



Brian Shanle of Kalahari Resorts & Conventions Named OHLA’s General Manager of the Year
Leadership, innovation and compassion earn Shanle prestigious title

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Sandusky, OH (December 16, 2024) – [Kalahari Resorts & Conventions](#) is proud to announce Brian Shanle, Resort General Manager of the Sandusky location, has been named **General Manager of the Year** at the 2024 Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association (OHLA) Annual Conference & Gala. Held at the Champion Mill Conference Center in November, the award celebrates Shanle’s outstanding 16-year journey of leadership, innovation, and community impact.

“Brian exemplifies everything a leader should be—steady, inspiring, and forward-thinking,” said Tim Arnold, Kalahari Resorts Vice President of Operations. “This award is a well-deserved honor for someone who has dedicated himself to elevating our team, our guests, and the entire Kalahari experience.”

Kalahari provides guests with a beyond expectations experience and Shanle has played an instrumental role in delivering that promise as he oversees the property, including guest services, financial performance, operations, sales and events. Under Shanle’s leadership, the resort has reached new heights, hosting over half a million guests annually and fostering a collaborative team of more than 1,100 year-round associates.

“Brian isn’t just a General Manager; he’s a trailblazer. He has a talent for bringing people together, embracing fresh ideas, and making everyone feel part of something bigger,” Arnold continued.

Shanle’s forward-thinking approach shines through in projects such as creating Kalahari’s first [Calming Room](#) and earning a Sensory Friendly Hotel Certification – an initiative that has now been rolled out across all Kalahari Resorts. These efforts show his dedication to inclusivity and his drive to raise the bar across the industry.

Beyond the resort, Shanle's influence extends into the community. Whether traveling on a mission trip to Africa or mentoring the next generation of leaders, his commitment to bettering those around him reflects the compassionate leadership he brings to work every day.

Photos from the event can be viewed [here](#).

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About Kalahari Resorts and Conventions

Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, Sandusky, Ohio, the Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania, Round Rock, Texas, and opening soon in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, deliver a beyond-expectations waterpark resort and conference experience all under one roof. The African-inspired Kalahari Resorts, privately owned by the Nelson family, are home to America's Largest Indoor Waterparks. Todd and Shari Nelson, the founders of Kalahari Resorts, were honored with an induction into the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame in 2023. All Kalahari Resorts feature well-appointed guest rooms and suites, the full-service Spa Kalahari, a fun-filled family entertainment center, on-site signature restaurants, unique retail shops and a state-of-the-art convention center. For more information, members of the media are encouraged to visit kalaharimedia.com.