

# The Heart of the Continent



International Partnership

Please consider contributing to HOCP's voluntary annual dues. Yours or your organization's annual support makes a huge difference for helping HOCP continue its mission to sustain and celebrate this wonderful cross-border region through collaboration. Most helpful to us would be if you can respond by the end of the first quarter, 2017. Thanks so much.

Because of the great work and participation of our many partners, this year was full of exciting developments for HOCP. In March we hosted our first annual Science Symposium! The event held on Friday, March 11 2016 at the Rainy River Community College in International Falls, MN was a huge success with over 70 attendees largely from the science communities. Our partnership with National Geographic Society—the Geotourism Initiative—continues to flourish with a mass marketing campaign last spring/summer helped showcase [www.traveltheheart.org](http://www.traveltheheart.org) geotourism site throughout the Midwest States and Ontario/Manitoba. Our general meetings, the core of our coalition building, rotated to Voyageurs National Park to celebrate the National Park system's centennial and Thunder Bay at the Lakehead Conservation Authority. We held Recreational/Tourism Summits at both locations to share ideas on sustainable recreation /tourism and demonstrated the benefits of geotourism. We look forward to the continued collaborations with you as we use this tool in the years ahead as a way to build our region and strengthen our ability to partner with each other. **The HOCP collaboration continues to grow** as groups perceive the benefits of working together to the benefit of the public lands and communities along the Ontario/Minnesota border.

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[www.heartofthecontinent.org](http://www.heartofthecontinent.org)

[hocp@heartofthecontinent.org](mailto:hocp@heartofthecontinent.org)

And we're asking for your support for the coming year:

**Annual Dues Renewal:** It's time once again to renew your voluntary annual dues to the Heart of the Continent Partnership. The level of dues paid is voluntary and on a sliding scale. Each partner chooses the level that works for them. We encourage you to make as strong a show of support as you can.

**Use of Funds:** The funds are used to cover general operating expenses of HOCP, as laid out and approved in an annual budget, especially coordinator hours and meeting costs. The steering committee has made it clear that the level of dues paid will have no bearing on the influence that the various partners will have in HOCP efforts. All partners, regardless of level of dues paid, will participate on an equal basis in all HOCP efforts, decisions, and initiatives.

**Annual Dues Levels:**

Supporting Partner: \$1000 - \$5000 per year  
Sustaining Partner: \$500 - \$999 per year  
Associate Partner: \$100 - \$499 per year  
Participating Partner: \$10 - \$99 per year

**Payment:** Please send cheques by 3/31/17.

Please make cheques payable Heart of the Continent Partnership and mail to: **Voyageurs National Park Association, memo line "annual dues" 126 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55401**

We will be glad to send you an invoice, as requested. Also, please email us, at the address below, to inquire about an electronic payment.

Thank you for your participation in and support of the work of Heart of the Continent Partnership. Please give me a call if you have questions or concerns: 218-310-1028

Sincerely,



Frank Jewell-Steering Committee Chair, Heart of the Continent Partnership

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