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Cave Country Trails to Host Public Workshops on Historic John Muir Walk Through Kentucky

Mammoth Cave, KY — December 15, 2025 — Cave Country Trails, Inc is inviting the public to participate in a series of engagement workshops this January and February focused on the Kentucky segment of the historic **John Muir 1000 Mile Walk to the Gulf**.

In 1867, renowned naturalist, explorer, and writer **John Muir** began a transformative journey from Indianapolis to the Gulf of Mexico. His path took him through Kentucky, including stops in Louisville, Elizabethtown, and Mammoth Cave, where he sought out the wildest and most secluded landscapes. Muir's journal from this journey, rich with observations and reflections, remains a powerful testament to the beauty and significance of the region.

The planning project being led by Russell Clark, Landscape Architect with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservations Assistance Program providing master planning support for Cave Country Trails, Inc. The project aims to **identify, research, and promote** this historic route through Kentucky, with a vision to connect communities, celebrate local heritage, and enhance outdoor recreation.

Key Project Components Include:

- **Route Development:** Designing safe cycling and walking paths, including rail-with-trail options and motorized routes.
- **National Park Connections:** Linking Mammoth Cave National Park, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park, and Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area.
- **Community Engagement:** Partnering with local organizations to highlight tourism assets along the route.
- **Public Outreach:** Educating the public on safe cycling routes and gathering input on local historic and cultural amenities.
- **Historical Narrative:** Sharing stories from Muir's journal within the context of today's landscape.
- **Potential Benefits:** Promoting educational, economic, and health opportunities for local communities.
- **Future Designations:** Exploring Scenic Byway and National Historic Trail status.

Get Involved

Residents, historians, cyclists, nature lovers, and community leaders are encouraged to attend the workshops and help shape the future of this inspiring initiative. Dates, locations, and registration details will be announced soon on the Cave Country Trails website and social media channels.

About Cave Country Trails, Inc
Cave Country Trails is a regional nonprofit dedicated to developing multi-use trails that connect communities, promote outdoor recreation, and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of south-central Kentucky