



More Trails to Become Available in 2019 for Mountain Bikers



Mountain biking options in southern West Virginia will be expanding next year, thanks to a new partnership between the New River Gorge Trail Alliance and the

Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve.

Normally, the 35-mile trail system within the reserve is available only to visiting Boy Scouts. Under the recently-finalized agreement, the trails will be open to the public during the spring, summer, and fall, whenever scouting activities are not taking place. In exchange, Alliance members will assist in year-around maintenance of reserve trails. Alliance board member Phil Waidner said he expects the agreement will be mutually beneficial.

“It really helps the trails to be able to have people riding them, to be clearing falling debris off of them, sometimes, and to be just helping to keep the soil compacted and the weeds down by actually riding them, all the time,” he said.

Waidner recommended that beginners sign up for an introductory mountain biking and safety course, which is available at no cost through Active Southern West Virginia

and the National Park Service. A membership with the New River Gorge Trail Alliance will be required in order to ride the trails. A discounted family membership option also will be available, according to Waidner, who said the popularity of mountain biking as a low-cost alternative to traditional summer vacation activities has been increasing, over the years.

“We do have some really, really easy trails out there, and a lot of people have found it a really convenient place to be able to take their family, so it’s a great opportunity to get a family membership, bring the kids out, and we have some super easy, very short beginner trails available to them,” said Waidner, who added that street bikes are generally prohibited, even for the beginner-level trails.

“Make sure it’s a bicycle that’s made to be ridden off-road. The road bikes are generally not appropriate. Your typical kind of hybrid bike that you might get from Wal-Mart or Dick’s Sporting Goods would be okay on certain trails but would be a pretty rough ride, and I really encourage people to bring at least an entry-level mountain bike,” he said.

The addition of the Summit Bechtel Reserve trails will give experienced mountain bikers access to flow trails, dual-slalom courses, a skills park, a dirt-jump learning zone, and multiple pump tracks.

To read more: <http://wvmetronews.com/2018/12/25/more-trails-to-become-available-in-2019-for-mountain-bikers/>



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About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program.

We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

5 Ways to Promote a Culture of Safety at Your Company

Why prioritizing worker safety makes good business sense



Most trends come and go, but some have staying power. As more companies find that strong safety performance drives overall business performance, safety is finally getting its due recognition as a trend that's here to stay.

Many companies have transformed the way they perceive safety. Sometimes it's a business necessity; other times, it's initiated by an individual or group who has seen how a focus on safety can positively impact employee wellness and company culture. The most successful businesses have safety as a core value, and safety managers and leaders are viewed as integral partners.

5 Best Practices to Boost Your Safety Culture

Best-in-class safety performance requires buy-in at every level, and that means integrating safety into every facet of the business. When responsibility for safety is shared at all levels of an organization, the organization—not a single department or person—becomes accountable for performance.

Recognition and accountability, leadership commitment, training, communication, observations and audits, and clear roles and responsibilities all play a part in building a strong safety culture. These five key best practices can guide companies and safety managers looking to change the way their employees view safety:

1. Establish an organizational structure around safety that delineates clear roles, responsibilities and accountability levels to promote the implementation of the safety management system. Engagement is a critical factor in this design. Formal health and safety committees comprising management, employees and safety leaders (and union leaders, if applicable) are a key component. Committees should meet frequently to

share action plan progress and current performance, work through plant- or facility-level issues, and set policies and practices. For multi-site manufacturing or construction organizations, this is especially helpful because different locations can learn what others are experiencing or doing and implement the necessary best practices to prevent incidents.

2. Create a detailed action plan with clear objectives (such as the launch of a new process/program, training initiatives, continuous improvement actions, etc.), timing and accountability for actions that will bring improved performance. Accountability may lie with more than one individual (i.e. one employee may have primary responsibility over the objective and delegate additional actions that will help meet the objective to other employees).

3. Safety is a team sport, so ensure your safety managers talk with each other and with other safety professionals frequently, both formally and informally. Sharing ideas, policies and technical tips regularly will help build a strong, networked team. A company-wide, centralized safety team with a standardized meeting schedule is one formal way of facilitating this type of information exchange.

4. Don't forget about the employees; employee engagement is a key factor for safety success. Here at Corelle, in addition to the standard compliance and leadership training, we're rolling out training programs that show what actions employees can personally take to improve their own and the safety of others. This kind of program is intended to empower all employees to be advocates for safety and may spur them to become more involved in safety committees and initiatives. The most successful safety programs have a culture of active leadership that continuously supports employee engagement.

To read more, see excerpt: <https://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/strategy/5-ways-promote-culture-safety-your-company>

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