



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PORA Hosts Successful Workforce Development Seminars at Bear Creek Mountain Resort

Over 150 outdoor recreation professionals attend lift maintenance and snowmaking training programs

MACUNGIE, PA – July 15, 2025 – The Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Association (PORA) successfully hosted comprehensive workforce development seminars in June at Bear Creek Mountain Resort, providing critical skills training to more than 150 outdoor recreation industry professionals.

The two-day Lift Maintenance Seminar (June 24-25) drew 85 attendees for intensive training covering aerial passenger ropeways, ANSI B77.1 standards, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requirements. As a recognized continuing education provider with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, PORA awarded 16 CEU hour credits to participants who completed the comprehensive curriculum.

Training topics included workplace safety and rescue operations, gearbox and planetary systems, electrical systems, cables and wire ropes, corrosion prevention, and maintenance record keeping. The hands-on format utilized Bear Creek's lift infrastructure for practical demonstrations and real-world applications.

"These seminars demonstrate PORA's commitment to developing a skilled workforce that can safely and effectively operate Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation infrastructure," said Lutricia Eberly, Executive Director of PORA. "With Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation economy contributing \$19 billion annually to the state's GDP, investing in workforce skills is essential for continued industry growth."

The Snowmaking Seminar (June 17-18) attracted approximately 70 participants for specialized training on snowmaking systems, pump stations, and equipment operations. Industry partners HKD, SMI, and TechnoAlpin provided technical expertise, while presentations covered electrical systems, equipment maintenance, and industry updates.

Both seminars featured comprehensive continuing education curricula designed to address critical skills gaps in the outdoor recreation sector. The programs support PORA's broader workforce development mission, which includes career awareness events, job placement resources, and partnerships with educational institutions.

PORA plans to continue offering these specialized training programs throughout the year, with another Lift Maintenance Seminar scheduled for August at Liberty Mountain Resort. The association expects similar attendance levels based on strong industry demand for certified training opportunities.

"The strong attendance at both seminars reflects the industry's recognition that ongoing professional development is crucial for safety, operational efficiency, and business success," added Eberly. "PORA is proud to serve as a resource for outdoor recreation providers seeking to enhance their team's capabilities."

The seminars align with PORA's mission to support outdoor recreation providers through advocacy, workforce development, risk management resources, and business growth opportunities. As Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation industry continues to expand, skills

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About the Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Association

The Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Association (PORA) represents outdoor recreation providers across Pennsylvania's \$19 billion outdoor recreation economy. Founded in 1978 as the Pennsylvania Ski Areas Association, PORA serves outdoor recreation providers across all 67 counties of the Commonwealth. The association provides advocacy, workforce development, risk management resources, and business growth opportunities for its members while supporting Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation industry through legislative representation and economic development initiatives. For more information, visit paoutdoors.org.

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