

Saving Wilderness.



Changing Lives.

An Update from the IPWA on COVID-19

IPWA Members and Prospective Volunteers:

We hope this email finds you all well during this trying time.

The IPWA is monitoring the developing COVID-19 situation and will comply with all guidelines issued by local health authorities and official CDC recommendation to postpone or otherwise modify events as warranted. We have also been in regular contact with our partners at the USFS to ensure compliance with their guidance as well.

Our main priority is the safety and well-being of our volunteers and the community, and the IPWA is committed to do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

PROGRAM UPDATES

- **New and returning volunteer registration for the 2020 summer season will now open on May 1st, 2020**, rather than April 1st, 2020.
- At the current time, **IPWA activities beyond May 1st, 2020 are proceeding as planned**. However, there is a strong possibility that June training, summer patrols and trail projects will be affected as the situation continues to evolve.
- We will continue to provide updates regarding any changes and/or cancellations via email, our website, and our social media pages. To see the latest updates, visit our [IPWA COVID-19 Updates page](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIKERS

Please read the [Leave No Trace Recommendations for Getting Outside during COVID-19](#). This page includes important tips such as:

- **"Stay home or stay local:** While it can be disappointing, the best thing to do might be to stay home, especially if you are sick. Even if you are not symptomatic, staying home is still a good idea. Park rangers, volunteers, and locals in the often small and rural gateway communities near our favorite outdoor spaces need to be kept safe and healthy too. That's not to say you need to be stuck indoors though unless it is mandated. Now is the time to enjoy your local trails, open spaces, and parks. Rather than travel to big name outdoor areas, see what is available in your own backyard and neighborhood." Avoid crowds and follow CDC guidelines for social distancing while out on the trails.
- **"We are all in this together.** Be considerate of other outdoor visitors by washing your hands regularly and using hand sanitizer when hand washing facilities are not available, sneezing and coughing into a tissue or your elbow, and keeping group sizes small. Also be kind to park staff during these challenging times. Help them do their job by doing your part to take care of each other and the land."

Your health and well-being is very important to us. If you are looking for a one-stop

resource for COVID-19 information, please check the [CDC FAQ page](#) and [Colorado's COVID-19 page](#).

Stay well!

Kelly Prendergast and the IPWA Board of Directors

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA)

<https://www.indianpeakswilderness.org/>

