



IWLA NATIONAL CONVENTION

Going Forward with Conservation — Today and Tomorrow

BY CATHY BERGER AND DAWN MERRITT

PIERRE IS ON THE BOARD — THE MONOPOLY BOARD THAT IS.

Pierre was voted to replace the famous Boardwalk spot on the new “Monopoly Here & Now” game. Anyone who has spent time in Pierre knows why. Pierre may be the second smallest state capital, but it offers a vast array of sights, activities, and natural wonders for all who visit.

League members can enjoy those sights this summer, when we meet in Pierre for our national convention. (Sound like a local and pronounce it as you would “peer” or “pier.”) It’s the best opportunity you’ll have all year to expand your Ike network, share ideas about chapter programs that work, and attend workshops that will help your chapter succeed. You don’t have to be an official delegate to attend the convention. It’s open to every League member.

As one League chapter put it succinctly on its entryway sign, “Conservation Is Our Mission.” In addition to the usual League business of elections and policies, this convention will focus on the future of conservation in America — and how Izaak Walton League members can make a difference. You can follow this year’s convention news on social media at #IKEcon2015.

So grab your family, friends, and fishing rods and make plans now to visit Pierre, South Dakota, where your fellow Ikes — and the walleye — are waiting. We hope to see you in July!





July 14-17, 2015 ■ Pierre, South Dakota

CONVENTION SITE AND LODGING

The Ramkota Inn — Pierre
920 W Sioux Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 224-6877

Room Rate: \$104+ single or double

You can secure this rate for three days before and three days after convention, so spend a few extra days enjoying the South Dakota sights! Call (605) 224-6877 or e-mail reservations@pierreramkota.com and ask for the Izaak Walton League room block.

Room block expires June 11, 2015.

AIRPORTS

The Pierre Regional Airport (PIR) is serviced by Great Lakes Airlines via connections from Great Lakes, United, and Delta Airlines. Non-stop service on Great Lakes is available from Minneapolis and Denver. For other airlines, it may be necessary to fly to Minneapolis on one airline and Great Lakes to Pierre. Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP) is also an option with more flights. **Rapid City is 194 miles from Pierre (approximately 3 hours drive time).**

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

The hotel provides shuttle service to and from the Pierre Regional Airport and locations within 3 miles of the hotel.

RENTAL CARS

Avis and Budget have rental desks in the Pierre Regional Airport terminal. Most major car rental companies have rental desks at the Rapid City Regional Airport. The Izaak Walton League has a discount agreement with Avis. The amount of the discount varies by location, time of year, and length of rental. You can make a reservation with Avis using our discount code (L837370) at www.avis.com or by calling (800) 331-1212.

CAMPING

The City of Pierre has camping sites at **Griffin Park** on the Missouri River. Overnight stays are limited to three nights and available on a first-come, first-served basis for the bargain price of \$16 per night. This small park is located about 1½ miles from the convention hotel.

The **Oahe Downstream Recreation Area** is located 7 miles northwest of the convention site. The park's three campgrounds offer plenty of outdoor activities, from boating to hiking to disc golf and a prairie garden. Visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/oahe-downstream>



to make reservations online and view photos of available campsites and cabins (scroll down the page to the "Lodging" header). You can also call (800) 710-2267 to make a reservation.

Farm Island Recreation Area, located 5½ miles southeast of the convention hotel, sits on the shores of Lake Sharpe (a reservoir on the Missouri River). The park has ties to the Lewis and Clark expedition — detailed at the park's Lewis and Clark family center — and includes an island nature area and eight miles of hiking trails. Visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/farm-island> to make reservations online and view photos of campsites and cabins, or call (800) 710-2267.

CONVENTION CONTACTS

Mike Richards,
Convention Co-Chair
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E-mail: Mike.Richards@state.sd.us

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Convention Co-Chair
(605) 224-1214
E-mail: tma@midconetwork.com

Cathy Berger,
IWLA National Office
(800) 453-5463 x222
E-mail: cberger@iwla.org

CONVENTION EVENTS

Make plans to arrive a few days early to enjoy outdoor adventures hosted by the South Dakota Division (pre-registration required for all events).

WALLEYE FISHING TRIP

Sunday, July 12 (8am-4pm)

Cost: \$140

Members of the League's Sunshine Chapter will help you reel in "the big one" on Lake Sharpe or Lake Oahe – two reservoirs on the Missouri River. This area is home to walleye and many other prized fish species. Price includes transportation from the hotel, boat trip, bait, rod and reel, lunch, and drinks. A South Dakota fishing license is required. You can purchase a license online through the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Web site (<http://gfp.sd.gov/licenses>). For more information about the fishing trip, e-mail John Henderson at tma@midconetwork.com.

CITY OF PIERRE DRIVING TOUR

Monday, July 13 (9am-12pm)

Cost: \$10

Looking for the scenic tour without the walking? We've got four wheels with your name on them! The driving tour will showcase Pierre, Fort Pierre, and the surrounding area. Sandy Nelson, Sunshine Chapter member and long-time Pierre resident, will provide "know it like a local" commentary on the Capitol building, Fighting Stallions, Soldiers and Sailors World War Memorial, Cultural Heritage Center, new Governor's Mansion, and a wide variety of classic homes.

CONSERVATION TOUR

Monday, July 13 (9am-4pm)

Cost: \$30

Enjoy two South Dakota success stories and see what the Great Plains looked like 200 years ago – and could be again!

- **Iverson Ranch:** Dana Iverson's 10,000-acre ranch along the Bad River offers awesome views, including buffalo herds, prairie dogs, a variety of birds, and maybe a mule deer or antelope too. Then enjoy an old-fashioned cowboy lunch, just like they made on those western trail drives.
- **Fort Pierre National Grasslands:** This mixed-grass prairie is one of only 20 national grasslands and gets the most rain of them all, bringing forth wildflowers, waving grasses, and an abundance of wildlife. It's a great place to bird watch! In addition to local Ikes leading the way, guest speakers will meet you on the trail.

Saddle up for adventure! Cost includes lunch and transportation.

TRAP SHOOT

Tuesday, July 14 (9am-12pm)

Cost: \$8 per round

The League's Sunshine Chapter (located just three miles from the convention hotel) will host a morning trap shoot for adults and youth attending convention. Whether you're a seasoned trap shooter or would like to learn, this is a great opportunity to get in some trap time before the convention starts. Loaner shotguns will be available as well as shells for purchase. Coffee and donuts kick off the morning at 8am.

EARLY BIRD PARTY AND AUCTION

Tuesday, July 14

Going once. Going twice. SOLD to the Ike in yellow and green! Don't miss your chance to bid on a Henry Golden Boy rifle, renowned Black Hills gold jewelry, South Dakota delicacies, an original painting by renowned wildlife artist John Green, and more!

NATIONAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, July 15

The annual National Awards Luncheon honors League members and other conservation leaders who made outstanding contributions to protecting the nation's natural resources during 2014. Awards will be presented to individuals, chapters, and divisions for achievements in youth programs, stream protection, outdoor ethics, and much more. Please help us honor these amazing Ikes.

PARADE OF STATES

Wednesday, July 15

Give us a taste of your great state! The Parade of States is a delicious way to get to know Ikes from across the country. This year, the parade will be held poolside. Please e-mail Cathy Berger at cberger@iwla.org to ensure your spot. Don't let the parade pass you by!

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS BREAKFAST

Thursday, July 16

Rise and shine to help us honor League chapters and divisions for creative, successful member recruitment programs. Learn what's working for chapters across



the country. We will also hand out Defenders Chapter Achievement Awards to “all star” chapters that are succeeding in conservation, youth engagement, and community outreach.

CONSERVATION LUNCHEON

Thursday, July 16

Casey Kruse, Missouri River Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and his staff have developed one of the most comprehensive and geographically challenging endangered species monitoring and recovery programs in the nation. Hear from Casey about progress on the Missouri River and what it means for conservation of fish and wildlife nationwide.

NIGHT OUT AT THE SUNSHINE CHAPTER

Thursday, July 16

Spend a fun-filled evening at the Sunshine Chapter, which is conveniently located just 3 miles from the convention hotel. The Sunshine Ikes are continuously improving and expanding their chapter house. If you've been there before, come see what's new. If this is your first time, you can count on a great experience. The walleye will be delicious, and Bruce “Wicker Bill” Crist will dazzle you with his exhibition shooting skills.

BANQUET

Friday, July 17

End convention with cocktails and dinner with your fellow Ikes — and a special guest speaker!

SMALL-GROUP WORKSHOPS

At every convention, we offer small-group workshops where you can interact with speakers and gain practical skills. This year's workshops will also include success stories from throughout the League!

Funding Your Projects with Other People's Money

Has your chapter been hesitant to move forward with conservation and other projects because funding is tight? Don't let this hold you back — use other people's money to achieve your goals. Hear from chapters that have successfully secured grants and other external funding for their projects and learn the nuts and bolts of researching and applying for grants.

Putting Your Best “Face” Forward

For many people, Facebook has become the go-to place to find information about an organization. Does your chapter or division have a Facebook page, and are you using it to put your best face forward? During this workshop, we will create a Facebook page, review ways to easily create content, and hear from chapters that are succeeding on Facebook.

Engaging Families at Your Chapter

Engaging families and helping them enjoy the outdoors is a priority for chapters nationwide. Starting a Family Adventures in Nature (FAN) Club can help your chapter attract families — and keep them coming back. FAN Clubs involve simple activities and local partnerships and leverage social media to engage families and communities. Chapter leaders and League staff will highlight the basic steps for starting a FAN Club and the benefits they offer.

Clean Energy Solutions: A Win-Win for Your Wallet and the Environment

New lighting, more energy efficient appliances, and even solar panels are cheaper and more effective than ever before. Simple retrofits at chapter facilities will cut energy costs and help protect our air, water, and other natural resources. Hear from chapters that are saving money by increasing energy efficiency and the use of solar and wind power.

Workshops will be offered Thursday afternoon, July 16, 2-4pm. Each workshop will run for an hour and be presented twice to allow participants to attend two different workshops.

Workshop topics and descriptions are subject to change without notice.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Destry Jarvis, President,
Outdoor Recreation & Park Services, LLC

Over the past century — even the past decade — America's conservation challenges have changed, as has our access to outdoor places. Destry Jarvis, whose resume includes Assistant Director of the National Park Service, will talk about how those changes could shape the future of conservation and outdoor recreation in America.



CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY, JULY 12

Walleye Fishing Trip

MONDAY, JULY 13

Conservation Tour

City of Pierre Driving Tour

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Morning Trap Shoot

Executive Board Meeting

Resolutions Committee Meeting

Early Bird Party and Auction

Youth Convention Early Bird

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Delegate Orientation Workshop

Convention Opening Ceremony

Youth Convention Opens

National Awards Luncheon

Committee Meetings

Parade of States

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Membership Awards Breakfast

Youth Convention

Elections

Bylaws

Conservation Luncheon

Workshops

Dinner at Sunshine Chapter

FRIDAY, JULY 17

Midwest Office Breakfast

Youth Convention

Endowment Meeting & Elections

Convention Site Selection

Vote on Resolutions

Convention Reception and Banquet



YOUTH CONVENTION

Our South Dakota convention hosts have planned a fun-filled program for this year's Youth Convention, with just the right mix of conservation, outdoor recreation, and adventure!

TUESDAY, JULY 14: Youth Convention registration starts at 5pm. (Please be sure to print out and complete all required forms before you arrive.) Then join the rest of the gang for a meet-and-greet and dinner.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15: Conservation is the name of the game during a short trip to the League's Sunshine Chapter to build wood duck houses and mallard nesting boxes and enjoy a bevy of other nature education activities. (Those houses and nesting boxes will be put to good use on Thursday!)

THURSDAY, JULY 16: Saddle up for a visit to Iverson Ranch, a working ranch that boasts 700 head of cattle and is located on the (questionably named) Bad River. Ikes will up the conservation value by installing the wood duck houses and mallard nesting boxes here, then enjoy a little cat-fishing, afternoon hike, and cowboy cookout. Keep your eyes open for buffalo, prairie dogs, and maybe an antelope or two. This area also offers great bird watching.

FRIDAY, JULY 17: Start the morning with a quick visit to the general session of the League's national convention. Then youth will head to Oahe Dam (named for a Lakota council lodge) for an insiders tour. The dam is 9,300 feet long, 245 feet high, and generates a lot of electricity! After lunch at the Oahe Marina, youth will return to the Sunshine Chapter for an afternoon of archery and BB gun shooting plus dinner.





CONVENTION

2015

REGISTRATION

Additional copies of these forms are available at www.iwla.org/convention.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Pierre, South Dakota
July 14-17, 2015

All cost are per person	Cost	Number	Total
Registration	\$100	_____	_____
Youth Convention Registration (per)	\$20	_____	_____
Early Bird Auction Non-registered guests	\$15	_____	_____
Sun., July 12 Fishing Trip	\$140	_____	_____
Mon., July 13 Conservation Tour (includes lunch)	\$30	_____	_____
Tue., July 14 Pierre Area Tour Trap Shooting	\$10 Pay at event	_____	_____
Wed., July 15 Awards Luncheon	\$24	_____	_____
Thurs., July 16 Membership Awards Breakfast Conservation Luncheon Sunshine Chapter Event	\$15 \$24 \$35	_____	_____
Fri., July 17 Banquet	\$35	_____	_____
Total Amount Enclosed		\$	_____

Name: _____

Chapter/ID # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Additional Registrants _____ Chapter/ID # _____

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration: _____ CVC: _____

Email for confirmation: _____

Make checks payable to: 2015 South Dakota Convention. Mail registration form and payment to:
Mike Richards, 329 S Van Buren Ave, Pierre, SD 57501. Visa, MasterCard or Discover cards accepted.

YOUTH CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Please be sure to pre-register using this form. In addition, completed and signed parental consent and liability forms are required at onsite check-in on Tuesday, July 14th. These forms are posted online at www.iwla.org/convention. If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Wadler-Lase at rwadler@iwla.org or (800) IKE-LINE (453-5463) ext. 243.

NOTE: The minimum age to participate is 8 years old. No exceptions. Registration fee of \$20 should be included with convention registration.

Name _____ IWLA ID Number (*if applicable) _____

Address _____

Adult Contact _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Age: _____ DOB _____ or chaperone (19 or older) _____ Dietary Restrictions: _____

The League welcomes additional financial support for the Youth Convention. Chapters, divisions and individuals may send checks payable to the Izaak Walton League with Youth Convention in the memo line. Mail to: IWLA Youth Convention, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2983.