



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2025 Ohio Chamber Tourism Summit
At the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium Africa Event Center
Thursday, October 16, 2025 from 1pm to 5pm

Ohio Chamber of Commerce Tourism Summit:

1:00 PM – 1:10 PM Conference Welcome

1:10 PM - 1:30 PM Presentation by Jimmy Merkel, CEO & Co-Founder of Rockbridge

1:30 PM – 2:10 PM Panel of legislators on supporting Ohio's growing tourism industry
Moderator: Matt MacLaren, Director of Travel and Tourism at the Ohio Chamber

- Representative Melanie Miller
- Representative Mark Hiner
- Representative Dontavius Jarrells

2:10PM – 2:30PM Attractions Update

- Dr. Frederic Bertley, President & CEO of COSI
- Colonel Bill Butler, Acting President of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

2:30pm – 3:15pm Panel on Marketing Ohio, The Heart of It All

Moderator: TBD

- Ryan Squire, VP Strategic Communications and Brand Marketing, JobsOhio
- Chris Hurtubise, Communications Director, America250 Ohio
- Sarah Wickham, State Tourism Director and Chief Communications & Marketing Officer at the Ohio Department of Development

3:45 PM - 4:00 PM Presentation by Tom Schmid, CEO at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Reception and time to tour the Columbus Zoo