



SPRING CONFERENCE

26

RESILIENT BY DESIGN

APRIL 8-10, 2026
RUBY'S INN
BRYCE CANYON, UTAH



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Planners from across Utah and the broader region will gather in Bryce Canyon April 8-10 for the 2026 Spring Conference of the American Planning Association Utah Chapter. Set against the striking landscape of Bryce Canyon National Park, the three-day conference agenda features a wide range of sessions designed to serve professional planners, citizen planners, and elected officials alike. Presentations will explore both urban and rural planning challenges, with topics spanning planning ethics, historic preservation, transportation, housing, and inclusive community development.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026



ALL SESSIONS QUALIFY FOR CM CREDIT
CM #9326406

	EBENEZER'S	PONDEROSA	MANZANITA / PINION	SAGE / BRISTLE CONE	COTTONWOOD
12:00-1:00	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN				
1:00-1:30	REGISTRATION				
1:30-1:45	LOCAL WELCOME Lance Syrett, Board Member, Utah Tourism Industry Association				
1:45-2:45	THE HEAT IS ON: WHAT'S UP WITH WILDFIRE RISK IN THE WUI? Jennifer McBride, Statewide Wildland-Urban Interface Program Coordinator, DNR, Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands 				
2:45-3:00	BREAK				
3:00-4:00	THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR THE UTAH TRAIL NETWORK, AND ONE GIANT LEAP FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION Kaitlin Marousis, PTP 	DRAWING THE LINE: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN WILDFIRE RISK, WUI MAPS, AND INSURANCE Jennifer McBride Jon Pike J. Bradley Washa Joseph Anderson	I'D LIVE THERE! Christy Dahlberg Ted Knowlton	UTAH LAND USE LAW BASICS Wilf Sommerkorn Jordan Cullimore	
4:00-4:15	BREAK				
4:15-5:30	BALANCING PLAY, PLACE, AND PRESERVATION Jen Gardner Sophie Frankenburg, AICP Elizabeth Sodja, AICP	LET'S TALK OUTDOOR REC: PLANS, FUNDS, TRAILS AND MORE! Emily Meadows	INFORM UTAH: A POWERFUL NEW TOOL FOR MODELING LAND USE SCENARIOS AND IMPACTS Tim Watkins, AICP Jake Young, AICP, PLA 		
5:30-6:00					

Agenda subject to change.














MANDATORY CM AREAS:

-  LEGAL
-  EQUITY
-  ETHICS
-  SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE

SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS:

-  KEYNOTE
-  CITIZEN PLANNER / EMERGING PLANNER
-  TRANSPORTATION

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

	EBENEZER'S	PONDEROSA	MANZANITA / PINION	SAGE / BRISTLE CONE	COTTONWOOD
8:00-8:30	REGISTRATION				
8:30-9:00	WELCOME MESSAGE: APA UT PRESIDENT Jason Boal, AICP 				
9:00-10:00	FROM ZONING TO CONFLAGRATION: HOW EVERYDAY LAND-USE DECISIONS SHAPE TOMORROW'S WILDFIRE DISASTERS Ryan Handy, AICP 				
10:00-10:15	BREAK				
10:15-11:15	PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MANAGEMENT John Janson, AICP Wilf Sommerkorn 	BURNING QUESTIONS: RETHINKING GROWTH, LAND USE, AND BUILDING CODES IN A FIRE-PRONE WORLD Ryan Handy, AICP	BEYOND THE STARS: THE REALITIES OF DARK SKY IMPLEMENTATION Cory Shurtleff Michael Rymer	APA UT POLICY WORKSHOP: E-BIKE PATHWAY MANAGEMENT Anna Maki Jason Boal, AICP [SIGN UP IN ADVANCE]  	
11:15-11:30	BREAK				
11:30-12:30	CODE ENFORCEMENT ACROSS COMMUNITY TYPES: LESSONS FROM RURAL, URBAN, AND COUNTY PERSPECTIVES Bret Howser Steve Pastorik, AICP Kaden Figgins 	WELL HEARD COMMUNITIES: TOOLS TO ENHANCE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT Divya Chandrasekhar, PhD Chimalli Hernandez Ashley Cleveland Claudia Loayza 	BETWEEN TOWN AND TERRAIN: PLANNING FOR PLACE AT THE EDGE OF PUBLIC LANDS Molly O'Neill Robinson, AICP Andrew Dawson, ASLA, PLA		
12:30-1:00	LUNCH				
1:00-2:00	LUNCH KEYNOTE: PLANNING FOR WATER RESILIENCE Chelsea Benjamin Hailey Kirlin Megan Nick Melinda Greenwood 				
2:00-2:15	BREAK				
2:15-3:15	SITE PLAN AND SUBDIVISION REVIEWS Levi Roberts, AICP Marcus Wager John Janson 	"WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME:" ETHICS CHALLENGES IN UTAH'S SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL PLACES Rob Terry, MAP, AICP Jason Boal, AICP 	SMALL BUT MIGHTY: HOW COMMUNITIES CAN BUILD RESILIENCE BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES Elizabeth Sodja, AICP		
3:15-3:30	BREAK				
3:30-4:30	INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY John Janson McKenna Marchant 	BEYOND CHATGPT: STRATEGIC AI USE FOR PLANNING PROFESSIONALS Stephen McCutchan	PLANNING IN GATEWAY COMMUNITIES: TRENDS, TYPOLOGIES, AND EMERGING NEEDS Lindsey Romaniello, AICP 		
5:30-7:00	DINNER AT RUBY'S PAVILION [ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED] 				

Agenda subject to change.



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SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS:

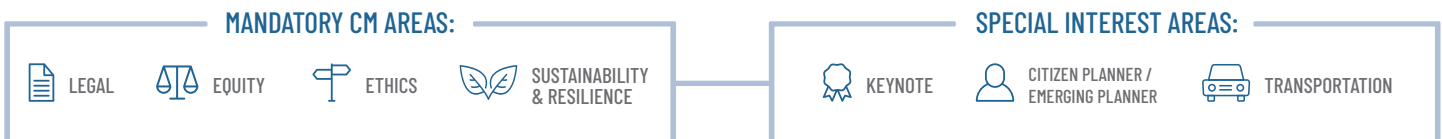
-  KEYNOTE
-  CITIZEN PLANNER / EMERGING PLANNER
-  TRANSPORTATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

	EBENEZER'S	MANZANITA / PINION	SAGE / BRISTLE CONE
8:30-9:00	REGISTRATION		
9:00-10:00	LEGAL AND LAND USE ASPECTS OF BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) Jason Boal, AICP Michael Hutchings Daniel Goldstein 	BEYOND THE COMMUTE: TRANSIT SOLUTIONS FOR RECREATION-BASED ECONOMIES Sydney Maves Alexi Lamm Alex Roy 	STR MONITORING SOFTWARE Kaden Figgins David Williams
10:00-10:15	BREAK		
10:15-10:30	WELCOME MESSAGE: APA UT VICE PRESIDENT Meagan Booth		
10:30-11:00	UTAH'S RURAL ECONOMIC BLUEPRINT: A FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Colette Cox, MBA, CECD		
11:00-12:00	UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: PLANNING LAW AND POLICY CHANGE Wilf Sommerkorn Francis Xavier Lilly Ari Bruening 		
12:00	CONFERENCE CONCLUDES		

MOBILE TOURS [BEGIN AT EBENEZER'S]			
1:00	CANYON-TO-CANYON E-BIKE RIDE [ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED] 	CANYON TRAIL HORSEBACK RIDE [ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED] 	GOLDEN WALL TRAIL HIKE [ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED] 

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REGISTRATION

EARLY-REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION		EARLY (BEFORE FEB. 28)	STANDARD
FULL	PROFESSIONAL PLANNER (Member, Utah Chapter APA)	\$ 195.00	\$ 230.00
	PROFESSIONAL PLANNER (Non-Member, Utah Chapter APA)	\$ 245.00	\$ 280.00
	CITIZEN PLANNER / FULL-TIME STUDENT / FAICP / RETIRED / ELECTED / SUPPORT STAFF	\$ 65.00	\$ 85.00
GROUP	FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FOR THREE OR MORE FROM ONE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION: CITIZEN PLANNER / FULL-TIME STUDENT / FAICP / RETIRED / ELECTED / SUPPORT STAFF ONLY (LIMIT 10)	\$ 65.00 / Person	\$ 65.00 / Person

REGISTER TODAY AT APAUTAH.ORG

To pay your registration fee by check, please mail your payment and registration information (name, organization, title, contact information, APA membership status, and AICP status) to UT APA Chapter, P.O. Box 1264, American Fork, UT 84003.

Registration will not be accepted without payments. Refund requests must be made in writing at least two weeks prior to the conference. A \$10 processing fee will be deducted from all refunds. Questions may be sent to admin@apautah.org or call 801.450.2659. Receipts available upon request.



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