



## Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email [livable@arp.org](mailto:livable@arp.org).
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 12/22/2017

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Manitou Springs

STATE: Colorado

POPULATION SIZE: As of 2015, 5,264

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 24% (Sources: Plan Manitou; 2014 U.S. Census, American Community Survey)

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Nicole Nicoletta

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 606 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829

### Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Jeanne is a writer for the Pikes Peak Bulletin, a weekly newspaper that serves the community. She is a former editor of Life After 50 magazine, which focuses on older adults and is distributed throughout southern Colorado. She also writes website, blog post and other marketing copy, specializing in work for nonprofit retirement communities. Jeanne served as chair of the Communication and Information Committee during the process of developing Colorado Springs' Age-Friendly Strategic Plan. Colorado Springs became part of the Age-Friendly Communities Network in 2015. As Manitou Springs is a small community contiguous to Colorado Springs, Jeanne thought Manitou Springs should become part of the network as well, and found that numerous citizens agreed. She convened the Age-Friendly Manitou Springs committee, which has discussed Manitou's goals and needs toward becoming a livable community for all ages.

### **Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS**

**1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.**

In April 2017, the Manitou Springs City Council adopted Plan Manitou, a comprehensive plan that sets out goals, policies and action steps that support the city’s vision of a sustainable, livable and safe community. The city has also adopted a parks, trails and open space master plan. Both of these documents, developed with extensive community input, contain numerous goals and action steps that reference the needs of older community members and the desire to support older adults in the areas of human services, food access, housing, aging in place, recreation programming, transportation, safety and inclusiveness. As of right now, we have a daily Golden Circle senior lunch, a weekly food pantry and community farmer’s market, ADA-compliant sidewalks in the downtown area and an ADA inventory in progress on the entire city. People over 60 receive discounted admission to the Manitou Springs Aquatic and Fitness Center. However, we recognize that there is much work to do. The members of the Age-Friendly Manitou Springs Committee intend to champion the expansion of city programs, help accomplish Plan Manitou goals and advocate for seniors whenever and wherever possible. We are fortunate that our Mayor Nicole Nicoletta has been an active member of the committee and a great supporter of the Age-Friendly concept. She is one of a dozen participants who have been attending meetings and helping to develop our ideas and goals since our first meeting in June 2017.

**2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?**

Manitou Springs has a strong tradition of citizen participation. Our committee has discussed outreach through the daily Golden Circle senior lunch, convening meetings during the day, conducting a survey and following up with one-on-one interviews, starting an Age-Friendly Manitou Springs Facebook page and communicating with seniors through churches. An Age-Friendly page also will be added to the PlanManitou.com website, with resources, activities and interactive features. Many seniors dedicate significant time to ongoing community boards and activities; we will build on this resource.

**3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.**

Plan Manitou and the Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan encourage planning and collaboration among city departments and community organizations. We are fortunate to have a lot of that going on now in numerous arenas. Our Age-Friendly action plan will identify fruitful opportunities for collaboration with community groups such as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Housing Advisory Board, Open Space Advisory Committee, Transportation and Parking Advisory Board, City Council and city staff. Karen Berchtold, a staff member of the city's Planning Department, has been greatly helpful to us so far. Our Mayor and City Council have been supportive of our efforts and will bring city departments to the table. The city encourages and actively supports collaboration between government agencies and community partners, including volunteer and nonprofit groups, to assist with project implementation. As a small community in a larger region, our city staff, community groups and boards and commissions have been very successful in forming partnerships with other agencies in areas such as transportation, arts and culture, disaster recovery and hazard mitigation planning. Finally, we plan to put together a permanent Age-Friendly standing committee.

#### Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

As a community that places great value upon creativity and community input and collaboration, we look forward to sharing our ideas, projects and unique perspectives as we work to make our community livable for people of all ages. We hope to collaborate with other communities, especially other small communities that have a tourist-based economy. Please see our attachment titled "About Manitou Springs," which lists some of the characteristics that distinguish our community.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

During the numerous community meetings that culminated in Plan Manitou, great interest was expressed in making Manitou Springs a livable community for people of all ages. The many participants who provided input for Plan Manitou identified obvious needs, including affordable housing, transportation, food access, recreational programs, health and wellness services and a community center. Many of Plan Manitou's policies and actions directly address these needs. Other action items, such as development of incentive programs for energy efficiency upgrades and efforts to reach out to all vulnerable populations, fit right in with our Age-Friendly goals. It seemed logical to us to join the Network of Age-Friendly Communities, since many of our goals align, and we are eager to share our experiences in moving toward Age-Friendliness with the other communities in the network.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >



*Please see email attachment. We are submitting two logos: our city logo and an Age-Friendly Manitou Springs logo that was specially designed for us.*