ETC Response to Covid-19
May 1, 2020

Dearest ETC Community: Volunteers, Donors, and Participants,

I hope and trust that you are all taking care of yourselves, your family, friends and loved ones.

ETC continues to monitor local, regional, and national updates. We are in active dialogue with ETC’s Board, staff and volunteers about how to keep our community safe while being as healthfully engaged as possible. We hope that you have been able to remain safe and healthy as well.

The staff members of Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC) are working hard from our individual home offices as we continue to creatively plot, pivot, and adapt to our new reality and to stay connected with our amazing community of donors, volunteers, program partners, and participants in safe and creative ways.

The BIG Question is: What about summer programming?
To assess the possibility of summer programs we are in conversation with agency and school partners; ETC guides and trip leaders; and other synergistic outdoor programs and camps. After analyzing this information and in concert with the CDC and State and Country guidelines, we will assess the feasibility of adapting our program offerings for 2020. We look to make clear decisions on ETC Summer Programs and Adventures by the end of May. The safety and well being of our community is always our guiding light.

Of course, we will need ETC’s transformational, educational and inclusive outdoor programming more that ever when we get to the other side of this pandemic.

Here are some of the key steps ETC has taken:

Volunteer Guide Trainings

• We have been offering Sea Kayak Volunteer Guide Trainings online thus far and hope to conduct an on-water San Francisco Bay Training in mid-July.
• We will be offering ETC’s Inclusion Training on Saturday, May 16 from 10-1. It will be taught by 7 ETC community members with disabilities. All ETC guides, new and tenured, are invited to join us.
• ETC is cancelling River Guide Training for 2020 due to the uncertainty of the Season. 2020 selected volunteers and interns are encouraged to train in 2021.

ETC Programs and Inclusive Adventures

• We ended our Winter Ski Season one month early to protect the safety of our participants, volunteers and Winter Staff.
ETC’s Youth LEAD Fellows have been continuing to meet online weekly and they will have their Graduation online on May 6th. **We congratulate them for all their commitment and hard work as they continue to step up as bold young leaders.**

Sadly, we had to cancel all of our two and three-week Youth LEAD Summer Courses for 2020. **We hope to have a robust Youth LEAD Program in 2021, offering six 14 to 21-day educational leadership courses!**

We rescheduled or cancelled all Sea Kayaking and Whitewater Rafting trips from April through June.

We will be assessing our River Season for the Months of July-September with the goal of making a decision by the end of May.

We hope to conduct 1-day and possibly 2-day Sea Kayak trips on San Francisco Bay and Tomales Bay beginning in July. **Stay Tuned!**

**GRAND CANYON and ROGUE RIVER ADVENTURES**

We are in conversation with our commercial river company partners regarding upcoming collaborative trips and will keep you posted:

* **Grand Canyon Shared Expedition** with Canyon Explorations: August 22 through September 5

* **Rogue River Shared Adventure** with ARTA: September 2-5

**Events**

ETC’s Make a Ripple Gala was scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 2nd at Cavallo Point Resort and is now cancelled. **We encourage and hope our generous guests will donate their table sponsorship, ticket and Fund-a-Need Gifts to help ETC survive during these challenging times.**

Staff have been planning and delivering online events for our community such as a Netflix Watch Party and Discussion of the film Crip Camp which depicts the history of the Disability Revolution. We highly recommend this film!

* Stay tuned for more inspiring and fun online event to engage our community!

Please reach out with any questions, thoughts, or wise counsel:

Diane@etc.trips.org or 415-994-7207

Connecting with nature is healing even during the best of times. Let’s continue to support one another though this current crisis. We can’t do this alone (even as we remain six-feet apart).

**Stay healthy! Stay Connected!**

**Yours in wellness,**

Diane Poslosky  
ETC Executive Director