



Press Contact  
Kathryn Archambault  
Nike Communications  
646.654.3421

[karchambault@nikecomm.com](mailto:karchambault@nikecomm.com)

### **MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE ENRICHES "GREEN STORY" WITH NEW INITIATIVES**

*Additions to Resort Offerings Enhance 148-year Commitment to Environmental Stewardship*

**NEW PALTZ, NY**—Mohonk Mountain House has been doing its part to protect the environment since 1869 when founder Albert Smiley first opened the Victorian-castle resort in spectacular surroundings. Today, Mohonk Mountain House is still intent upon providing recreation and renewal for guests and continues its 148-year commitment to environmental stewardship through earth-friendly activities and design features, an extensive energy saving and recycling program, and green initiatives that preserve the land and educate people. The resort received an award on its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary from the United Nations Environment Programme—recognizing the Smiley Family and Mohonk Mountain House “for generations of dedicated leadership and commitment to the protection and enhancement of the environment and for their inestimable contribution to the cause of peace, justice, and sustainable human development.” In October 2011, the Smiley family and Mohonk Mountain House staff were honored for 143 years of land stewardship by the Open Space Institute.

“My great-grand-uncle understood the need to provide guests with an opportunity to experience nature directly,” says Mohonk’s current President Albert K. Smiley III. “People today have little free time, so it’s increasingly important to provide a place where people can easily connect with a strikingly beautiful natural environment and immediately feel nurtured by that connection.”

#### **Earth-Friendly Design Features: The Spa at Mohonk Mountain House**

- A geothermal heating and cooling system moderates the temperature of the spa using the constant temperature of the earth, ensuring an emission- and noise-free zone.
- A “green roof” garden terrace (an 8-inch planting bed) helps insulate the building, reduces energy use and runoff, and provides a venue for birds and butterflies, yoga classes and meditation.
- Six hundred tons of Shawangunk Ridge rock were “recycled” and used to construct the interior and façade of the spa wing. The Spa’s “*Shawangunk Grit*” *Mineral Body Treatment* uses indigenous quartzite rocks crushed to a powder in a scrub that exfoliates and improves circulation.

#### **Activities That Embrace the Earth**

- The *Junior Naturalist Experience*, created by staff naturalists and incorporated into the Mohonk Kids’ Club, introduces children to the wonders of the outdoors through eco-friendly activities with a hands-on approach. Each child receives a Mohonk Mountain House Eco-Kit that includes a Junior Naturalist Certificate, a magnifying glass, and a list of simple eco-activities to take home, as a way to encourage environmental awareness.
- Nature programs (e.g., walks, slide shows) for all ages are hosted by Mohonk’s staff naturalist.

- The Mohonk Lake Cooperative Weather Station, with the Mohonk Preserve, has recorded weather for over 100 years.
- On-site rock climbing encourages overnight guests to explore the Shawangunk Mountain Ridge, recognized by the Nature Conservancy as one of the “Last Great Places” on Earth. Beginner and experienced rock climbers are welcome.

### **Energy Saving, Recycling, and Conservation Efforts**

- Energy efficient light bulbs in guest rooms and public spaces have reduced Mohonk’s lighting load by 150,000 watts.
- An extensive composting program processes tons of consumer food waste per month. The compost product is used as fertilizer in Mohonk gardens, and on the golf course.
- With the efforts of its composting and recycling (paper, glass, aluminum, trash, soap, office computers, batteries and fluorescent light bulbs) programs, Mohonk is currently reducing its waste sent to landfill by 50%.
- Mohonk Mountain House uses an Integrated Pest Management system to reduce the use of pesticides. It also uses biodegradable laundry products and non-aerosol cleaning materials.
- Mohonk Mountain House utilizes an environmentally-friendly wastewater treatment plant.
- Mohonk Mountain House is partnering with Clean the World to collect and send recycled soap and shampoo to countries in need of hygiene supplies. Since its inception, Clean the World has been steadily increasing its services and operations to accommodate rapidly expanding community needs. In the process, Clean the World has put over 11 million soap bars and 325,000 pounds of shampoo and conditioner back into human use, simultaneously eliminating over 750 tons of waste.

### **Land Stewardship**

- The Smiley family transferred 5,300 acres to the Mohonk Trust in 1963. Now known as the Mohonk Preserve, this was the first land trust established to protect the Shawangunk Ridge. The Preserve continues to pursue its mission of land stewardship on the Shawangunk Ridge while providing environmental education and conducting scientific research.
- The Mohonk Golf Course received the Cooperative Sanctuary Award from the International Audubon Society, for environmental-friendly practices.
- Mohonk Mountain House has donated a regional headquarters to the Student Conservation Association, a national organization dedicated to developing conservation leaders of the future, and provides space for the Daniel Smiley Research Center to the Mohonk Preserve.
- Mohonk Consultations, Inc. was founded to raise individuals’ awareness and understanding of local and global ecological systems by sponsoring conferences at Mohonk Mountain House.

### **Partners in Planting Trees**

- The Spa at Mohonk Mountain House is proud to feature Éminence Organics Skincare as one of our retail product lines. Not only does Éminence use sustainable farming and green practices to create natural, organic, and Biodynamic® products, they are constantly looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint. Through their ongoing partnership with Trees for the Future, an award-winning global tree planting organization, Éminence is planting trees in 19 developing countries throughout the world. With every purchase of an Éminence retail product at Mohonk Mountain House, Éminence and Trees for the Future will plant a tree in a developing country. With your support, Mohonk Mountain House has helped to plant over 7,200 trees with Éminence!

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### **The Power of a Single Tree**

- Produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year
- Absorbs as much carbon in a year as a car produces driving 26,000 miles
- Helps lower air temperature and helps combat climate change
- Stabilizes the soil and prevents wind and soil erosion through its roots
- Contributes to the fertility of land through nitrogen fixation and increasing water penetration

Green efforts have long been a central component of the commitment that Mohonk Mountain House has to its guests and to the environment. The steadfast approach to environmental stewardship by the Smiley family will continue to grow and evolve for many more years to come.

### **About Mohonk Mountain House**

Mohonk Mountain House is a National Historic Landmark resort and Historic Hotel of America located in New York's Hudson Valley, just 90 miles north of New York City. Owned and operated by the Smiley Family since its founding in 1869, the resort has provided guests with recreation and renewal of body, mind, and spirit in a beautiful natural setting for 148 years. The Victorian Castle resort is honored on *Condé Nast Traveler's* Gold List, along with being named the Number One Resort Spa in the U.S. in *Condé Nast Traveler's* Readers' Choice Awards. *Travel + Leisure's* 2015 World's Best Awards highlighted the historic property as a Top 100 Hotel in the World, Best U.S. Resort and Best for Family Travel. The 30,000-square-foot Spa wing at Mohonk Mountain House, features 16 treatment rooms, a solarium, an outdoor heated mineral pool, an indoor heated pool, comprehensive fitness center, and yoga/motion studio. The eco-friendly Spa, recognized as "One of the Top Three Hotel Spas" in *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best Awards, is heated and cooled by a geothermal system and features a "green roof." A wealth of year-round recreation includes a spectacular Skating Pavilion, rock climbing, and 85 miles of trails for seasonal hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The grounds feature exquisite gardens, a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, and stables for horseback riding and horse-drawn carriage rides. The glacial-formed Lake Mohonk is ideal for boating, fishing, and swimming. The Mohonk Kids' Club is lauded by *Travel + Leisure* as one of the Best Hotel Kids' Programs nationally and has been recognized by *USA Today* as one of the Ten Best Family Resorts. Over 40 theme programs are presented annually, including culinary classes, gardening workshops, music festivals, mindfulness meditation, and nature programs. Overnight rates at Mohonk Mountain House include charming accommodations, three meals, Afternoon Tea and Cookies, and most resort activities. For additional information, please call 855.274.4020 or visit [Mohonk.com](http://Mohonk.com). Become a Facebook fan at [Facebook.com/mohonk](https://www.facebook.com/mohonk).

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