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AORE hosts Wilderness Medicine Roundtable in Minneapolis, MN

On Saturday, November 7th, the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education hosted a Wilderness Medical Roundtable in which four of the leading wilderness medical providers, two AORE practitioners, and two leading authors participated in an important discussion relating to the issue of standardizing wilderness medicine. Over the past several months, developments pertaining to standardization of wilderness medical protocol, curriculum and instructor skills have been ongoing. The AORE realized that a discussion among all entities involved could produce useful outcomes and further advance the field of wilderness medicine. AORE programs and members have invested heavily in the business of wilderness medicine and are very aware of the current incongruities among providers. Recognizing that the current industry practice in the collegiate, university, military and municipal arena is to require wilderness medicine certifications, the AORE is concerned that these certifications lack a unifying standard. Furthermore, there is no regulatory agency legitimizing wilderness medical course competencies or curriculums. The AORE's intent was to bring together Practitioners, Providers, and Professionals to jointly implement an action plan to address these incongruities in a manner in which all interest groups have a voice in the future of the industry.

Highlights of the Roundtable included discussion ranging from course development, curriculum endorsement, consumer feedback, instructor qualification, and a Scope of Practices document written by commercial wilderness medical providers. Furthermore, it was agreed by all entities involved that this discussion will continue and several identified action items will begin in the coming months.

The AORE would like to give credit and to all entities involved in this important Summit. Each of the following individuals or organizations was present in Minneapolis and helped to provide input and direction in establishing future action items.

AORE Practitioners (Mark Freidline & Patsy Kott)
Wilderness Medical Institute (Tod Schimelpfenig)
Wilderness Medical Training Center (Paul Nicolazzo)
SOLO (Bill Kane)
Remote Medical (Andrew Cull)
Boy Scouts of America (Dr. William Forgey)
Dr. Tom Welch

If you are interested in learning more about the AORE or are looking for ways to get involved in committees producing work similar to the one that helped host this Wilderness Medical Roundtable, consider becoming an AORE member and get involved. AORE's mission is to provide opportunities for professionals and students in the field of outdoor recreation and education to exchange information, promote the preservation and

conservation of the natural environment, and address issues common to college, university, community, military and other not-for-profit outdoor education programs. The AORE brings together individuals and organizations, contributes to a global community that fosters a culture of professionalism, collaboration and environmental stewardship. The AORE actively engages issues and impacts policies that affect the membership and industry.

Contact the [AORE National Office](#) for more information.