

2016 Conference Agenda

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

- 9:00 a.m. Exhibitor Set-up
- 11:00 a.m. Conference Registration
Convention Center Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Welcoming Session, Exhibit Hall
- 1:45 p.m. Exhibit Break
- 2:00 p.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
City, County & Local Affairs
- 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
Session 1: Broadband Access & Computer Coding in Schools
Session 2: Arkansas Works/Rural Healthcare
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Social

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

- 8:30 a.m. Conference Registration
Exhibit Break
- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
Session 3: Resources for Rural Development
Session 4: Highway Funding: How Do We Get Where We
Are Going?
- 11:00 a.m. Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m. Arkansas Rural Development Commission Luncheon
Mike Preston, AEDC Executive Director
- 1:00 p.m. Exhibit Break
- 1:00 p.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
Rural Fire Study Committee
- 2:00 p.m. Session 5: Political Roundtable
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
Dinner on your own
- 8:00 p.m. Karaoke & Dancing

Thursday, May 26, 2016

- 8:30 a.m. Conference Registration
Exhibit Break
- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
Session 6: The Use of Drones in Agriculture
Session 7: Arkansas Economic Development Commission 101
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
Agriculture, Forestry & Economic Development
- 11:15 a.m. Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m. Governor's Luncheon & Awards Ceremony
Governor Asa Hutchinson

All Sessions will take place at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas and the John Q. Hammons Convention Center.

Conference Overview

The objective of the annual event is to provide participants with the opportunity to gain a working knowledge about a variety of programs and services that are available to assist our communities and their leaders with development, planning and revitalization efforts. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) Division of Rural Services and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission are committed to providing the most up to date information in a relaxed environment conducive to learning and sharing. If there is one goal of this annual event, it would be to provide our participants with the information and resources to help themselves.

Who Should Attend?

The Arkansas Rural Development Conference is designed for anyone interested in improving the quality of life in Arkansas' rural communities. Its target audience includes state legislators, mayors, county judges, rural fire fighters, local community leaders, and community development professionals who are interested in the future development of the State of Arkansas.

Arkansans with a genuine interest in a better quality of life and who are willing to work for change are strongly encouraged to attend.

Conference Fee Information

The conference fee is \$125 per attendee. Spouse/Child(ren) fees are \$100 per person. Exhibit space is \$300 and provides two complimentary registrations (any additional person must pay regular fee). The full attendance fee covers all conference materials as well as entertainment activities, receptions, breaks and meals. The registration form and all fees should be received by AEDC Rural Services by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 12th, 2016. Cancellations will be subject to a 50% charge.

Please make checks payable to:

ARDC

Attn: Rural Services

900 West Capitol Ave, Suite 400

Little Rock, AR 72201

RuralServices@ArkansasEDC.com

Hotel Information

Hotel accommodations start at \$109 per night and are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Rogers Embassy Suites as soon as possible by calling (479) 254-8400. Discounted room rates expire on Monday, May 2, 2016.

Remember to tell them you are with the Arkansas Rural Development Conference to receive the special block rate.

Embassy Suites NWA
3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway
Rogers, AR 72758
(479) 254-8400