



## Advocacy Alert

### Have Your Voice Heard @ the Chicago Listening Session!

Greetings!

Join the national discussion by sharing your trails and hiking experiences in the region and help develop ideas for future protection and restoration. President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum on April 16, 2010 establishing the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (AGO). The AGO Initiative aims to reconnect Americans to the outdoors and promote community-level efforts to conserve and restore outdoor spaces. As part of the AGO Initiative, the administration will host "listening sessions" over the summer to collect public input as to how our federal partners can better serve the conservation and recreation interests of communities across the country. A report summarizing Americans' recommendations will be sent to the White House by mid-November.

Let your federal partners know how important trails and hiking are to you and your communities! Encourage them to fund trails and conservation projects that you, your family and your friends cherish and count on for exercise, fun, relaxation, and which help support our environmental and economic health. American Hiking and our partners have developed "talking points" on these important aspects of trails and hiking for use at a listening session. [Visit our AGO website](#) to see our list of suggestions.

While several listening sessions are planned across the country, we would like to encourage you to attend the next session in Chicago, Illinois.

**When :** Thursday , August 31 . General Listening Session 8:30am-12:30pm;  
Youth Listening Session 5:00pm-7:00pm

**What :** Public and youth listening Session on the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

**Where: General Listening Session**

Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium  
375 E. Chicago Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
8:30am - 12:30pm

**Youth Listening Session (Ages 16-24)**

Prentice Women's Hospital  
250 East Superior Street - Room L  
Chicago, IL 60611  
5:00pm - 7:00pm

For transportation and parking information, see the official press release [here](#).

**Who :** National and local leadership from Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality will be present to hear your thoughts and to participate in a conversation with you about America's Great Outdoors.

**Please register!** The event is free and open to the public, but please register to attend. Register by sending an email with your name, the name of your organization, telephone number, and email address to:

- RSVPHALTHAGO@hhs.gov (General Session Registration)
- RSVPYOUTHAGO@hhs.gov (Youth Session Registration)

### For More Information:

If you have questions about this listening session, please contact Andrea Cernich at 240-276-9869.

### In this Alert: Listening Session Information

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- When, What, Where, & Who
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### Trails Advocacy Week 2010 Highlights



Please check out successes and highlights from our Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week [here!](#)

Learn more about America's Great Outdoors Initiative and submit comments on their [website](#).

For information on American Hiking Society's position, check out our [strategic plan](#), [policy positions](#), and visit our [AGO website](#).

*American Hiking Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Membership dues are tax-deductible minus \$10 for Backpacker magazine.*



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