



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



The Gorge is known for its world-class rafting, kayaking and watersports.

For Immediate Release

Panel To Discuss New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

FAYETTEVILLE, W. Va., Jan. 28, 2021 - Southern West Virginia's [Adventures on the Gorge](#) (AOTG) will cover the topic of America's newest national park - the [New River Gorge National Park and Preserve](#) - at 7:30 p.m. EST on February 3, 2021 during its ongoing [adventure forums](#).

Panelists will include Lizzie Watts, superintendent of the park; Roger Wilson, CEO of Adventures on the Gorge and Dave Arnold, founder of Class VI River Runners and AOTG. Watts is in charge of managing the New River Gorge park as well as the [Gauley River National Recreation Area](#) and [Bluestone National Scenic River](#). Wilson runs AOTG and is a lifelong resident of the area with familial roots dating back to the mid-1700s. Arnold is one of the most recognized figures in whitewater rafting and was instrumental in building the industry on the New and Gauley Rivers.



Rock climbing in the gorge has increased in popularity.

Located on the rim of the country's newest national park, AOTG is an adventure outfitter offering a wide array of outdoor activities such as whitewater rafting, rock climbing, water sports, aerial adventures and more. Additionally, the resort accommodations and restaurants as well as retail, gift and gear shops.

The national park designation was approved by Congress late last year under the bi-partisan sponsorship of West Virginia's U.S. Senators - Joe Manchin (D-WV), Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) and Representative Carol Miller (R-WV).

"This is some of the most exciting news around here in a long time," said Wilson. "The new designation impacts on our community and citizens in a positive manner that will be felt for many years."

Senators Manchin and Capito have noted that the outdoor recreation industry in West Virginia is a \$9 billion industry that supports more than 91,000 jobs. The initiative specifically protects hunting, fishing and trapping as well as supporting the growing outdoor recreation industry.

The region began emerging as an outdoor recreation area in the 1970s with the establishment of small river-rafting companies and the completion of the New River Gorge Bridge and Route 19. The outdoor adventure industry has continued to thrive in the region, with rafting on both the New and Gauley Rivers and a variety of other outdoor adventures such as rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, ziplining and stand up paddle boarding.

AOTG's online webinars were introduced January 8 and covered the topic "Women of Whitewater."

The webinars are free to join and will be conducted on the Zoom platform. Participants can register for the upcoming forum by going to https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_l9C_kY9wQVqktMP5gvuE1g. Named one of the top six adventure resorts in the country by [U.S. News & World Report](#), Adventures on the Gorge is located on more than 250 acres along the rim of the majestic New River Gorge.

Travelers can find out more about Adventures on the Gorge [online](#), by calling 1-855-379-8738, or connecting on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), [TripAdvisor](#), [YouTube](#), and [Vimeo](#) and signing up for AOTG [e-newsletter](#). #AdventuresOnTheGorge

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Media Links (please credit Adventures on the Gorge)

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