

Most conventions are dull and forgettable.
This is NOT one of those conventions.



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION
GET IT DONE: TURNING PASSION INTO ACTION
————— IWLA-GETITDONE.ORG —————



THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA'S 2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION | THEME: GET IT DONE: TURNING PASSION INTO ACTION | IN BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA. AT THE HILTON MSP AIRPORT
EVENTS INCLUDE: WELCOME RECEPTION | SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE | INNOVATION FAIR | PARADE OF STATES | YOUTH CONVENTION | VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CEREMONY & BANQUET | NATIONAL ART SHOW
CONSERVATION LUNCHEON | GREEN SUMMER DAY CAMP | GREEN CREW SUMMIT | AWARD-WINNING FOOD & ACCOMMODATIONS | FAMILY-FRIENDLY ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

REGISTER TODAY! JULY 16-18 IWLA-GETITDONE.ORG





IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2026 National Convention | JULY 16-18



Camille Morton

Please join us at the League's 2025 convention in Bloomington, MN, July 16-18! Everyone is invited.

Welcome to Minnesota—where water shapes our landscape, and people shape what comes next.

This is a place of extraordinary beauty—lakes, rivers, prairies, and forests—but also a place where conservation is active, visible, and shared. You'll experience that here—through meaningful sessions, hands-on activities, and the kind of moments that turn connection into collaboration. This year's Convention is grounded in a simple but powerful idea: Get it Done—Turning Passion into Action.

Because passion alone isn't enough. What matters is what we build together—across chapters, across generations, across the country.

This is where the League shows up—fully. And that only happens when our chapters are in the room.

Your presence matters. Your chapter's voice matters. The ideas you bring and the relationships you build here will shape what comes next for conservation leadership nationwide.

Minnesota is ready. Now let's get it done. Register and be part of it.

Camille Morton

National Director, Minnesota Division, Minnesota Host Committee

Convention Snapshot:

Green Crew™ Summit **Wednesday July 15th**

Learn how to design, launch, and grow a Green Crew™—sharing tools, stories, and strategies from an award-winning, nationally recognized program.

Youth Convention **Thursday- Saturday, July 16 - 18**

A youth-led, two-day experience where kids of all ages explore nature, insects, wildlife, trees, and hands-on science with air, water, and soil.

Welcome Reception & Silent Auction **Thursday, 5:30 - 10pm**

Several Chapters/Divisions are celebrating 100 Years of Service— and we're throwing a Birthday Party! Plus a Silent Auction and Raffle with amazing prizes!

Conservation Issues Forum **Friday, 3:15pm**

A newly designed session intended to strengthen the quality, clarity, and fairness of the League's resolutions process by ensuring that all delegates have a shared understanding of the underlying conservation issues prior to formal deliberation and voting.

Parade of States **Friday 7pm**

Everyone's favorite event is back and you won't want to miss what each state has in store. Stop by each room to experience food, music, culture and more!

Innovation Fair **Saturday, 9am - 3pm**

Stroll through the aisles and marvel at the amazing work our members are doing around the country. It's your chance to give and get advice!

Conservation Luncheon **Saturday 12pm - 1:30pm**

Be inspired and engaged with a fascinating discussion about *Conservation, Food, and Public Lands: Building Partnerships for the Future*

Young Ikes Panel on Public Lands **Saturday 2pm - 3pm**

Protecting public lands, including the Boundary Waters, and strengthening stewardship for future generations, moderated by Griffith Pugh

Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony and Banquet **Saturday, 6:30pm**

Let's show our appreciation for the many volunteers that give their time, energy and creativity to the Izaak Walton League of America!

Kouba Gallery National Wildlife Art Show **On Exhibit all Week**

Artists from around the country exhibit nature-themed artwork at the Confluence Gallery in partnership with The Kouba Gallery and ArtistryMN.



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Travel and Lodging

Hilton Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, Bloomington, MN 3800 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN 55425

The Hilton Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport is more than just a host—it's a partner in delivering a transformational conference experience. With a focus on sustainability, accessibility, and inclusivity, this venue exemplifies the IWLA mission and provides the perfect setting for attendees to unite, engage, and **Get It Done!**

Accessibility

Central Location: Conveniently located near the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Mall of America, with complimentary shuttles available for attendees.

Inclusive Facilities: Fully ADA-compliant spaces ensure that all attendees can navigate and participate comfortably.

Affordable Accommodations: Special room rates at \$179 per night, available for attendees during the conference and associated events before and after the official dates.

Parking Included: Free parking for all conference attendees, reducing costs and logistical barriers.

Sustainability

Local Sourcing Commitment: Partnering with local farmers to create sustainable and regionally inspired menus, reducing food miles and supporting community agriculture.

Green Practices Audit: A pre-conference sustainability audit will be conducted to identify and implement upgrades, including waste reduction and energy efficiency improvements.

Paper-Free Focus: The integration of a mobile app for registration and event management minimizes paper waste and enhances attendee engagement.

Diversity

Flexible Spaces: The venue accommodates up to 300 attendees in its elegant Minnesota Valley Ballroom, with additional breakout rooms for workshops and smaller sessions.

Extended Stay Options: Discounted room rates are available for extended stays, encouraging participation in associated events before and after the conference.

Supportive Environment: A proven track record of hosting inclusive events, reflecting the diverse goals of the IWLA community.

Value and Capacity

Conference Package: All meeting and conference rooms are included in the booking price, providing significant cost savings and flexibility. Room for Growth: With a maximum capacity of 300 attendees, the venue ensures that our event will be both impactful and manageable.

Need to talk to a person who know all about our convention? Contact:

Julia Mensing, CMP, MBA | Catering Sales Manager

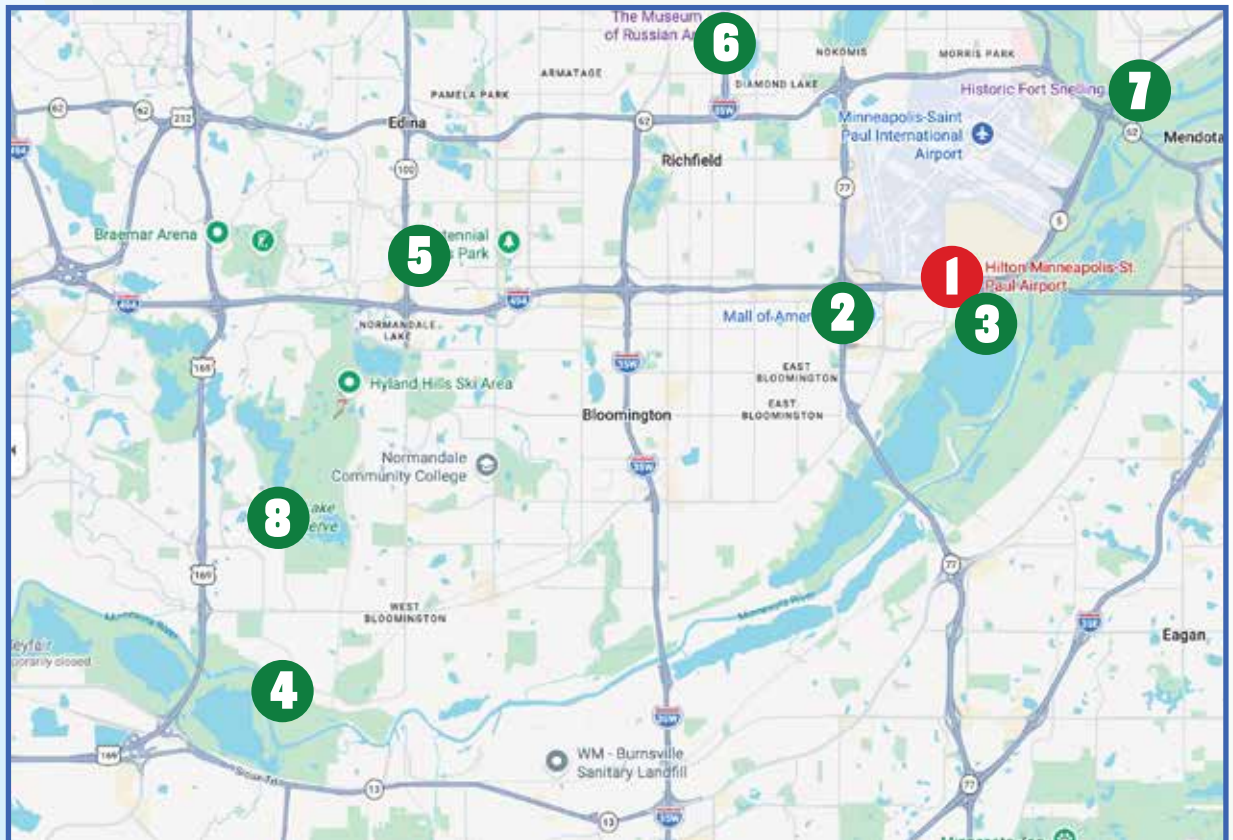
Hilton-Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Hotel

p. (952) 854-2100 | d. (952) 548-0979

e. juliamensing@remingtonhotels.com



The Lay of the Land



1 Hilton Minneapolis St. Paul Airport

This is home base— the location of the 2026 National Convention. Close to everything, far from ordinary.
3800 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN 55425
Phone: (952) 854-2100
www.hilton.com/minneapolis-st-paul-airport

2 Mall of America

Less than a mile away is Minnesota's famous 4-story Mall of America. If you love to shop, be sure to stop!
60 E Broadway, Bloomington, MN 55425
Phone: (952) 883-8800
www.mallofamerica.com

3 Confluence Gallery

Artwork with a focus on nature, ecology, conservation, and the beauty of the Minnesota River Valley.
Bass Ponds Trailhead, Bloomington, MN 55425
www.fws.gov/story/minnesota-valley-nwr-confluence-gallery

4 Izaak Walton League Minnesota Valley Chapter House

Headquarters for the Green Crew, this is where many youth activities will take place throughout the week of the Convention. There are designated shuttles that will bring you there and back! Check the App for the schedule!
6601 Auto Club Road, Bloomington, MN 55427
Phone: (952) 944-1423
www.iwlamnvalley.org

5 Centennial Lakes Park

Beautifully manicured gardens, walking paths, sculpture garden and paddle boats. What's not to love?
7499 France Ave S, Edina, MN 55435
Phone: (952) 833-9580
www.centenniallakes.com/our-community/centennial-lakes-park/

6 Museum of Russian Art

An old church renovated into a glorious collection of art from Russia.
5500 Stevens Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55419
Phone: (612) 821-9045
www.tmor.org

7 Historic Fort Snelling

A former military fortification and National Historic Landmark on the bluffs overlooking the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers.
200 Tower Ave, St Paul, MN 55111
Phone: (612) 726-1171
www.mnhs.org/fortsnelling

8 Hyland Lake Park Reserve

Prairie landscape with trails, an elaborate playground, picnic spots & programs at a nature center.
10145 Bush Lake Rd, Bloomington, MN 55438
Phone: (763) 694-7687
www.threeriversparks.org/HylandLakeParkReserve

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Associated Activities

Unless otherwise noted all associated activities are on Thursday, July 15th. So many ways to jump in, so little time. Reserve your spots today!

FISHING



FIN-TASTIC FISHING ON MILLE LACS

An unforgettable morning on one of Minnesota's legendary fishing lakes where you'll cast for trophy walleye while learning about the lake's ecology and conservation.

15 AVAILABLE SPOTS



ROD & REEL RENDEZVOUS:

Participants will enjoy a relaxed day of bank fishing while learning about the environmental and recreational value of rough fish such as carp, buffalo, and gar.

15 AVAILABLE SPOTS



OLD-FASHIONED FISHING FEST WITH WIL DILG

From a boat on the Mississippi you'll fish with the same traditional gear Wil Dilg would have used, targeting summer species like walleye, sauger, catfish, and bass.

15 AVAILABLE SPOTS

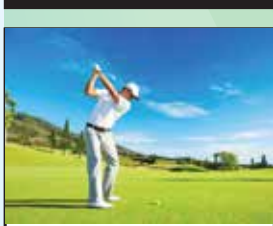
OUTDOORS



ANIMAL DEEP-DIVE: BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MINNESOTA ZOO

Discover the Minnesota Zoo as both a beloved Minnesota institution and a national leader in wildlife conservation through an exclusive, family-friendly experience.

30 AVAILABLE SPOTS



SWING & SUSTAIN AT BAKER NATIONAL

Join us for a round of golf that blends challenging play with sustainable practices, showcasing how golf and conservation can thoughtfully coexist.

15 AVAILABLE SPOTS



MARKSMAN FIELD DAY AT HORSE & HUNT CLUB

Experience premier outdoor recreation at the Minnesota Horse & Hunt Club, one of the nation's finest shooting venues.

15 AVAILABLE SPOTS

OUTDOORS



CYCLING ADVENTURE: RIVER BOTTOM RIDE

Embark on a thrilling 14-mile round-trip ride along Bloomington's breathtaking Minnesota River Bottom trail.

15 AVAILABLE SPOTS



WATER WONDERLAND: KAYAKING THE MINNESOTA RIVER

Led by experienced paddlers, this outing showcases the river's natural beauty, diverse wildlife, and rich conservation history.

15 AVAILABLE SPOTS



FROM PASSION TO PROFESSION

An immersive experience for Green Crew leaders and youth ages 14-25 —bridging Wednesday's Summit with hands-on, real-world conservation pathways.

30 AVAILABLE SPOTS

SERVICE



ECUMENICAL SERVICE: BREAD OF LIFE, WATER OF EARTH

Gather outdoors in a setting of natural beauty for an ecumenical service celebrating our shared spiritual connection to the earth.

30 AVAILABLE SPOTS



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE DIRT: SUNDAY SERVICE PROJECTS

Roll up your sleeves and join IWLA members in hands-on service across our metro chapters.

30 AVAILABLE SPOTS



ROOTS & RECIPROCITY: TEK GATHERING

Join Indigenous leaders and IWLA members for an immersive dialogue on Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

15 AVAILABLE SPOTS

ARTS



KOUBA GALLERY NATIONAL ART SHOW

Celebrate world renowned artists at the Kouba Gallery Art Show in the stunning Confluence Gallery at the Bloomington Wildlife Refuge.

30 AVAILABLE SPOTS



NATURAL PIGMENTS ON PAPER

Sip tea and unleash your creativity at this participatory workshop in the Kouba Gallery.

15 AVAILABLE SPOTS



LET THE MUSIC FLOW: SONGS ON THE RIVERBANK

Close the day with music, fellowship, and the beauty of the Minnesota River.

30 AVAILABLE SPOTS

All Thursday events will return guests back to the Convention Center by 4:00pm

Go to iwla-getitdone.org and reserve your spot today! Attendance for each event is limited!





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While You're Here...

Why not make it a family vacation? Minnesota is loaded with amazing things to do, see and experience. Whether you're into sports, music, art, adventure, shopping, animals, science, beer, history, nature, architecture, coffee, or night life – there's something for you to enjoy:



MINNESOTA YACHT CLUB FESTIVAL: JULY 17-19

This annual music festival brings fans together for three days of performances across two stages. Enjoy live music from The Lumineers, Matchbox 20, The Strokes, Cage the Elephant, Lord Huron, Semisonic and many more.



EAT A JUCY LUCY AT MATT'S BAR

Matt's Bar & Grill, now a Minneapolis landmark, began in 1954 as a neighborhood burger joint. Shortly after opening, founder Matt Bristol explains how the "Jucy Lucy" was created when a local customer asked for two hamburger patties with a slice of cheese in the middle.



THE LARGEST SHOPPING EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

We call it the Mall of America for a reason! Located just a few miles away from the 2026 National Convention is the largest shopping and entertainment complex in the United States and the Western Hemisphere.



SALUTE A NATIONAL LANDMARK: HISTORIC FORT SNELLING

Historic Fort Snelling is an important landmark located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, serving as a historic 1820s military post and National Historic Landmark.



THE FAMOUS CHERRY SPOON BRIDGE AT THE WALKER SCULPTURE GARDEN

It's one of the largest urban sculpture gardens in the country, with 40 permanent art installations. The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden is free, open to the public, and is open from 6 am to 12 midnight every day.



HIT A HOME RUN AT TARGET FIELD

Spectacular and intimate ... breathtaking views ... dazzling amenities ... and a staggering array of special features! Those are just a few things you can find in your experience at Target Field, the new world class home of Twins Territory.



MINNEHAHA FALLS

One of the Twin Cities' most beloved features is a striking, wilderness waterfall in an urban setting. Overlooking the Mississippi River, Minnehaha Park is one of Minneapolis' oldest and most popular parks!



LOSE YOURSELF IN A WORLD OF NATURAL BEAUTY

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is a 1,200-acre public garden best known for its beautiful display gardens, nationally recognized tree collections, protected natural areas and research activity.



WHERE DOVES CRY IN PURPLE RAIN

Paisley Park is the sanctuary where Prince would create, record, and perform his legendary music. It is now an immersive look into Prince's life where you can experience the rich history of the greatness created within these walls.



CENTENNIAL LAKES PARK

A 24-acre park featuring more than 1.5 miles of paved pathways meandering around a 10-acre lake interspersed with landscaped grounds, formal and informal seating areas, swinging benches and fountains. In addition, the park features a miniature golf course, lawn bowling and paddleboats.



THE GOLD MEDAL FLOUR CAPITOL OF THE WORLD

This stretch of the upper Mississippi River includes natural, historical, recreational, cultural, scenic, scientific, and economic resources of national significance. Be sure not to miss the Stone Arch Bridge, Mill City Museum, the "Endless Bridge" at the Guthrie Theater and the weekend Farmer's Market!



And this is just a sample! To see all the opportunities you and your family can enjoy scan the QR Code and sign up for a few amazing excursions you'll never forget!



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Schedule

Thursday

- 7:30-8:30 AM** – Breakfast
- 8:30 AM-4:00 PM** – Executive Board Meeting
- 8:30 AM-12:00 PM** – Endowment Board Meeting
- 12:00-1:30 PM** – Joint Luncheon
- 1:30-4:00 PM** – Committee Meetings / Free Time
- 9:00 AM-5:00 PM** – Registration and Credentialing
- 5:00-5:30** – Youth Convention Welcome
- 5:30-10:00 PM** – Welcome Centennial Birthday Party
Silent Auction, Raffle, Food, Live Music, Party Games and Prizes

Friday

- 7:30-8:30 AM** – Breakfast
- 8:00 AM** – Delegate Orientation Workshop
- 9:00 AM-5:00 PM** – Registration
- 9:00-11:00 AM** – Credentialing
- 9:00-9:30 AM** – Opening Ceremony/Community Welcome
 - Presentation of the Colors - **Venture Crew 3111**
 - Welcome – **Tim Busse, Mayor of Bloomington**
- 9:45-10:30 AM** – Officer Reports
- 10:45-11:50 AM** – Executive Director Report
- 10:30-10:45 AM** – Break (Snacks served)
- 11:00-11:30 PM** – Plenary, TBD
- 11:30-11:45 AM** – Official Business
- 12:00-2:00 PM** – Awards Luncheon
- 2:00-3:00 PM** – Official Business
- 3:00-3:15 PM** – Break (Snacks served)
- 3:15-4:30 PM** – Conservation Issues Session (Proposed)
- 5:00-6:30 PM** – Sponsor Reception
- 7:00 PM** – Parade of States

Saturday

- 7:30-8:30 AM** – Breakfast
 - 9:00-9:20 AM** – Innovation Fair Lightning Round Presentations (Proposed)
 - 9:00-9:45 AM** – Endowment Meeting
 - 9:45-10:00 AM** – Break (Snacks served / Innovation Fair visits encouraged)
 - 10:00-11:45 AM** – Board of Directors Meeting
 - 12:00-1:30 PM** Conservation Luncheon
Conservation, Food, and Public Lands: Building Partnerships for the Future
 - **Mitch Hunter** Co-Director, Forever Green Initiative, University of Minnesota
 - **Mark Ritchie** Founder, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Former Minnesota Secretary of State
 - **Keynote Speaker, Carmen Fernholz** Founder, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
 - 2:00-3:00 PM** – Public Lands Leadership Forum (Proposed) Immediately following the keynote.
“Protecting public lands, including the Boundary Waters, and strengthening stewardship for future generations.”
Moderator: Griff Pugh, Young IKE Podcast, Vice President, Minnesota Valley Chapter IWLA
Panelists (Proposed)
 - **Becky Rom** – National Chair, Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters
 - **Mike Dombeck** – Former director of the Bureau of Land Management and 14th Chief of the United States Forest Service
 - **Hal Herring** – Award-winning outdoor journalist
 - 3:00-3:15 PM** – Break (Snacks served)
 - 3:15-4:30 PM** – Resolutions and Voting
 - 4:30-5:00 PM** – New Business
 - 6:30 PM** – Volunteer Appreciation Banquet
 - Officer and Executive Board Installation
 - Youth Convention Report
- Banquet Keynote Speaker: **Hannah Barisonzi, Founder, Green Crew™**
“Bridging Environmentalism and Conservationism for a New Generation of Leadership.”

The Convention is a two-day event (Friday and Saturday). The Welcome Birthday Party and Silent Auction will be Thursday evening prior to the convention start.

This schedule is subject to change. Check the 2026 Official App for the most up-to-date schedule!

**GET
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The Speakers



U.S. Senator Tina Smith (INVITED)

Her collaborative approach to leadership has led her to pass over 70 bills and provisions into law that have benefited working families, farmers, veterans, businesses and Tribal communities. Her bipartisan record sets her apart as a leader with a knack for finding solutions to problems that members from both parties can get behind. This work has made health care more affordable and accessible, expanded broadband service across the state and boosted the efforts of schools and teachers to prepare students for in-demand careers.



Griffith Pugh

Host, The Young IKE Podcast, Vice President, Minnesota Valley Chapter IWLA, 2024 Outdoor America Future Award Recipient

Griffith Pugh is the founder and host of The Young Ike, a podcast and community dialogue project exploring today's complex environmental challenges through conversation. Griffith studies political science at Haverford College. Alongside his academic work, he has built experience in journalism and social entrepreneurship.



Hannah Barisonzi

Founder, Green Crew™

Hannah Barisonzi is a youth conservation leader and co-founder of The Green Crew™, a nationally recognized, youth-led environmental service program based in Minnesota. Through The Green Crew™, she has helped mobilize young people to lead hands-on conservation, scientific research, and community-based environmental initiatives.



Mark Ritchie

Former Minnesota secretary of state

Mark Ritchie was elected Minnesota's secretary of state in the November 2006 general election. He was supported by the Secretary of State Project, a progressive organization formed in response to the 2000 presidential election. In 2008, Ritchie presided over the most publicly scrutinized recount in the history of the United States Senate, the election contest of Al Franken and Norm Coleman. The Minnesota Supreme Court unanimously supported the conclusions of the recount.



Becky Rom

National Chair, Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters

Becky Rom, a retired attorney, has worked in the outdoors for over 30 years and learned at an early age the importance of this wild country. She first worked on wilderness preservation when she was a seventh-grader, engaging in public debates on the merits of the bill that became the Wilderness Act. Becky has worked as a citizen activist on wilderness preservation throughout the United States but she continues to be drawn back home to the Boundary Waters.



Mike Dombeck

**Former director of the Bureau of Land Management
14th Chief of the United States Forest Service**

Michael Dombeck is a conservationist, educator, scientist, and outdoorsman. He served as director of the Bureau of Land Management from 1994 to 1997 and was the 14th Chief of the United States Forest Service from 1997 to 2001. He also served as UW System Fellow and Professor of Global Conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point from 2001 to 2010. Mike was also the executive director of the David Smith Post-Doctoral Conservation Research Fellowship from 2005 to 2022.



Hal Herring (INVITED)

Award-winning outdoor journalist

Hal Herring is an award-winning journalist and contributing editor at Field and Stream magazine. He has written for publications that range from the Atlantic Monthly and the Economist to Creative Nonfiction and Orion, and specializes in deeply reported, long-form journalism stories and essays. For the past two years, Hal has been the host of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Podcast and Blast, with over 70 episodes published so far.



Carmen Fernholz

Founder, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture

Carmen and Sally Fernholz who live on their farm near Madison, Minnesota have recently completed the process of transferring ownership of the land to their four children through a legal structured process known as a Family Limited Partnership. They have also turned over the day to day operations to a young family who live nearby. Carmen continues to stay active with collaborative research with the University of Minnesota and mentoring new organic farmers."



Mitch Hunter (INVITED)

**Co-Director, Forever Green Initiative
University of Minnesota**

Mitch Hunter is the Co-Director of the Forever Green Initiative at the University of Minnesota and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics. He earned his B.S. in Government from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Agronomy from Penn State. He oversees research, development, and commercialization efforts for Forever Green's portfolio of over 15 winter-hardy annual and perennial crops.



Tim Busse

**Mayor of Bloomington
Board Member, Minnesota Valley Chapter IWLA**

Mayor of Bloomington and former City Councilmember (2011-2019), Tim Busse is a collaborative leader advancing practical, community-driven sustainability. He has helped guide Bloomington's leadership in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program, supporting progress in energy efficiency, climate resilience, and conservation. A skilled communicator and consensus builder, he brings together public, private, and community partners to turn environmental priorities into action.

Speakers are subject to change. Check the 2026 Official App for the most up-to-date schedule!



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Not-to-Miss Youth Events

Do you love being outdoors, exploring new places, and discovering how nature works? Ready for an adventure? The 2026 National Convention is designed to be family-friendly, with a wide range of hands-on activities, outdoor experiences, and learning opportunities for youth of all ages—including the Youth Convention and many other youth-focused events throughout the week. Youth and youth volunteers can register free, including all meals, because investing in the next generation is how we Get It Done.

AGES 5-8
THURS-SAT, JULY 16 - 18




Designed specifically for youth ages 5-8, ELF is led by parents who are **certified early childhood educators with training in outdoor education**. Held concurrently with the Youth Convention, ELF offers guided time in nature where children explore insects, learn about trees and plants, and engage in hands-on activities. The program is designed to nurture curiosity, confidence, and a lasting appreciation for the natural world.

AGES 8-18
JULY 13-15, BEFORE THE CONVENTION






The Green Summer Day Camp is a supervised, drop-in daytime program for youth ages 8-18, offered Monday through Wednesday prior to the National Convention. Participants engage in age-appropriate outdoor ethics education, water-quality science, wildlife learning and tracking, and guided conservation projects, supported by trained youth leaders, advisors, and volunteers. The program is designed to be safe, flexible, and enriching—no overnight stay required.

AGES 14-21
WEDNESDAY JULY 15




The **Green Crew™ Summit** is a one-day gathering for current and future youth leaders ages 14-21. This is where leaders learn from one another how to design, launch, and grow a Green Crew™—sharing tools, stories, and strategies from an award-winning, nationally recognized youth conservation and leadership program, while helping lay the groundwork for a growing national movement.

AGES 8-18
THURS-SAT, JULY 16 - 18

The **2026 Youth Convention** is a youth-led, two-day experience where youth of all ages explore nature, insects, wildlife, trees, and hands-on science with air, water, and soil. Days are filled with games, experiments, and outdoor discovery, with time each evening to reunite with grown-ups—plus an optional overnight camping experience for those who want to extend the adventure.



Learn about all the activities & events for kids happening during the 2026 National Convention!

Scan the QR Code and sign up for the 2026 Youth Convention or the Green Summer Day Camp!
Have questions? Contact Joseph at 612.518.5536 or jbarisonzi@iwlamnvalley.org



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2026 Youth Convention

In conjunction with the National Convention, kids of all ages are encouraged to join the 2026 Youth Convention. The 2026 Youth Convention will engage and inspire the next generation of conservation leaders through experiential learning, environmental ethics, and hands-on service. Modeled on the award-winning Green Summer program, this event integrates youth leadership, science, and stewardship into the National Convention week – preparing participants to lead similar programs across the country.

The official Youth Convention runs on Thursday night through Saturday evening. Youth-oriented programming happens the full week, offering optional Add-On Days (Monday–Thursday). Most activities take place on the scenic grounds of the Minnesota Valley Chapter and within the adjacent Bloomington Wildlife Refuge – providing an immersive, hands-on environment for discovery and leadership.



General Participants Ages 8-14

The Youth Convention is intentionally youth-designed, youth-led, and youth-powered – a defining characteristic that sets it apart from other national programs. All aspects of planning and implementation are coordinated by youth and young adults under the age of 25.

Junior Counselor Ages 14-17

JC help to lead programs and activities. Paired with a trained and experience adult counselor, JCs will receive their own remote and online training prior to the convention. This is a great experience for our older youth to continue their participation in the Youth Convention with increased responsibility and opportunities.

Adult Counselor Ages 18+

Adult Counselors will include trained Green Crew™ Counselors, Green Summer Counselors and those with experience in a camp setting. Counselors will be trained and credentialed. They will provide leadership (with the support of a JC) of groups of youth in program, activities and conservation service projects.

Adult Advisor Ages 18+

Formerly Chaperones, adult advisors provide logistic and program support to the Counselors. Adult Advisors will receive orientation prior to the convention, and will be assigned a specific support role. Register as a Volunteer for the Convention.

Reserve Your Spot for Youth Activities Here:





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2026 Youth Convention Schedule

Thursday

- 4:30 PM** – Informal Meet, Confirm Paperwork
- 4:45 PM** – Official Welcome and Overview
Welcome, Name Game, Agenda Overview
- 5:00 PM** – Join Crews
- 5:00-5:30 PM** – Forming & Organizing:
Meet Counselors, Review the Agendas and Expectations
- 5:30-6:15 PM** – Make T-Shirts
- 6:15 PM** – Join the Welcome Party

Friday

- 8:45 AM** – Hotel Pickup
- 9:10 AM** – Arrive and put away stuff
- 9:20-30 AM** – Songs, Welcome
- 9:30- 10:15 AM** – Session I
– Crew A/C: Leave No Trace (Principles 1-3)
– Crew B/D: Water Science: Watershed
- 10:15-10:30 AM** – Mid Morning Snack
- 10:30-11:15 AM** – Session 2
– Crew A/C: Water Science: Watershed
– Crew B/D: Leave No Trace Game (Principles 1-3)
- 11:30-12:15 PM** – Lunch & Games
- 12:30-12:45 PM** – Project Introductions/Safety Review
Options: Trail Restoration, Mycology,
River Walk, Buckthorn Removal, BioChar Filter,
Elm Tree Field Report

- 12:45-12:55 PM** – Project Selection
- 1:00-2:30 PM** – Conservation Project
Work/Safety Review
- 2:30-2:45 PM** – Afternoon Break
- 3:00-4:15 PM** – Conservation Project
Continues
- 4:15-4:30 PM** – Clean up
- 4:30 PM** – Report Out
- 4:30 PM** – Depart for Hotel
- 4:30-4:45 PM** – Campout Overview
- 4:45-5:30 PM** – Set up campsite
- 5:00-5:45 PM** – Prepare Dinner
- 5:45-6:20 PM** – Dinner
- 6:20-6:45 PM** – Clean up
- 6:45-7:30 PM** – Skit Prep Time
- 7:30 PM** – Camp Fire Walk
- 7:45-8:30 PM** – Camp Fire
- 8:30 PM** – To Tents
- 8:45 PM** – Late Night Depart for Hotel
- 9:00-9:45 PM** – FireFly and Night Hike
- 10:00 PM** – Lights Out!

Saturday

- 7:00 AM** – Wake up

- 7:00-7:45 AM** – Prepare Breakfast
- 7:45-8:30 AM** – Breakfast
- 8:30-9:00 AM** – Clean up and Break Camp
- 9:10 AM** – Arrive and put away stuff
- 9:20 AM** – Gathering
- 9:20 AM** – Songs, Welcome
- 9:30- 10:15 AM** – Session I
– Crew A/C: Leave No Trace (Principles 4-7)
– Crew B/D: Water Science: Downstream Contamination
- 10:15-10:30 AM** – Mid Morning Snack
- 10:30-11:15 AM** – Session 2
– Crew A/C: Water Science: Downstream Contamination
– Crew B/D: Leave No Trace Game (Principles 4-7)
- 11:30-12:15 PM** – Lunch & Games
- 12:15-12:25 PM** – Project Reintroduction Introductions
Options: Trail Restoration, Mycology, River Walk,
Buckthorn Removal, BioChar Filter, Elm Tree Field Report
- 12:25-12:35 PM** – Project Selection
- 12:30-2:00 PM** – Conservation Project Work (Safety Review)
- 2:00-2:15 PM** – Afternoon Break
- 2:15-2:30 PM** – Introduction to the Presentation Opportunity
- 2:30-3:00 PM** – Crew Create Presentations
- 3:00-3:30 PM** – Practice Presentation
- 3:30 PM** – Leave for Hotel
- 4:00 PM** – Arrive at Hotel
- 6:50 PM** – Youth Convention Presentation



This schedule is subject to change. Check the 2026 Official App for the most up-to-date schedule!



IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2026 National Convention | JULY 16-18

Registration

To make the National Convention welcoming and affordable for everyone, we're excited to offer simple, bundled pricing. One price includes all official convention events, chef-prepared breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, plus all-day snacks and beverages—so you can focus on connecting, learning, and getting things done.

DELEGATES/ALTERNATE	GUESTS	FIRST TIME ATTENDEES	YOUTH
All inclusive access to chef-prepared meals and dining, all events and activities, all banquets, seminars and ceremonies.	All inclusive access to chef-prepared meals and dining, all events and activities, all banquets, seminars and ceremonies.	All inclusive access for delegates and alternates from chapters that did not have a delegate attend in 2025.	All inclusive access for youth convention participants, volunteers, counselors and advisors.
ALL-ACCESS COST: \$250 <small>Does not include travel and lodging</small>	ALL-ACCESS COST: \$100 <small>Does not include travel and lodging</small>	ALL-ACCESS COST: FREE <small>Does not include travel and lodging</small>	ALL-ACCESS COST: FREE <small>Does not include travel and lodging</small>

Reserve Your Spot:

Register for the 2026 Izaak Walton League of America 2026 National Convention in Bloomington, Minnesota. You and your entire family are invited to attend!



GET IT DONE! *Turning Passion Into Action!*

Book Your Room:

Be one of the first 75 members to sign up for the convention and you could win a FREE night at the award-winning Hilton Mpls-St. Paul Airport hotel!




Choose Your Activities:

Browse the events that are planned for the Convention and reserve your spot! Got questions? Contact Joseph: jbarisonzi@iwlamnvalley.org or 612.518.5536






IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2026 National Convention | JULY 16-18

We Need Your Help!

Would you like to play a bigger role in the 2026 Convention? We're looking for a few things that will help to make the convention even better. If you have something to contribute, please scan the QR Code and send us your best!

Call For Artists

We're launching the first-ever **National Art Exhibition**, a juried show exploring conservation, wildlife, and nature, hosted at the Confluence Gallery. If you're an artist (or if you know an artist), please consider entering your work. It will be on display before, during and after the convention.



Enter your artwork



Call For Projects

If you're leading a project that's making a difference locally—and could work in other communities—we want to see it. The **Innovation Fair** is your chance to share what's working and invite others to join you. Let's Get It Done. Reserve your table today.



Submit Your Project!



Call For Items

One of the most lively and entertaining parts of the National Convention is the **Silent Auction and Raffle**. This year, we're looking for items that are fun, unique, and irresistible. Think about things like outdoor gear, artwork or handmade items, guided trips or experiences, books or collectibles, local specialties from your region, conservation-themed items, creative experiences you can't buy in a store. If it's something that would make people smile and say "I want that," we'll take it!

Donate an Item



Call For Volunteers

We are seeking, motivated, outgoing volunteers for a variety of positions before, during and after the National Convention. **Apply today at www.iwla-getitdone.org/volunteer.**



Sign Up to Volunteer





IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2026 National Convention | JULY 16-18

Download the Official 2026 Convention App

We're changing with the times! To make your 2026 Convention Experience as easy, fun and memorable as possible, this year we are introducing the official 2026 Convention App. This is the place to go to plan your entire visit, sign up for activities, research speakers and events, share a ride, manage your hotel booking, volunteer, get news and updates, connect with other members and build community! It's free, fast and fun!



STEP 1
Create an account

STEP 2
Download the App

STEP 3
Enter event code
IWLA-GETITDONE!

STEP 4
Customize your 2026
National Convention
Experience





IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2026 National Convention | JULY 16-18

Convention Contacts

Got an issue? Have a question? These are the people you can call for any assistance you might need:

Hilton Hotel/Food:

Julia Dudeck
CMP, MBA | Catering Sales Manager
p. (952) 854-2100 | d. (952) 548-0979
e. juliadudeck@remingtonhotels.com

Programming, Logistics, Operations:

Joseph Barisonzi
First VP and Co-chair of the Host Committee
p. 612.518.5536
e. jbarisonzi@iwlamnvalley.org

Advertising, Marketing, Design:

Jim Davis
Chair of the Communications Committee
p. 612.239.4303
e. jim@mindsparkcreative.com

Green Crew, Youth Convention:

Sophia Peterson
MN Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America
Founder, Green Crew
p. 612.239.4303
e. sbpeterson2260@gmail.com

Finance, Accounting & Payments:

Barb Hansen
Chair, Admin & Finance Committee and
Co-Chair of the Host Committee
p. 952.994.3411
e. barbrhanson@iwlamnvalley.org

The Young Ike Podcast:

Griffith Pugh
Chair of the Conservation Committee
p. 612.747.4480
e. griffith.h.pugh@gmail.com

Division, Chapter, Director Relations:

Camille Morton
National Director
e. camille.morton.email@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator:

Riku Desia
Host Committee Member
p. (763) 234-5514
e. rikudesai@gmail.com

National Contacts:

Jared Mott
Executive Director
p. 301-548-0150 x224
e. jmott@iwla.org

Mary Rubin
Director of Member Programs
p. 301-548-0150 x213
e. maryr@iwla.org

Earl Hower
Director of Chapter Relations
p. 301-548-0150 x216
e. ehower@iwla.org

Michael Reinemer
Editor, Outdoor America and Communications Director
p. 301-548-0150 x220
e. mreiner@iwla.org



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2026 National Convention | JULY 16-18

Print Ad Specifications

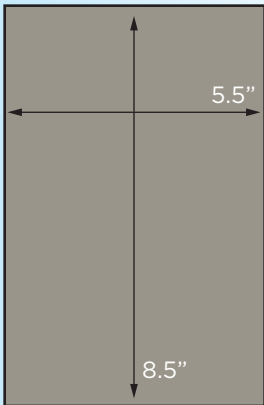
Advertise in the official 2026 National Convention program. Your ad will be seen by hundreds of attendees:

- >> TRIM SIZE: 8.5" X 5.5"
- >> SADDLE STICHED

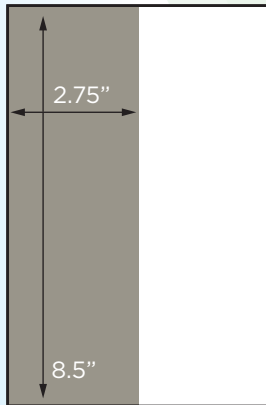
Ad Deadline:
June 1st, 2026

NOTE:

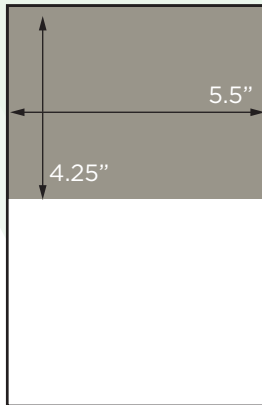
The active design area is surrounded by a .25" type safety margin within all four sides of the trim dimension. The background of full bleed ads should extend beyond the active design area to the full bleed dimensions, but all critical text and images should remain within the boundary of the active design area. All dimensions shown are W x H. Please supply each panel individually; PDFs are required.



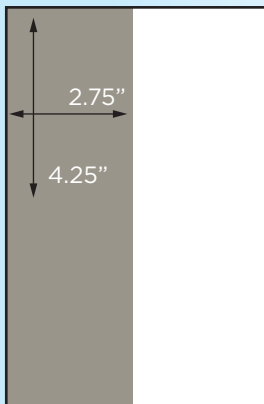
Full Page
Active Design Area
5.5" x 8.5"



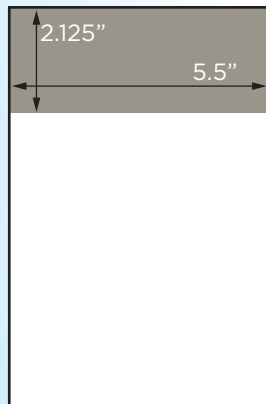
1/2 Page Vertical
Active Design Area
2.75" x 8.5"



1/2 Page Horizontal
Active Design Area
4.25" x 5.5"



1/4 Page Vertical
Active Design Area
4.25" x 2.75"



1/4 Page Horizontal
Active Design Area
2.125" x 5.5"

PDF REQUIREMENTS:

- All fonts and images embedded
- CMYK for 4/C process
- Minimum resolution of 300 DPI at 100%
- Do not include crop marks
- Do not compress files
- Include .125" bleed on each dimension

Note: Cost of your ad includes professional design review and assistance to ensure your ad meets the quality standards for the entire program. This includes layout, copywriting, messaging, concept, fonts issues and images.

Send High Resolution Artwork to jim@mindsparkcreative.com before EOD Friday, June 5th, 2026 to avoid late fees.

AD COSTS:

Full Page.....	\$250
1/2 Page Horizontal.....	\$125
1/2 Page Vertical.....	\$125
1/4 Page Vertical.....	\$75
1/4 Page Horizontal.....	\$75

Paying by Check? Make checks payable to:

**Izaak Walton League of America
Minnesota Division
6601 Auto Club Road,
Bloomington, MN 55427**

Please write: *National Convention Ad*
in the memo of the check.

Or scan the code to pay online:
www.donorbox.org/2026-programads



**Questions? Contact Jim Davis at
612-239-4303 or jim@mindsparkcreative.com**