

WYOMING



The conference concluded with a banquet at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

Journalist Jules Broste tried her hand at fishing.

Photo by Barbara Barielle.



2 Mules Chuckwagon provided dinner on the opening night at K3 Guest Ranch Bed and Breakfast.



Cody Yellowstone executive director Ryan Hauck and Jerry Kincade of the K3 Guest Ranch Bed and Breakfast.

For Immediate Release

It's a Wrap - Travel Journalists Depart After Experiencing Cody Yellowstone; Articles, Blogs, Broadcasts, Posts to Follow

CODY, Wyo., June 10, 2024 - The <u>Society of American Travel Writers</u> (SATW, #SATW, #SATWCodyYellowstone) Western Chapter Conference is in the books, and both hosts and participants are calling it a big success.

<u>Cody Yellowstone</u> hosted 50 members of the Western Chapter of SATW May 30 - June 3, 2024.

SATW is the leading travel journalist association in North America, and many destinations compete for the privilege of hosting events and showcasing their attractions, accommodations and recreational offerings to its members every year. The Western Chapter of the Society of American Travel Writers includes travel journalists, digital publishers, book authors, publicists, broadcast/film/video producers and photographers from 14 Western states and Mexico.

"With the enthusiastic participation of numerous partners - including attractions, museums, outfitters and restaurants - Cody Yellowstone clearly demonstrated its authentic Western culture, and the high-level journalists in attendance took notice," said Ryan Hauck, executive director of Cody Yellowstone. "We owe a mountain of thanks to all the many partners who worked so hard to make this major event - two years in the planning - a massive success."

Destinations that host chapter meetings and other SATW events receive high-profile publicity for many years after the events, so Cody Yellowstone can expect to see a spike in stories, broadcasts and social media posts about the destination.

"We know that many of the participants are already working on stories, blogs and videos stemming from their experiences in Cody Yellowstone," Hauck added. "Like little kids on Christmas morning, we can't wait to read their impressions of their adventures and see the images that showcase their experiences."

The Park County Travel Council/Cody Yellowstone first proposed holding the meeting close to two years ago. Upon acceptance, Hauck mobilized his office staff and outside contractors to handle a wide range of details such as lining up accommodations, meals, activities, drivers/guides and more.

The host hotel was the <u>Holiday Inn Cody</u>, where chapter members attended business and professional development sessions. Hauck noted that the hotel location was especially appreciated because it is within walking distance of Cody's Sheridan Ave. attractions.

After the meetings, participants spent the days participating in small-group tours that they specifically chose based on their interests. Tour examples included:

 "Beyond Buffalo Bill - Human History of Cody Yellowstone," with stops at <u>Heart Mountain WW II Interpretive Center</u>, <u>Meeteetse Museums</u>, <u>Meeteetse Chocolatier</u>, <u>Plains Indian</u> <u>Museum</u> and <u>By Western Hands</u>.



John Gallis taught Sherry Spitsnaugle how to carve a wooden spoon at By Western Hands.



Writing award winners gather at the final banquet.



Participants in the Photo Quest conducted a friendly competition.



Included on the agenda was a trip to Yellowstone National Park and a stop at the Lower Falls of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

- "Life & Times of Buffalo Bill Cody," with stops at <u>Pahaska Tepee</u>, <u>Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center</u> and the <u>Buffalo Bill Museum</u>.
- "Guided UTV Tour" through Red Lakes, Oregon Basin and McCullough Peaks with RSC Powersports.
- Art & Culture of Cody Yellowstone," with stops at the Whitney Western Art Museum, Cody Country Art League, By Western Hands and Cody Mural.
- "Saddles & Paddles," with a horseback trail ride provided by the <u>UXU Ranch</u> and rafting adventure provided by <u>Wyoming</u> River Trips.
- "Horseback Trail Ride," with <u>Livingston Outfitters</u> to Sheep Mountain.
- "Guided Hike" in the Shoshone National Forest led by hiking enthusiast Wes Allen, owner of <u>Sunlight Sports</u>.
- "Powerful Places," with stops at Heart Mountain WW II Interpretive Center, Buffalo Bill Dam and Old Trail Town.
- "Firearms & Western Heritage," with stops at the <u>Cody</u> Firearms Museum and Cody Firearms Experience.
- "Shoshone River Rafting," with <u>Wyoming River Trips</u> on the Lower Shoshone River.

The conference participants also experienced a variety of all-group adventures including an opening night event at the K3 Guest Ranch Bed and Breakfast, Cody Trolley Tour, an all-day Yellowstone National Park adventure with a lunch at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel hosted by Yellowstone National Park Lodges, Cody Cattle Company, Cody Nite Rodeo and a final event at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

###

Home of the Great American Adventure, Cody Yellowstone is comprised of the northwestern Wyoming towns of Cody, Powell and Meeteetse as well as areas inside of Yellowstone National Park and the valley east of the entrance. The region is known for rodeos, authentic guest and dude ranches, world-class museums and recreational adventures that reflect the adventurous spirit of the visionaries and explorers who brought the remote region to the world's attention.

Related hashtags: #CodyYellowstone #WildWatch #CodyWyoming #CenteroftheWest #BuffaloBill #Yellowstone #ThatsWY #OutsideYellowstone

Media contact:
Mesereau Travel Public Relations
720-284-1512
mona@mesereaupr.com
tom@mesereaupr.com