendees as possible. We will limit attendance in sessions once the meeting rooms are at capacity.

Learning Credits / CEUs

Learning credits/CEUs will be available to attendees and are included in the registration fee. The Call for Presentations proposal form must be completely filled out for a session to be considered for learning credits/CEUs. Not all sessions that apply for CEUs will qualify.

In order to be eligible for learning credits/CEUs, presentations must run at least 30 minutes in length to be eligible for AICP CM credits, or at least 75 minutes in length for LA CES and NRPA CEU equivalency petition. The length of the session will determine the number of hours/credits given.

American Trails is an approved provider for the **American Planning Association (APA)** and can offer Certification Maintenance (CM) credits, as well as an LA CES approved provider for the **American Society**

of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Sessions are also eligible for CEU equivalency petition for park professionals with the **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)**. In order for sessions to qualify for these credits, attendees must fill out an evaluation survey after each session they attend, as well as have their learning credits form initialed by a room host following each session (surveys and forms will be provided to attendees by American Trails).

Dates and Deadlines

- Call for Proposals Opens: Thursday, March 15, 2018
- Call for Proposals Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. EST
- Conference Session Invitations: July 2018
- Final Symposium Schedule Released: Monday, Sept 3, 2018
- Session Materials Due: Monday, April 1, 2019
- Conference Dates: April 28-May 1, 2019

Submission Instructions

Please fill out the [Call for Presentations Proposal Form](#) online completely. You may also download a [MS Word Proposal Form](#) if it is easier for you to share and gather information in that format. Please, submit your proposal via our online form. If you cannot do this for any reason, you may also email to the proposal contacts below. Make sure that you have answered all questions thoroughly. Any submissions without all questions completed for Concurrent and Core Track Sessions will not be eligible for consideration for CEUs. (TRAILx Sessions, Poster Presentations, and Trail Talks are not eligible for CEUs and do not require that all questions be answered. Please read instructions carefully).

All presentation proposals must be received by email by **FRIDAY, June 1, 2018** to be eligible for review. If you have questions or need clarifications regarding your presentation proposal, contact Symposium Program Co-Chair, Mike Passo with American Trails, mikepasso@americantrails.org, 530-645-9683, or Rory Robinson, rory_robinson@nps.gov, 440-717-3776.

Please Note:

We anticipate over 180 session proposals for only 80-90 session slots. Due to the large number of proposals expected we will not be able to accept every proposal, and we may ask some presentation proposers with similar topics to combine and create a new Concurrent Session or a Core Track session.

We hope you understand that with these numbers, we are unable to cover expenses. **Accepted presenters are expected to pay the discounted Symposium registration fee of \$300, plus their travel and lodging expenses.** We work very hard to keep our registration fees low and we hope you realize that the interaction and opportunity to speak in front of your peers is of great value.

Please share this opportunity through your networks and through your social media!

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