

2015 CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. Exhibitor Set-up
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
Rural Fire Departments Study
- 11:00 a.m. Conference Registration
Convention Center Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Welcoming Session, Steve "Wild Man" Wilson
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- 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: Resources for Rural Fire Departments
Session 2: Rural Community Resources
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Event
Museum of Discovery

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

- 8:30 a.m. Conference Registration
Buffet Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
Session 3: Healthcare in Rural Arkansas
Session 4: Emergency Preparedness & Recovery
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
Agriculture, Forestry & Economic Development
- 11:00 a.m. Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m. ARDC Luncheon
Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture
- 1:00 p.m. Exhibit Break
- 2:00 p.m. Session 5: Political Roundtable
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
- 8:00 p.m. Karaoke & Dancing

Thursday, May 21, 2015

- 8:30 a.m. Conference Registration
Buffet Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Farm to School Meeting
Representative Mary Bentley
- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
Session 6: Workforce Readiness
Session 7: ADRS New Grant Programs
- 10:30 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
City, County & Local Affairs
- 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 Statehouse Convention Center/Marriott Hotel unless otherwise noted.

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 Department 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 \$75 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 ADRS by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7th, 2015. Cancellations will be subject to a 50% charge.

Please make checks payable to:

ARDC
101 East Capitol, Suite 202
Little Rock, AR 72201
Alex.Johnston@Arkansas.gov

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel accommodations start at \$89 per night are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Marriott Hotel as soon as possible by calling 1-877-759-6290. Discounted room rates expire on Thursday, May 7th, 2015.

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

Little Rock Marriott Hotel
Three Statehouse Plaza
Little Rock, AR 72201
1-877-759-6290