

# Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month through Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests

*The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation hosts live panel discussion in Spanish*

CAMP HILL, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES, September 29, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#) is hosting a live panel discussion with members of the Hispanic community who are enthusiastic users of Pennsylvania's outdoors. The public is invited to join in the conversation and ask questions, learn about the panelists' experiences in the outdoors and how, together with PPF, they are working to make Pennsylvania's state parks and forests welcoming places for all.

The virtual panel discussion, hosted entirely in Spanish, will take place on Tuesday, October 5 at 12pm. The program will be livestreamed on the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

With a mission of stewardship for PA's parks and forests through volunteerism and education, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is dedicated to ensuring a place and an experience for everyone in the outdoors. Last spring, PPF welcomed Margarita Caicedo as staff bilingual Ambassador to work closely with Hispanic visitors in developing outdoor skills, utilizing Leave No Trace principles, and assisting park staff with creating welcoming environments.

In July, Margarita spoke about the importance of the outdoors for human health at Governor Wolf's unveiling of "Penn's Parks for All," the 25-year strategic plan outlined for the state's parks. With an emphasis on access and ensuring a positive visitor experience, the plan has goals to reach and welcome a diverse audience including the rising demographic of Hispanic park goers. This panel discussion, hosted by PPF, is a step towards a more inclusive environment for PA's public lands.

Program attendees will meet Margarita as well as PPF Board members George Fernandez and Maria Montero. With a passion for marketing and Latino/Hispanic culture, George created Latino Connection, a Harrisburg-based marketing and communications firm dedicated to establishing meaningful connections for the Hispanic community. George enjoys exploring the state's parks and forests and wants fellow members of the Hispanic community to know these resources are available for their enjoyment as well.

Maria is a first generation American, born and raised in Pennsylvania. Maria's service milestones

led to an executive appointment in the Commonwealth as the Executive Director for both the Pennsylvania Commission for Women and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs (GACLA). She currently serves as the External Affairs Manager for the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority. She is passionate about community engagement, public service, and advocating for her home state's public lands.

All three panelists are personally and professionally dedicated to helping diminish language and cultural barriers that might impede the Hispanic community's enjoyment of the outdoors and are working with PPF to make everyone welcome in Pennsylvania's parks and forests.

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