

2017 Arkansas Rural Development Conference Agenda



Tuesday, May 23rd:

- 1:00 p.m. Welcoming Session
Craig O'Neil, THV11
- 1:45 p.m. Exhibit Break
- 2:00 p.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
State Agencies and Government Affairs
- 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
Session 1: Entrepreneurship and Accelerators
Session 2: Medical Marijuana
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Social
Oaklawn Park

Wednesday, May 24th

- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
Session 3: Tourism and Economic Development
Session 4: Funding Resources
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development
- 11:00 a.m. Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m. Rural Development Commission Luncheon
Kane Webb, Director of Arkansas Parks & Tourism
- 1:00 p.m. Exhibit Break
- 2:00 p.m. Session 5: Political Roundtable w/ Roby Brock
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
Dinner on your own
- 8:00 p.m. Karaoke & Dancing

Thursday, May 25th

- 9:30 a.m. Session 6: Site Selection & Competing for
New Business
Session 7: Government Efficiencies
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
City, County and Local Affairs
- 11:00 a.m. Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m. Governor's Luncheon & Awards Ceremony
- 1:30 p.m. Optional: ISO Training Session

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. The goal of this annual event is to provide our participants with the information and resources to help their communities.

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 \$400 and provides two complimentary registrations (any additional person must pay regular fee). The full attendance fee covers 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 Friday, May 12th, 2017. Cancellations will be subject to a 50% charge.

Please make checks payable to:

AEDC

Attn: Rural Services

900 West Capitol Ave, Suite 400

Little Rock, AR 72201

RuralServices@ArkansasEDC.com

Hotel Information

Hotel accommodations start at \$101 per night and are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Hot Springs Embassy Suites as soon as possible by calling (501) 321-4430. Discounted room rates expire on April 22nd.

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