Dearest ETC Community,

Like you, myself and the staff of Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC) are adapting to our new reality and taking precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities while continuing to work as a staff team to support our mission. Of course we will need ETC’s transformational outdoor programming more that ever when we get to the other side of this pandemic.

We have developed a response to the Coronavirus informed by the CDC and state agencies to prioritize health and safety while trying to maintain programming as much as possible.

To protect our community, we are doing the following:

• ETC closed the Winter Ski Program one month early and postponed our Sea Kayak Training until it is safe to meet in groups.

• We are rescheduling planned trips, training and fundraising events for the month of April and will be making ongoing decisions until it is safe to gather in groups again.

• We will be sending out a missive regarding ETC’s Make a Ripple Gala after our Board Meeting next week on March 25th.

• All staff members are working from home and connecting through Zoom. We are in weekly contact with ETC’s Youth LEAD Fellows online.

• We are staying in close communication with our community including program partners, volunteers, funders and donors.

I hope and trust that you are all taking care of yourselves, your family, friends, and loved ones as well. Please reach out with any questions, thoughts, or counsel:

Diane@etctrips.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,
Diane Poslosky
ETC Executive Director
P.S. Here is a Beautiful Poem I want to share with you

Pandemic
By Lynn Unger

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath— the most sacred of times.
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling. Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.
And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. (You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another’s hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.