

Thank You Salt Lake City

To the people of Salt Lake City – the hotel staff, housekeepers and bellhops; the taxi and bus drivers, the rickshaws; everyone at the Salt Palace, in the restaurants, cafes and at the resorts; everyone who keeps the city running; the shop owners and staff; the guides and outfitters; the residents; the first-responders; and everyone who makes up Salt Lake's unique culture:

Thank you.

When we came to you 22 years ago, none of us knew what to expect. We knew you cared about the outdoors the way we did, and your city welcomed our show with open arms. That was enough for us.

Together we've achieved incredible highs. You helped build us. From our tiny trade show, an economic juggernaut has grown – today the outdoor recreation economy generates \$887B in consumer spending and creates 7.6 million American jobs. We're going to be counted as part of the gross domestic product (GDP) now. Americans spend more on outdoor recreation than pharmaceuticals and fuel combined, and that's something to be proud of. All this is due in no small part to the people of Salt Lake City. You've given the outdoor industry a home – a place to gather, to share ideas and to move our businesses forward. You are part of this industry and your businesses thrived alongside.

We are moving into our next chapter. It's about doing what is right. It's about open spaces and getting outside, action over words.

Salt Lake City, this isn't the end of our decades-long partnership. It's an evolution. We support the outdoor businesses and every person who lives in and moves through Utah, who ventures outside, who knows what's important about things wild and free.

Thank you for 22 years. Thank you from our industry. This isn't goodbye, because we know this isn't the end.

The Outdoor Retailer Team

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