



Helping Communities Leverage Their Outdoor Recreation Assets

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Regional Lunch & Learn Series and Entrepreneur Workshops to Connect Leaders and Small Business Owners Across Southeast Ohio

Athens, OH — October 23, 2025 — Community leaders, entrepreneurs, and residents are invited to take part in a new **Regional Lunch & Learn series** and **Entrepreneur Workshops** designed to foster collaboration and drive county-wide progress across Southeast Ohio.

Hosted by the **Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA)** and the **Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet)**—in partnership with the **Morgan County Convention & Visitors Bureau** and **Ohio State University Extension**—these events will highlight the latest updates on economic development, tourism, and business initiatives shaping the future of the region.

These programs are supported through a **USDA Rural Business Development Program** grant administered by ORCA.

Regional Lunch & Learn Series

Each Lunch & Learn will feature networking, community updates, and open discussion—plus a complimentary lunch for all registered attendees.

Noble County

Thursday, November 6, 2025 | 11 AM–1 PM

Apex Event Center, 44519 Marietta Rd., Suite B, Caldwell, OH 43724

[\[More info & registration »\]](#)

Morgan County

Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 11 AM–1 PM

El Palenque, 205 W Main St., McConnellsville, OH 43756

[\[More info & registration »\]](#)



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Entrepreneur Workshop

Building Regional Identity for Small Business Success

Monday, November 17, 2025 | 10 AM–2 PM

Apex Event Center, 44519 Marietta Rd., Suite B, Caldwell, OH 43724

[More info & registration »](#)

Join us in Noble County for a **dynamic and collaborative day** focused on regional marketing, cooperative branding, and supporting local entrepreneurship! This interactive event will bring together community leaders, small business advocates, and entrepreneurs for insightful presentations, valuable networking, and engaging panel discussions.

Who Should Attend

These events are open to anyone interested in supporting local growth, including:

- Small business owners and entrepreneurs
 - Chamber of commerce representatives
 - County commissioners and municipal leaders
 - Tourism and hospitality professionals
 - Economic and community development practitioners
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Why Attend

“This series is about building stronger connections across counties and ensuring our local leaders, business owners, and residents have the tools and information they need to thrive,” said **Jessie Powers, Executive Director of ORCA**. “By coming together, we can strengthen our region’s economic future.”

Learn More

For full details and registration links, visit:

acenetworks.org/news/regional-lunch-learn-opportunities



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About ORCA

The **Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA)** is a council of governments advancing outdoor recreation, regional collaboration, and community development across Southeast Ohio to amplify related economic, health, social, and environmental benefits. ORCA manages the **Baileys Trail System** in partnership with **The Wayne National Forest** and leads cross-sector initiatives with member communities spanning 18 Appalachian Ohio counties.

About ACEnet

The **Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet)** is a regional non-profit organization working to grow the regional economy by supporting entrepreneurs, strengthening communities, and building sustainable networks across Appalachian Ohio.