

*Saving Wilderness.*



*Changing Lives.*

## IPWA New Volunteer Program Cancelled for 2020

Dear Friend,

I hope this note finds you and your loved ones healthy and well. It's safe to say that the past few months have been both challenging and uncertain.

Like many other organizations, the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA) has been closely monitoring the developing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. For the safety of our volunteers and in an effort to minimize further strain on emergency services, the Forest Service has suspended all volunteer patrols until further notice.

As you may know, precautions for social distancing may extend into the summer and the CDC has recommended canceling events with 10 or more people. As a result, the IPWA made the difficult decision to cancel the new volunteer program in 2020. We may also be required to postpone or cancel other programs, such as returning volunteer patrols, trail restoration projects and trail head host days.

While this was a difficult choice, 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 the virus.

Thank you to all those who expressed interest in joining us this year. We are planning to bring back the new volunteer program next year and as such, we have added you to the priority list for our 2021 new volunteers.

While so much remains uncertain at the moment, one thing is for sure: this crisis will pass. Our trails will reopen, our communities will recover, and with your support, the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance will be here continuing our work to protect and preserve our local wilderness areas.

Thank you for your support and understanding. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at [hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org).

Sincerely,

Kelly Prendergast and the IPWA Board of Directors

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**Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA)**

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

