



COLORADO OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011  
"Open Space: The Next Chapter"  
Hotel Colorado  
Glenwood Springs, Colorado  
September 19-21, 2011

The twelfth annual Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) conference is themed, "Open Space: The Next Chapter" to reflect upon where publicly-funded local and regional open space programs are today, celebrate achievements and look to the future as mature programs transition from acquisition to management and all programs balance access, preservation and tightening budgets. 2011 is also an opportunity to look at COSA as an organization and how it will be sustained in the years to come. We hope you will join us September 19-21, 2011 at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs, CO.

Registration will be announced through the COSA list serve and at <http://coloradoopenspace.org/> in the next few months.

For planning purposes, registration fees are listed below:  
Early Registration until July 31, 2011

Full Conference	\$110
Student-Full Conference	\$ 70
One-day Registration	\$ 70
Student One-Day	\$ 40

General Registration August 1 to September 9

Full Conference:	\$140
Student-Full Conference:	\$100
One-day Registration:	\$100
Student One-Day:	\$ 70

Late-Walk In Registration, September 10-21

Full Conference:	\$170
Student Full Conference	\$130
One-day Registration	\$130
Student Registration:	\$100

Guest Tickets:

Monday Blue Grama Awards Luncheon	\$30 (\$45 after 9/9)
Tuesday Networking Dinner	\$30 (\$45 after 9/9)

Scholarships:

A limited number of 2011 conference fees scholarships will be offered, however scholarship recipients from 2009 and 2010 will be ineligible. Please send your scholarship need statement to Linda Strand ([ljeanstrand@comcast.net](mailto:ljeanstrand@comcast.net)) by **June 15, 2011**.

Blue Grama Awards Nominations:

The Blue Grama Awards recognize outstanding management and programs offered by Colorado open space organizations. Nomination information will be provided on the COSA List serve and on the Colorado Open Space Alliance Website at a later date. Be thinking of nominations in the following categories:

(1) (2) **Outstanding Achievement Award** - One award is given to an individual and a second to a group or organization that have made significant contributions to conservation of Colorado's open spaces. Recognizes an individual and an organization for outstanding leadership achievement through either acquisition or management actions.

(3) **Outdoor Recreation/Environmental Education Program** - Given to an open space program that shows innovation and leadership in the area of Outdoor Recreational Management and/or Environmental Education/Interpretation. Recognizes outstanding, innovative and successful recreational management programs such as facilities development, conflict resolution, recreation monitoring, ranger activities, environmental education/interpretation, or the application of research findings (such as through evaluation of carrying capacity, pet management, etc.).

(4) **Ecological Management Program** - Given to an open space program that has demonstrated leadership in the area of Ecological Management. Recognizes outstanding, innovative and successful research, restoration, or monitoring programs targeted at ecological resource management.

Sponsor and Exhibitor Opportunities: For information on how you can reach over 200 open space professionals as a COSA Conference Sponsor or Exhibitor, please contact Tina Nielsen ([tnielsen@bouldercounty.org](mailto:tnielsen@bouldercounty.org)) and ask about the Gold, Silver and Bronze levels of support.

Request for Session Proposals:

Please Follow Directions and Complete Thoroughly

*All Proposals Due: FRIDAY, April 1, 2011*

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- Target a specific audience. The experience and skills of COSA participants vary tremendously from new volunteer board members to local government staff members with years of experience. *(A significant number of participants seek information at an advanced level. The program committee will take a special look at advanced level sessions that are in a non-lecture format.)*
- Develop specific learning objectives for the session. What will participants learn from this session?
- Determine the format of your session. Keep in mind that participants at the advanced level learn best through a roundtable discussion format whereas beginner/intermediate audiences prefer a lecture format. COSA strongly encourages interactive formats with plenty of opportunity for questions and dialogue from participants. Please indicate a minimum and maximum participant level your session can handle.
- Indicate which area of the open space field your proposal addresses, if applicable. For example, Natural Resource management, acquisition, fundraising/grant writing, board development, volunteer coordination, ranger roles and responsibilities, public outreach, environmental education, other.
- Sessions: Most session formats are 75 minutes. Please specify required time frame in your RFP outline.

Session Selection Criteria

The COSA Steering Committee will review and select session proposals using the following set of criteria:

- Relevance of the topic to *local open space programs and other conservation organizations*.
- Credentials and speaking skills of the presenter(s) involved
- Clarity of learning objectives
- Overall balance of program topics and skill level
- Ability for the audience to interact

Session Coordinator Requirements

- For panel discussions or multiple presenters, communicate all necessary information to all other speakers involved with your session. COSA will only

send information to the Session Coordinator. You will also be responsible to coordinate and assure all session presenters are registered for the conference adhering to all registration deadlines.

- Submit final session description, speaker biographies, and [audio-visual](#) needs by end of business **FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011**
- Register for the COSA conference by July 15 to receive the early registration discount.
- *Handouts must be provided by the speaker* in adequate quantities at the time of the session. Presenters may provide handouts following the conference in the form of a PDF for posting on the COSA web site. COSA will contact you with the number of participants signed up for your session at least 2 weeks prior to conference day. Actual numbers may vary from those registered.
- Coordinate and pay for your own travel and lodging.

#### Workshop Presenters: Note the Fine Print

- Neither honoraria nor travel expenses will be paid to workshop/session presenters. All workshop presenters are required to register and pay\* the conference registration fee. \*Consideration may be given to non-governmental open space program presenters to waive conference registration in lieu of honoraria.

#### Important COSA Deadlines

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1** Complete workshop/session proposals due including presenter(s) bio, topic, outline, summary, and A/V needs.

End of April COSA notifies applicants about the status of their proposals  
Early registration deadline

End of August COSA provides final details including estimated session attendance

September 10 Registration deadline - Walk-In rate applies on September 10.

**September 19-21, 2011** Conference dates

Submittal Instructions: *Following these instructions will save both you and COSA precious time!*

1. All proposals are due by close of business on **Friday, APRIL 1, 2011**
2. Preferred method of submission is electronic.
3. For inclusion in the review process, your proposal MUST include the following information:
  - ❑ Contact information including name, phone, organization, address and email.
  - ❑ Title for your session. Interesting titles tend to draw more participants.
  - ❑ Clear, concise description of the proposed session for use in marketing materials and conference program (one paragraph, 75 word maximum). Please be sure to accurately describe what you plan to present.

- ❑ Three learning objectives that list, in complete sentences using action verbs, lessons that participants will take away from the session. The learning objectives should clearly describe the three major points that will be taught by you/and your co-presenters and should NOT repeat the information in the session description.

*Example: Effective Fundraising as a Critical Foundation for leveraging sales tax dollars*

*By the end of the session, participants will:*

1. *Understand the link between a clear and focused mission statement and the ability to raise money.*
  2. *Understand the differences between membership strategies, annual giving strategies, and major donor strategies.*
  3. *Be able to take responsibility for annual budgets.*
- ❑ Outline of the proposed session including time allocations
  - ❑ Presenter and/or co-presenter(s) and snapshot of presentation experience
  - ❑ Brief (one-paragraph, 50 word maximum) biography of presenter and/or each co-presenter(s) for use in on-site conference program
  - ❑ Details of **audio/visual** needs: PowerPoint (version), slide or overhead projector, flip charts with easel, white boards, playback unit (audio cassette, CD, VHS, DVD)

*IMPORTANT NOTE: PC formatted laptop computers/projectors will be provided in the session rooms. PowerPoint presentations must be loaded using a flash/jump drive stick with appropriate associated software. Presenter will be required to provide own equipment for Mac-based presentations.*

- ❑ Will you be providing handouts? Will you provide handouts as a PDF for the COSA website?

Submit proposals by one of the following methods, listed in order of preference.

- a. **by e-mail** in a Word document (Word 97 or below) or PDF file with the subject line "COSA Session Proposal" to [trock@jeffco.us](mailto:trock@jeffco.us)
- b. **by fax** with the subject line "COSA Session Proposal" to attention of Thea Rock, 303-271-5955.
- c. **By mail** If you choose to submit your proposal via mail, please keep in mind that it must be received by close of business on **Friday, April 1, 2011**. Proposals should be mailed to:

COSA Session Proposal  
Attn: Thea Rock  
700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100  
Golden, CO 80401

4. COSA will contact you by the end of April to notify you whether or not your proposal has been selected. Please note that the program committee may request a session proposal be modified, renamed or reconfigured.

Questions?If you have any questions, please contact Thea Rock at 303-271-5902; [trock@jeffco.us](mailto:trock@jeffco.us)

#### About COSA

The Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) is a statewide organization of publicly funded local and regional open space programs, working cooperatively to share information, create public awareness and foster partnerships needed to protect and preserve the special places of Colorado. To accomplish this mission, COSA members will:

- Share Information - Provide networking, information, skills, and resource sharing, training, mentoring, technical assistance, clearing house activities and communication among publicly funded open space programs.
- Create Public Awareness - Promote land conservation benefits and program successes by identifying needs, audiences and messages for landowners, decision makers and the public. Publicize and advocate for clearly defined and agreed upon positions.
- Foster Partnerships - Create and nurture partnerships to assist in program implementation, fund raising and large-scale projects among open space programs, landowners, land trusts, conservation and land use organizations and other government programs.

The Colorado Open Space Alliance was formed in 2000 with the first conference held on one day in Fort Collins, Colorado and has since been hosted in metro Denver, Colorado Springs, Aspen, Breckenridge, Steamboat Springs, Grand Junction, Estes Park and this year in Glenwood Springs.