

Sports Tourism

Angela met with local cornhole enthusiast and member of the Southern Oregon Sports Commission, Curt Burrill, to discuss the possibility of hosting a cornhole tournament in conjunction with the Heart of the Rogue Festival next fall. The sport is growing in popularity and participation in Southern Oregon and we feel this would be a great component to the festival.

The Rogue Valley Senior Softball Association held their 10th annual Fall Classic in September, hosting 34 teams. This tournament is popular with the senior teams as they take advantage of the many sights and activities in the area while they are here.

Also in October, USA Oregon Softball hosted 32 teams for the College Exposure Fall Showcase tournament, some traveling from as far away as Hawaii. Eighteen college coaches also visited the tournament to scout, up dramatically from previous years. The tournament director feels those college coaches are a big draw for teams to sign up for the tournament and they have plans to grow the number of teams next year.

The Rogue Marathon took place on October 12th featuring a 10K, half marathon and full marathon on the Bear Creek Greenway. This Boston Marathon qualifier has suffered challenges the past two years because of forest fire smoke and being canceled in 2018. The number of runners was up this year, with 578 registrants representing 22 states. The SOSC Know Your Role Committee met with Bob Wise and Rebecca Maloney at KOB Channel 5 to discuss the campaign in the upcoming year. KOB Channel 5 is working to renew existing sponsors and looking to add more to ensure the PSAs continue to air. It was also decided SOSC/KOB Channel 5 would present another \$2,500 scholarship at the Top 10 Sports Stories banquet in February. Nominations will open mid-October and are made by a coach or athletic director. This scholarship is based on sportsmanship more than athleticism.

Updated Know Your Role banners, yard signs and posters were ordered and distributed to local schools, facilities and clubs. The new brand has been positively received and enthusiasm for the message continues to build. It's time to change the culture of sports in Southern Oregon, so please help spread the message. If you see unacceptable behavior at youth sports events, don't hesitate to remind folks to "Know Your Role!"

The SOSC Top 10 Sports Stories of 2019 Awards Banquet planning committee met to discuss the selection of recipients of the Sports Advocate Award, Official of the Year,

and the Dan Bulkley Spirit of Competition Award. The Top 10 banquet is Thursday, February 13, 2020 at the Santo Community Center. The keynote speaker is Boston Marathon Race Director Dave McGillivray, who ran from Medford, Oregon to Medford, Massachusetts in 1978. Please see Angela if you are interested in being a sponsor.