

26th Annual Conference



Facing Challenges Together



**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**October 30 - November 1, 2019**

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## PURPOSE STATEMENT

The WRMC provides a forum to learn and share common practices in wilderness risk management, and contributes to a culture of open dialogue among outdoor industry professionals.

## WE BELIEVE

- Wilderness and outdoor experiences create unique opportunities for growth.
- There is value in taking risks, and those risks need to be thoughtfully assessed and managed.
- We have a responsibility to share learning in order to promote improved practices across the industry.
- Each organization should define its own risk management goals and practices, while also striving to learn from the experiences of others.
- Managing the risks to our participants and staff helps us manage the risks to our organizations.
- We can and should enlist our participants in managing program risks.
- Cultural competence supports risk management.
- Transparency with participants and their families is valuable and appropriate, including in times of crisis.
- Timely reporting and debriefing of incidents is key to promoting learning and improving practices over time.
- Prudent legal strategies are grounded in running quality programs that prioritize the health and well-being of those involved.

# Welcome to the 2019 WILDERNESS RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE in Albuquerque, New Mexico

On behalf of the Steering Committee, welcome to the 26th annual WRMC! If there is anything we can do to support your learning while you're here, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the Steering Committee. One of the best parts of this conference is the community we build each year as we explore questions together and learn from each other. I look forward to meeting you over the next few days!

Sincerely,



Katie Baum Mettenbrink  
WRMC Steering Committee Chair

*The WRMC is a community of people and organizations facing challenges together. The WRMC Steering Committee is committed to fostering an inclusive event culture where attendees, speakers, staff, and volunteers of all identities feel welcome.*

## 2019 WRMC STEERING COMMITTEE

**Katie Baum Mettenbrink**  
*Chair, NOLS*

**Todd Duncan**  
*Sierra Club*

**Amberleigh Hammond**  
*Sierra Club*

**Catherine Hansen-Stamp**  
*Adventure and Recreation Attorney at Law*

**Laura Herrin**  
*American Conservation Experience*

**Emily Ledingham**  
*NOLS*

**Steve Neal**  
*Outward Bound USA*

**Steve Pace**  
*Association for Experiential Education*

**Mike Pigg**  
*Outward Bound USA*

**Dennis Pyburn**  
*Student Conservation Association*

**Rafael Rosa**  
*Student Conservation Association*

**Jeannette Stawski**  
*Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education*

## WRMC LEGACY PARTNERS



## THINGS TO KNOW

### HAVE A QUESTION?

Visit the WRMC office in Boardroom North (located between the Fiesta and Enchantment rooms) or ask WRMC staff wearing red vests. Also, anyone wearing a name tag that says “Committee” is eager to hear what you are learning and help you make the most of your conference experience.

### INTERNET

Complimentary high-speed wireless internet is available throughout the hotel and in guest rooms. Please contact the hotel front desk if you need assistance.

### NEW TO THE CONFERENCE?

Attend the First Time Attendee Orientation from 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. on Wednesday or visit with WRMC Steering Committee members at their welcome table in the Exhibit Hall from 5:00–6:00 p.m. Ask questions and learn how to get the most out of your WRMC experience.

### COFFEE AND SNACKS

Morning coffee is available on Thursday and Friday in the Exhibit Hall, where you can also re-energize during morning and afternoon breaks. Help with our sustainability efforts and bring your own reusable water bottle and coffee cup!

### MEAL PLAN

If you have purchased the meal plan, bring your ticket to the Exhibit Hall for breakfast and lunch on Thursday and Friday.

### JOB NETWORKING

Look for the job booth in the Exhibit Hall to post or view job announcements.

### OTHER DINING OPTIONS

The hotel has one full-sized restaurant (Forque Kitchen & Bar), a coffee shop (Starbucks), and two small counter-serve restaurants (Keva Juice and The Deli). There are several restaurants and one small grocery store (Silver Street Market) within a half mile radius of the hotel. Hotel guests can request a complimentary mini fridge from the hotel desk for their rooms.

### GENDER-INCLUSIVE RESTROOMS

The second floor restrooms closest to the Fiesta rooms will be designated as gender-inclusive for the duration of the WRMC. These gender-inclusive restrooms are for individuals who do not feel comfortable choosing between binary-gendered restrooms, and all other individuals. While signage will be changed to reflect this designation, the restrooms will still contain facilities based on the gender binary (i.e. urinals and menstrual product dispensers). To maintain an environment that is inclusive for people of all genders, we request that attendees not use the urinals in the gender-inclusive restrooms.

### LACTATION ROOM

A designated, private lactation room is centrally located on the second floor. Find a WRMC staff member for instructions on how to access the room.

### SURVEYS

Participate for a chance to win prizes and help us improve! Online surveys will be emailed at the end of each day. Prizes will be given away to random survey-takers—check the prize table daily for winners.

## CONFERENCE EVENTS

### EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE

Wednesday, October 30

5:00–6:30 p.m. *Grand Pavilion*

Get to know the exhibitors and enjoy light appetizers, cash bar, and prize giveaways!

### STRUCTURED NETWORKING

Thursday, October 31

4:45 p.m.–6:15 p.m. *Grand Pavilion*

Join your peers for some engaging and informal conversations and hear how like organizations manage similar challenges. We will provide topics and facilitate the formation of small discussion groups. The goal is to provide a venue for participants to connect with others who experience similar challenges and to share ideas that will help attendees improve their programs. Find a list of this year’s topics at the registration table marked “WRMC Resources.”

### SOAR ACT INFO SESSION

Friday, November 1

12:15–12:45 p.m. *Whyte Room Court*

The Coalition for Outdoor Access (COA) invites you to attend an info session to learn about SOAR (Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation). The SOAR Act will increase guided recreational access to federal lands and waters by improving the outfitter-guide permitting processes of the federal land management agencies. Additionally, the bill will simplify the process, make it more transparent, reduce permit costs, and increase flexibility for outdoor leaders. Please bring your own lunch to this gathering.

## KEYNOTE



### KEYNOTE DINNER & SOCIAL HOUR

Friday, November 1 *Grand Pavilion*  
5:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. Dinner\*  
7:30 p.m. Keynote Address

*\*The Hyatt Regency can accommodate most dietary needs; just let your server know your requirements.*

### DECISION MAKING IS A WAY OF LIFE

Kit DesLauriers

As a professional ski mountaineer and respected leader in the world of big mountain skiing and adventure filming, Kit DesLauriers has a unique perspective on managing risk. She tells the story of what led her to turn around from an 8,000-meter peak attempt due to her self-diagnosed HACE, what it was like to be the first woman to solo climb/ski the Grand Teton, and how she approached skiing Mt. Everest. Kit also offers insight into life as a professional adventurer and a mother who is now watching her daughters approach challenges in the mountains.

## EXPLORING OUTSIDE

### THURSDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE

Attendees that signed up for the off-site dinner and campfire with Cottonwood Gulch should meet in the hotel lobby at 6:30 p.m. to catch the shuttle. Didn't sign up but want to go? Email [director@cottonwoodgulch.org](mailto:director@cottonwoodgulch.org) to see if there's still space. Thanks to the Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions team for hosting this event!

### GETTING AROUND

ABQ RIDE offers public transportation in and around downtown Albuquerque. Bike sharing, Uber, and Lyft are available in the city.

### WAYS TO STAY ACTIVE

Amenities at the Hyatt Regency include an outdoor pool, jacuzzi, and fitness center. Nearby multi-use trails along the Rio Grande provide opportunities for walks, runs, and bike rides.

### YOGA FOR OUTDOOR PEOPLE

Join Helen Wilson for guided yoga on Thursday and Friday mornings at 6:45 a.m. in the Sierra Vista room on the 19th floor (great view!). Bring a yoga mat (or towel) and wear comfortable clothing. This class is suitable for any skill level.

## WRMC YEAR-ROUND COMMUNITY

### WRMC SOCIAL MEDIA

Join the WRMC Facebook page or follow us on Twitter to get updates about the conference. Look for comments and photos from this year's conference, news on next year, or use it to share information with your colleagues and keep in touch with your fellow attendees. Use #WRMC.



**Wilderness Risk Management Conference**



**WildrnssRiskMgmtConf**

Engage with us all year long at [nols.edu/wrmc](http://nols.edu/wrmc)

### ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER

The learning doesn't stop when the conference ends! Full presentations, videos, articles, workshop outlines, and take-home action steps from this and past WRMCs are available to the public for your continuing education needs.

### CHARLES (REB) GREGG WILDERNESS RISK MANAGEMENT AWARD

This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in risk management to the outdoor adventure education profession. The award is presented annually at the WRMC. The award's namesake, Reb Gregg, is a practicing attorney who specializes in outdoor adventure and education law. He has been instrumental in the development of the WRMC. Visit the WRMC website to nominate someone for this prestigious award.

### JIM RATZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Apply for a scholarship for next year's conference. The deadline is in June. Or provide support to others by donating to the scholarship fund. The application and online donations are available on the WRMC website.

### SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Consider submitting a proposal for a workshop, poster, or short talk next year. Look for the call for proposals in January.

# NAVIGATING THE CONFERENCE

## DURING THE CONFERENCE

### Engage With the Community

Participate in structured networking, social hours, and special events. Connect with others during meals and between sessions.

### Attend Core Workshops

The “Core” workshops provide fundamental material and are highly recommended for new WRMC attendees.

### Capture Action Steps

Each presentation includes action steps—visit the WRMC website for a complete list.

### Ask Questions

Please ask questions of WRMC staff and Steering Committee members. We are here to help you! Look for identifying ribbons on name tags.

### Learn From Peers

Discover the challenges other programs face and dialog about solutions. Use the color code on your name tag to meet people who work in similar program types.

## AFTER THE CONFERENCE

### Provide Feedback

Online surveys will be distributed each day of the conference.

### Make a Plan

Synthesize the action steps into a prioritized plan for your program. Remember to fine tune and adapt concepts—a technique or policy that works for one program might not work for another.

### Bookmark WRMC Resource Center

Visit the online WRMC Resource Center for workshop notes and hand-outs, videos, and the attendee list.

### Consider Presenting Next Year

Have an idea for a workshop? Look for the call for proposals in January. New ideas and speakers add value and help keep the conference relevant!

# PRE-CONFERENCE

Tuesday-Wednesday, October 29-30	
7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.	<b>Pre-Conference Check-In</b> WRMC Office <i>Boardroom North</i>
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>Risk Management Training for Administrators</b> Dave Yacubian, Kate Koons, Emily Ledingham <i>Fiesta II/II</i>
	<b>Wilderness First Responder Recertification</b> Gates Richards, Paul Dreyer <i>Whyte Room</i>
Wednesday, October 30	
7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.	<b>Pre-Conference Check-In</b> WRMC Office <i>Boardroom North</i>
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>Adventure Risk Research Symposium</b> Jeff Jackson, Clare Dallat <i>Enchantment C</i>
	<b>Communicating in Crisis</b> Skip King <i>Enchantment A</i>
	<b>Connecting to Nature: Culturally Appropriate, Inclusive, Risk Management Field Practices to Promote Community and Individual Health and Healing</b> Misty Blakesley, Marquel Musgrave, Reuben Chinana, Renae Lee, Tony Dixon, Colleen Fox, Melissa Harper, Christian Sommer <i>Meet in Lobby (Offsite)</i>
	<b>Cultivating Outdoor Leadership Through Storytelling: An Introduction to Relational Public Narrative Practice</b> Darren Gruetze, Laurel Ady <i>Enchantment B</i>
	<b>Psychological First Aid: Staff Training and Organizational Resources</b> Laura McGladrey <i>Fiesta III/IV</i>
	<b>Steering the Ship: Risk Management Training for Executive Directors, Board Members, and Leadership Teams</b> Steve Smith, Josh Cole <i>Boardroom East</i>
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<b>And the Winner is...(?) Hot Issues, Hot Cases</b> Catherine Hansen-Stamp, Reb Gregg <i>Enchantment F</i>
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>A Day in the Life of International Incident Response</b> Kirstin French, Kristen Dowling <i>Enchantment E</i>
	<b>Enterprise Risk Management: A Strategic Approach to Managing Risk</b> Mark Vermeal, Mike Lucas <i>Enchantment F</i>
4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	<b>First Time Attendee Orientation</b> WRMC Steering Committee <i>Grand Pavilion</i>

# CONFERENCE OPENING

Wednesday, October 30	
5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.	<b>Conference Check-In</b> <i>Grand Pavilion</i>
5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.	<b>Exhibitor Reception, Giveaways, Appetizers, and Cash Bar</b> <i>Grand Pavilion</i>
	<b>Welcome Table with Steering Committee</b> <i>Grand Pavilion</i>
	<b>Poster Session</b> <i>Grand Pavilion</i>
6:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <i>Grand Pavilion</i>
7:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	<b>Reb Gregg Wilderness Risk Management Award Ceremony 2019 Recipient</b> Aparna Rajagopal <i>Grand Pavilion</i>

# PRESENTATION TRACKS



**Emergency Planning & Crisis Response**



**Field Practices**



**Legal & Insurance**



**Program Administration**



**Staff Training & Decision Making**



**Mental, Social & Emotional Health**

# CORE WORKSHOPS

**CORE** Look for this symbol to identify workshops that provide a fundamental introduction to risk management and mitigation strategies. If you are new to the WRMC, we encourage you to attend the core workshops.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

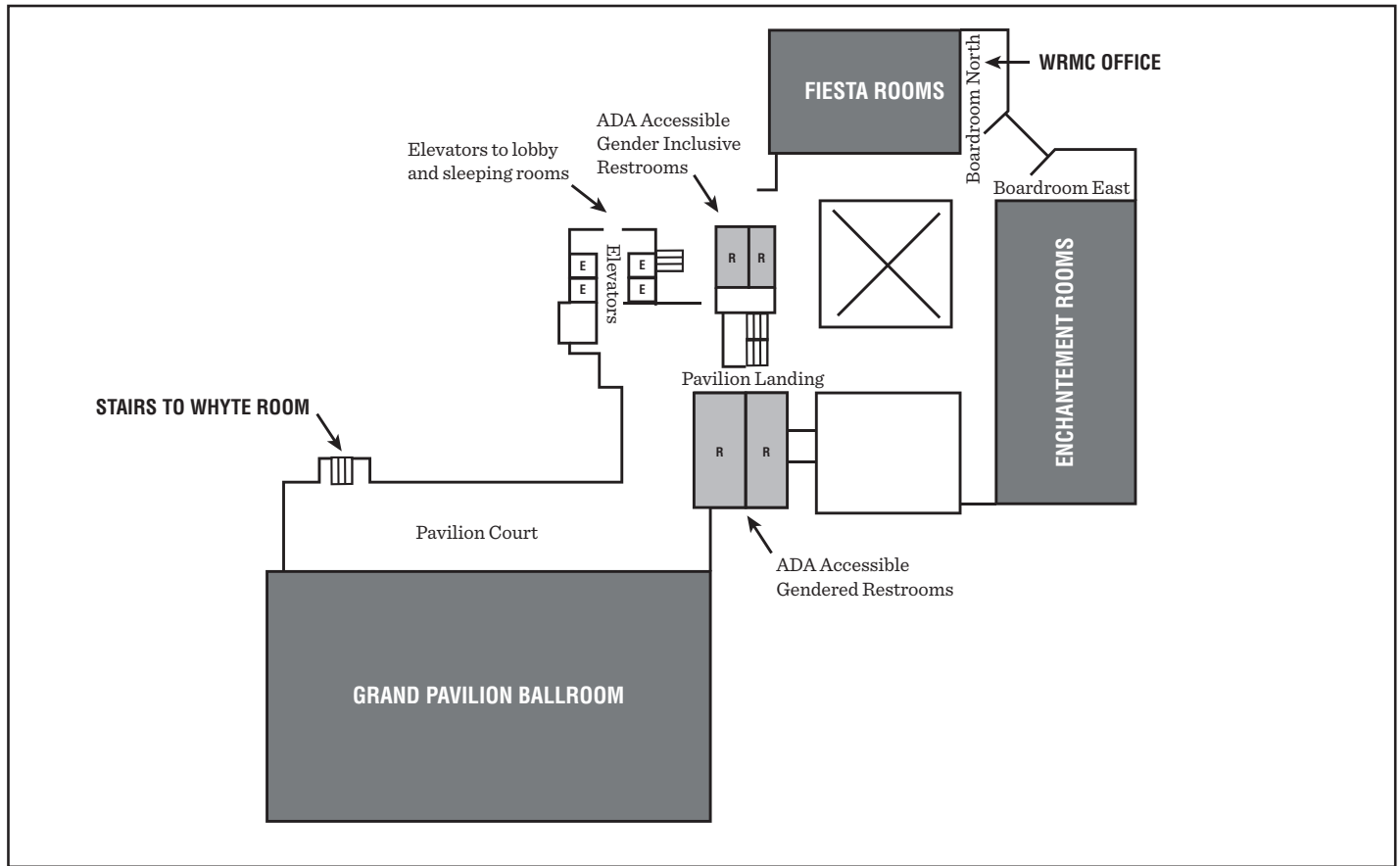
		EMERGENCY PLANNING & CRISIS RESPONSE	FIELD PRACTICES	LEGAL & INSURANCE
Thursday, October 31	6:45 a.m.–7:30 a.m.	Yoga for Outdoor People Helen Wilson <i>Sierra Vista, 19th floor</i>		
	7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	Meal Plan Breakfast <i>Grand Pavilion</i>		
	8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.	<b>CORE</b> ● <b>Crisis Management: A Preplan in Action</b> Drew Leemon, Katie Baum Mettenbrink <i>Whyte Room</i>	● <b>Innovations in Wilderness Medicine</b> Seth Collings Hawkins <i>Enchantment C/D</i>	● <b>Almost Safe and Proud of It</b> Reb Gregg <i>Enchantment E/F</i>
	10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break <i>Grand Pavilion</i>		
	10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<b>CORE</b> ● <b>Near Miss and Expedition Trauma Response: The How of It</b> Laura McGladrey, Brendan Madden <i>Enchantment E/F</i>	● <b>Wilderness Medicine: Inclusive Practices for LGBTQ, Transgender, and Non-Binary People</b> Colleen McHugh <i>Fiesta III/IV</i>	● <b>Epi Laws: How to Find What You Need to Know</b> Frances Mock <i>Enchantment A/B</i>
	12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Meal Plan Lunch <i>Grand Pavilion</i>		
	1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.	● <b>Crisis Management: Emotional Support for Participants, Staff, and Families</b> Suellen Sack, Steve Neal <i>Whyte Room</i>	● <b>Accidents in North American Climbing: Accident Reporting and Narratives to Prevent Future Climbing Accidents</b> R. Bryan Simon <i>Fiesta III/IV</i>	● <b>Top Ten: Observations from a Recreation Defense Trial Lawyer</b> Tracey Knutson <i>Enchantment E/F</i>
	2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break <i>Grand Pavilion</i>		
	3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.	● <b>Walking Towards the Storm: Lessons from a Crisis</b> Jonathan Igoe, Tom Costley, Emily Ferrell <i>Enchantment E/F</i>	<b>SHORT TALKS</b> 4 Short Presentations on Risk Management Lessons, Cultural Humility, Policies & Procedures, and Patient Care <i>Whyte Room</i>	● <b>Responding to Sexual Assault Claims from a Proactive and Reactive Perspective</b> Dave Dennis, Doug Stevens <i>Fiesta III/IV</i>
	4:45 p.m.–6:15 p.m.	Structured Networking <i>Grand Pavilion</i>		
Friday, November 1	6:45 a.m.–7:30 a.m.	Yoga for Outdoor People Helen Wilson <i>Sierra Vista, 19th floor</i>		
	7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	Meal Plan Breakfast <i>Grand Pavilion</i>		
	8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.	<b>CORE</b> ● <b>Welcome to the Jungle: Navigating the Interface Between Social and Conventional Media in a Crisis</b> Skip King <i>Enchantment E/F</i>	● <b>How to Hijack Heads and Hearts: Creating Culture, Psychological Safety, and Fast-Tracking Your Way to a High Performing Team</b> Amberleigh Hammond <i>Fiesta III/IV</i>	● <b>Have Your Cake and Eat It: Understanding the ADA to Protect Your Program and Increase Inclusivity</b> Chad Olcott, Ben Tettlebaum <i>Fiesta III</i>
	10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break <i>Grand Pavilion</i>		
	10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	● <b>The Waffle House Index: Learnings from a Diner in Hurricane Country</b> Todd Duncan, Pat Warner <i>Enchantment C/D</i>	● <b>Connecting to Nature: Culturally Appropriate, Inclusive, Risk Management Field Practices to Promote Community and Individual Health and Healing</b> Misty Blakesley, Marquel Musgrave, Reuben Chinana, Renae Lee <i>Enchantment E/F</i>	<b>CORE</b> ● <b>Have You Got It Covered? Insurance 101 with Exposure Scenarios that Could Lead to Catastrophic Organizational and Financial Loss</b> Sam Daume, Steve Neal <i>Fiesta III</i>
	12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.	Meal Plan Lunch <i>Grand Pavilion</i>		
	12:15 p.m.–12:45 p.m.	SOAR Act Info Session <i>Whyte Room Court</i>		
	1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	<b>CORE</b> ● <b>Risk Management: The Traumatic Aftermath</b> Will Marling <i>Enchantment E/F</i>	● <b>Compassionate Risk Taking for the Positive Future</b> Misha Golfman <i>Fiesta III/IV</i>	● <b>Lawsuits, Legal Issues, and Lessons for the Outdoor Industry</b> Wilma Gray, Catherine Hansen-Stamp <i>Enchantment C/D</i>
	3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Exhibitor Showcase and Break <i>Grand Pavilion</i>		
	3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	● <b>NPS: Emergency Service SAR Unpack</b> Jay Shields, Kristin Kirschner <i>Enchantment E/F</i>	● <b>Updates and Overview: Navigating Health, Safety, and Security Abroad</b> Bill Frederick <i>Enchantment A/B</i>	
5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.	Social Hour <i>Grand Pavilion</i>			
6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	Dinner <i>Grand Pavilion</i>			
7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.	Keynote Address and Closing Remarks <i>Decision Making Is a Way of Life</i> by Kit DesLauriers <i>Grand Pavilion</i>			



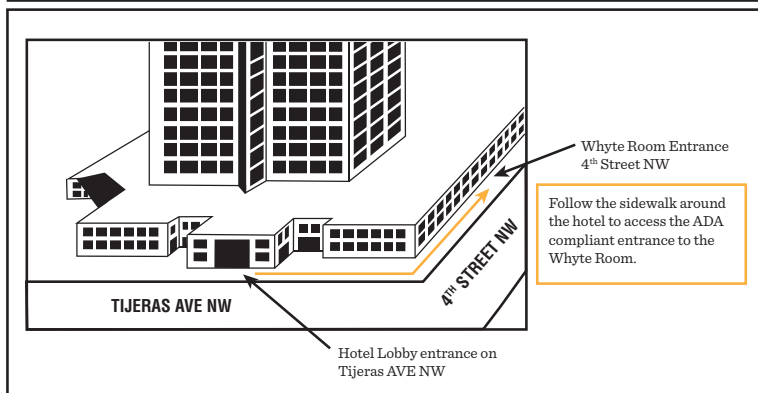
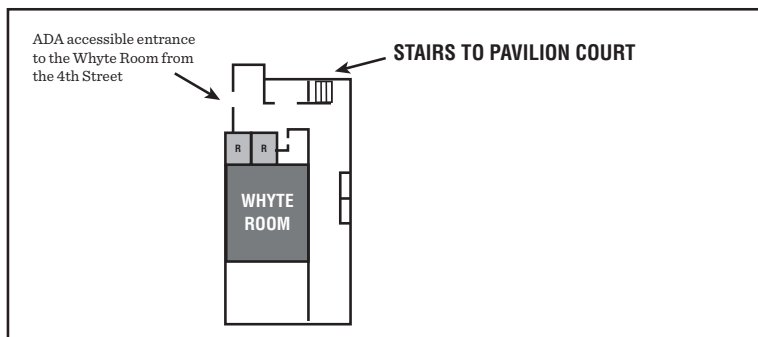
# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	STAFF TRAINING & DECISION MAKING	MENTAL, SOCIAL, & EMOTIONAL HEALTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Managing Risk Through Participant Engagement</b> Kate Farthing <i>Fiesta III</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Safety Differently! Key Concepts from Safety Experts in Other Industries</b> Steve Smith <i>Enchantment A/B</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Emotional First Aid: Supporting Your Participants' Mental Health Needs</b> Jamie Robinson, Gary Robinson, Laura Thompson <i>Fiesta III/IV</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>#TimesUp: Go Beyond Policy in Managing Harassment</b> Victoria Kerr, AJ Wojtalik <i>Whyte Room</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Standardizing Training: The Effect It Has and How to Do It</b> Amber Barnett, Julia Makowski <i>Fiesta III</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mental and Behavioral Health Crisis Management in the Wilderness</b> Coulter Stone, Mariah Loftin, Norman Elizondo <i>Enchantment C/D</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Wildfire in the Backcountry</b> Eric Levy, Scott Christy <i>Enchantment C/D</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Breaking the Halo: Empowering Students in Outdoor Education</b> Katjarina Hurt <i>Fiesta III</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Gender Identity Inclusion Practices: Things We Are Learning at NOLS</b> Shannon Rochelle <i>Enchantment A/B</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dechjta Nezq Gots'udí (Living on the Land in a Good Way): Supporting Indigenous Resurgence Through Anti-Colonial Approaches to Risk Management Planning</b> Jess Dunkin, Walter Bezha <i>Enchantment C/D</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>POSTERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Risk Management Tools, Technology and Culture, Sun Safety, Behavioral Management, Bear Spray First Aid, Safety Reviews, Student Incident Reporting</b> <i>Grand Pavilion</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>CORE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Stress, Trauma, and Mental Health in the Workplace: A Program to Build Organizational Resilience</b> Mike Pigg, Victoria Kerr, Laura McGladrey <i>Enchantment A/B</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Medical History Form Trends: The Pros, Cons, and Potential Consequences</b> Nadia Kimmel, Paul Nicolazzo, Leah Corrigan <i>Enchantment C/D</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Reflections and Updates on a Sexual Misconduct Systems Review</b> Emily Ledingham, Liz Tuohy <i>Whyte Room</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Exclusive Spaces: Managing Inherent Risks to Traveling as a Visibly Marginalized Group</b> Colleen McHugh, Monique Dailey <i>Enchantment A/B</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>What White People Working with Folks from the Global Majority Can Do (and Not Do)</b> Mel Mac Innis <i>Whyte Room</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Building and Evaluating Decision-Making Skills</b> Sarah Carpenter <i>Enchantment A/B</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ability Awareness: Emotional Well-Being for People with Disabilities</b> Nathan Vink <i>Fiesta III/IV</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Abuse Prevention as an Empowerment Tactic</b> Courtney Aber <i>Enchantment A/B</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>CORE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Training Your Staff to Be Risk Managers</b> Liz Tuohy <i>Whyte Room</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The Body Doesn't Lie: Managing Risk Through Somatic-Based Learning</b> Tracy Rekart <i>Fiesta III</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Beyond the Schoolyard Gate: Guiding Principles for Managing Risk Off Camp/School Property</b> Ann McCollum <i>Enchantment C/D</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Holding Adult Volunteers Accountable: Walking the Staff/Volunteer Line</b> Brian Anderson <i>Fiesta III/IV</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>SHORT TALKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>4 Short Presentations on Supporting Field Staff, Info Management, High Schoolers as Medical Providers, and Storytelling as Pedagogy</b> <i>Whyte Room</i></li> </ul>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Exhibit Hall and Most Workshops



## 1<sup>st</sup> Floor: Whyte Room (Access via stairs next to Grand Pavilion)



Most conference sessions and events take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Fiesta and Enchantment rooms and in the Grand Pavilion. However, workshops in the Whyte Room take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor which must be accessed by the stairs next to the Grand Pavilion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (not the lobby).

To get to the ADA accessible entrance from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor: take the elevators down to the lobby, exit through the main entrance, turn left on Tijeras Avenue NW, continue along the sidewalk and turn left on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. You'll see a large entrance labeled "chapel." Head through the doors and you'll see the Whyte Room. Alternatively, although there is not a public elevator to the Whyte Room, you may be allowed to go through the kitchen area or utilize service elevators to get to the Whyte Room. Call the front desk for assistance (550-842-1234) or find WRMC staff.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m. *Grand Pavilion*

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m. *Grand Pavilion*

Poster presenters will be available alongside their posters during these two times to interact with conference goers and answer questions. Posters will continue to be accessible for the duration of the conference as stand-alone presentations.

**NEW Behavior Management Through a Multi-Tiered System of Support**  
Brett Billings

A multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) is one method to organize an intentional approach to behavior management. This poster will present interventions and supports that can be utilized in non-therapeutic programs in the hope of encouraging all clients to create success for themselves in outdoor adventure settings. The poster will best serve intermediate practitioners looking to bolster their acceptance and commitment to all clients as well as enhance staff training and understanding of behavior management

**NEW Change Management: Creating a Wilderness Expeditions and Risk Management Culture from the Ground Up**  
Mark Johnson, Lyle Walkinshaw

What happens when a youth camp decides to go from one camp running wilderness trips to seven camps running wilderness trips? The Tim Hortons Foundation Camps did exactly that, and we gave ourselves just nine months to make it happen. Needless to say, we learned a lot! Through this poster we will share the mistakes made, the lessons learned, and the light bulb moments too! You get to decide what applies to your own program.

**NEW Engaging Student Leaders in Documenting Risk Management Policies and Incidents in a College Outing Club**  
Rory Gawler

The Dartmouth Outing Club runs 500+ trips annually, including climbing, kayaking, and backpacking. Students lead virtually every trip with minimal assistance from college staff. The incident rate is comparable to the professional outdoor industry. This poster will review club structure, student leader training, and risk management methods. We will demonstrate an online tool for tracking trips, incidents, and near misses; discuss past incidents and emerging trends including behavioral health incidents; and share research on the effect of full responsibility and intrinsic motivation on practice.

**NEW First Aid Protocols for Accidental Contact with Bear Spray**  
Mike Jensen

Are you prepared to provide first aid to participants and staff who come in contact with bear spray? How do you mitigate the impacts of human contact with bear spray? Do you know the signs, symptoms, and possible complications of human contact

with bear spray? If you carry bear spray in your programs or on personal trips, be sure to check out this poster to learn best practices for bear spray emergencies.

**NEW Leveraging Technology for Managing Risk**  
David Gregory, Paul Tame

Utilizing new forms of technology can support our risk management mitigation efforts and provide increasingly dynamic and innovative resources to support staff in the field. This poster will explore case studies into how programs in Australia have leveraged mobile technologies and used them in conjunction with industry experience to better manage an ever-increasing workload in regards to field preparations, the monitoring of operations, and the management client dietary and medical concerns.

**NEW Risk Management Approach and Tools: A New Stage of Development and Integration**  
David Mephum

This poster is designed for all practitioners and administrators who use or must produce documents relating to wilderness risk management. It deals with the various risk-management tools developed by OREL for partner organizations that contribute to wilderness risk management in educational programs, territories and zones, tourism, teaching, science, and industrial expeditions. These tools enable more optimal information-processing and offer greater levels of data integration than many tools currently in use in Canada

**NEW Risky Business: Safety Reviews and How to Take Your Program to the Next Level**  
Cathy Fornaris

Day to day demands, small budgets and time constraints...should these issues have a toll on safety and how we run our programs? This poster presentation explores how to approach evaluating organizational practices and the effectiveness of your program's performance. We will look at how to identify gaps in our work and create action items to improve program operations and heighten risk management practices. We will discuss and problem solve the challenges with implementing a review.

**NEW Sun Safety in Outdoor Programs**  
Anna Johnson

While the negative effects of sunburn are often seen as a temporary nuisance on program, implementing a thorough sun safety protocol should be considered an important long term risk management strategy. A recent CDC study showed melanoma rates in teens and young adults have more than doubled in the past 40 years. This poster will examine statistics, discuss tips and barriers to implementing effective sun safety policies and practices, and will include resources on recognizing potential short term and long term issues.

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29 - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30, 2 FULL DAYS

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

#### **NOLS Risk Management Training for Administrators**

Dave Yacubian, Kate Koons, Emily Ledingham *Fiesta II/II*

Using lecture, discussion, exercises, and hands-on scenarios, this two-day training will provide a structured approach and the necessary tools to build a risk management plan appropriate for your organization. You will walk away with a detailed action plan designed to improve your curriculum, administrative process, staff hiring, field support services, and crisis planning.

#### **Wilderness First Responder Recertification**

Gates Richards, Paul Dreyer *Whyte Room*

Hands-on, meet online. Enjoy our newly formatted WFR Recertification, which includes an online component in addition to the traditional scenarios and skills. Pre-work allows you to review the curriculum at your own pace, and focus on the hands-on element during your two days on course. You'll just need to complete all online components, including a written exam, prior to the course. Once on course, the scenario-based approach to recertification provides you the opportunity to test your skills against realistic situations. You'll practice and relearn wilderness medicine protocols, review evacuation and decision making guidelines, and receive the latest updates in wilderness medicine over the course of two days. Upon successful course completion you will earn the following NOLS Wilderness Medicine certifications: Wilderness Advanced First Aid/Wilderness First Responder/Wilderness EMT (dependent on your current certification), Adult and Child CPR & Airway Management, and Epinephrine Auto-injector. The WFR Recertification course is pre-approved for 18 hours of EMT Continuing Education Units by CAPCE.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, FULL DAY

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

#### **NEW Adventure Risk Research Symposium**

Jeff Jackson, Clare Dallat *Enchantment C*

The inaugural Adventure Risk Research Symposium, moderated by Jeff Jackson and Clare Dallat, connects researchers and shares findings from those working on wilderness and adventure risk/safety research. The focus is on empiricism as a means of improving understanding or practice for wilderness/adventure risk management and safety. Presenters submitted their peer-reviewed research papers earlier this year, and will present their research during this workshop. Both presenters and non-presenters are invited to attend this workshop and contribute to the discussion.

#### **NEW Connecting to Nature: Culturally Appropriate, Inclusive, Risk Management Field Practices to Promote Community and Individual Health and Healing**

Misty Blakesley, Marquel Musgrave, Reuben Chinana, Renae Lee, Tony Dixon, Colleen Fox, Melissa Harper, Christian Sommer *Offsite, meet in lobby*

How we see nature is fundamental to our risk in the outdoors. Is nature a challenge to be conquered, or is it our home—a place we belong and can be nurtured? In this experiential, outdoor rock climbing workshop offered and conducted by The Mountain Center, we will explore the colonial concept of wilderness, a mythical place devoid of humans, and how we can bring people back into nature's realm through land acknowledgement, and recognition of and reconciliation with Native people.

#### **Communicating in Crisis**

Skip King *Enchantment A*

This one-day seminar presents essential skills of communicating in crisis. Learn how reporters work so you and your colleagues can anticipate questions and answer them effectively, including four Key Tools of successful interview management, and what to do when the media gets it wrong. We'll also cover crisis communications response, setting up your team to effectively manage internal and external stakeholders, and work with outside agencies. Participants will have the chance to apply concepts and practice with table-top exercises.

#### **NEW Cultivating Outdoor Leadership Through Storytelling: An Introduction to Relational Public Narrative Practice**

Darren Gruetze, Laurel Ady *Enchantment B*

Harmful cultural, organizational, and personal narratives erode our capacities for connection with nature and silence diverse voices. Through lecture and small group practica, participants will identify, interrupt, and replace these narratives with values-driven, strength-based leadership stories. Participants will craft stories that: increase solidarity amongst colleagues, improve staff communication with participants, and build a radically inclusive group culture. The workshop is for those seeking to develop group cultures across boundaries of racial, economic, gender/sexuality, and power disparities.

#### **Psychological First Aid: Staff Training and Organizational Resources**

Laura McGladrey *Fiesta III/IV*

Psychological First Aid (PFA) is a crucial first and ongoing step to mitigate stress injury (PTSD) formation following near miss and critical incidents in remote settings. This workshop is designed to equip program educators with responsibility in staff training to incorporate psychological first aid into staff education. Participants will leave equipped to integrate PFA modules into staff training, and to act as a local resource for support of near miss and traumatic stress in outdoor and international settings.

## Steering the Ship: Risk Management Training for Executive Directors, Board Members, and Leadership Teams

Steve Smith, Josh Cole *Boardroom East*

This one-day interactive workshop is designed for executive directors, board members, and senior leadership team members, though all are welcome to attend. We will start with an overview of risk management theory, principles, and models; review case studies; and engage participants to apply these concepts to their own programs. Topics will include organizational structure, roles of senior leadership, organizational culture, collecting and responding to safety data, pitfalls to avoid, and being prepared for responding to critical incidents. The benefit of the workshop format is that participants will have an opportunity to apply risk management principles to their own programs while collaborating with peers from other organizations, in order to formulate an action plan to take home.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, HALF DAY

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

#### And the Winner is...(?) Hot Issues, Hot Cases

Catherine Hansen-Stamp, Reb Gregg *Enchantment F*

In this interactive session, Cathy and Reb will ask attendees to consider several 2018-19 court opinions addressing significant industry legal issues. Participants will attack or defend conflicting arguments pertaining to, for example: the legal duty of care owed to participants, including minors, and factors that can create, change or eliminate that duty; inherent risks and assumption of risks; contracts, including releases; the impact of standards, practices or laws, and other issues. Following each case study, attendees will learn and discuss the actual resolution of the case.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, HALF DAY

1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

#### NEW A Day in the Life of International Incident Response

Kirstin French, Kristen Dowling *Enchantment E*

Calling all international program operators! This session is specifically designed to dive deep into the intricacies of risk management and mitigation when programming in the international field: across time zones, under international laws and regulations, in varied languages, and within vast cross-cultural contexts. Participants in this workshop will engage in an in-depth international incident response simulation and debrief. We will analyze decision making pre-, during, and post-program in order to challenge and strengthen our existing protocols.

#### NEW Enterprise Risk Management: A Strategic Approach to Managing Risk

Mark Vermeal, Mike Lucas *Enchantment F*

During this interactive presentation, participants will be introduced to the concept of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and learn how it can be used to comprehensively identify, assess, and address threats to their organizations. In small groups, participants will work through an ERM and heat mapping exercise, and will be provided with the tools to lead an ERM exercise with their organizations. This presentation is targeted to senior administrative staff.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

#### First Time Attendee Orientation

WRMC Steering Committee *Grand Pavilion*

New to the WRMC? Feeling overwhelmed, or unsure how to interpret workshop descriptions? Or maybe just curious about how to make the most of your time at the conference? You're not alone! Join members of the WRMC Steering Committee for an orientation. We'll break into small groups and go over the schedule and event options, offer tips, help you identify workshops that will help you meet your goals, and answer whatever other questions you have. You'll also have the chance to meet other attendees and make connections before the opening reception. We hope to see you there!

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Workshop descriptions on the following pages are organized by track. Track headings are ordered alphabetically and workshops are in chronological order.



Emergency Planning & Crisis Response



Field Practices



Legal & Insurance



Program Administration



Staff Training & Decision Making



Mental, Social & Emotional Health



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

CORE WORKSHOP Crisis Management: A Preplan in Action

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Drew Leemon, Katie Baum Mettenbrink Whyte Room

Responding to a crisis, such as a participant fatality, presents a complex situation that demands a thoughtful and reasoned response. This workshop will provide attendees with an overview of the five elements of successful crisis management, begin to delve into the complexities of responding to crisis situations through the presenters' personal and professional experience while providing a forum for exchanging ideas and sharing experiences of the audience. Additionally, this workshop will provide a starting point for creating a crisis management plan.

CORE WORKSHOP Near Miss and Expedition Trauma Response:

The How of It

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Laura McGladrey, Brendan Madden Enchantment E/F

There is a growing recognition and support for traumatic exposure that does not result in physical injuries but may result in ongoing or career-altering stress responses. This workshop will present a tool-based approach to raise program awareness of near miss trauma and identify and support stress injuries that may occur in the course of program events.

NEW Crisis Management: Emotional Support for Participants, Staff, and Families

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Suellen Sack, Steve Neal Whyte Room

Reflecting your organization's value and concern during a crisis and in the aftermath is a key to serving affected participants, staff, and families who are struggling to cope. Learn how to create a response that will directly aid affected individuals both in and out of the field. This workshop will provide attendees with practical experience and guidelines to support staff in the field, train family liaisons, and define organizational norms that will support participants, staff, and families during and after an incident.

Walking Towards the Storm: Lessons from a Crisis

3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Jonathan Igoe, Tom Costley, Emily Ferrell Enchantment E/F

In July of 2013, six students and one leader were struck by a car while biking across the U.S. on an Overland trip. One of the injured students died the next day as a result of her injuries. This workshop will focus on Overland's response to the crisis, drawing lessons from our experience engaging with the victims' families, communicating with the Overland community, and responding to the media, all while continuing our ongoing operations for over 1500 other students and leaders in the field.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

CORE WORKSHOP Welcome to the Jungle: Navigating the Interface Between Social and Conventional Media in a Crisis

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Skip King Enchantment E/F

Today, the combination of social media, newsrooms staffed by skeleton crews, and business models based on attracting clicks means that even comparatively benign incidents can generate explosive public reaction that can haunt your program for years. In this session, we'll examine how these channels feed each other and discuss tactics for pre-planning and interacting with both reporters and social media followers, so that your organization can ensure that when the news is bad, the story gets told fairly and is over as quickly as possible.

NEW The Waffle House Index: Learnings from a Diner in Hurricane Country

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Todd Duncan, Pat Warner Enchantment C/D

What does a diner chain have to do with my emergency response planning? We will show that there is much to learn from serving waffles during hurricanes. This talk presents and describes the Waffle House index, a key emergency response benchmark developed and used by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). By showcasing a dynamic corporate crisis response system designed for managing complex, large-scale natural disasters that coordinates with multiple agencies on a national scale, we will identify key lessons in response planning, organizational structure, and how an adaptive, dynamic approach can better prepare you for dealing with your own emergency events. We are intentionally seeking to look to external industry knowledge and experience to inform how we can improve crisis response planning for wilderness programming.

CORE WORKSHOP Risk Management: The Traumatic Aftermath

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Will Marling Enchantment E/F

This workshop is an introduction to processes and protocols for addressing the traumatic impact on clients, staff, and responders in the aftermath of a traumatic critical incident. It is based upon forty years of field-tested, evidence-informed best practices in the area of trauma mitigation and education.

NPS: Emergency Service SAR Unpack

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Jay Shields, Kristin Kirschner Enchantment E/F

Join Jay Shields and Kristin Kirschner from the National Park Service (NPS) as they unpack an actual SAR (Search and Rescue) to identify, instruct and create learning objectives on how the NPS responds to an incident. The program will diagram a SAR from start to finish and facilitate a discussion of utilizing organization staff and participants for self rescue and integration of those organizational staff into assisting incoming resources for a rescue in a National Park.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

**NEW Innovations in Wilderness Medicine**  
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.  
Seth Collings Hawkins *Enchantment C/D*

The past few years have seen significant changes in wilderness medicine, including dramatic changes in management of potential spinal cord injury, the introduction of psychological first aid methodology, and increased emphasis on early bleeding control. Built on the framework of the new textbook *Wilderness EMS*, itself named one of the Top 10 EMS Innovations of 2018 by the *Journal of EMS*, this talk covers these topics and more in a review of wilderness medicine innovations.

**NEW Wilderness Medicine: Inclusive Practices for LGBTQ, Transgender, and Non-Binary People**  
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Colleen McHugh *Fiesta III/IV*

The LGBTQ community continues to experience discrimination and limited access to healthcare at disturbing rates. Backcountry programs perform medical assessments, provide first aid, and connect our participants to medical care and rescue services in emergencies. This presentation will explore practices to prepare responders and programs to perform inclusive assessments and deepen understandings of LGBTQ medicine. Additionally, it will provide practices to prepare and advocate for transgender and non-binary patients during rescue and in medical emergencies.

**NEW Accidents in North American Climbing: Accident Reporting and Narratives to Prevent Future Climbing Accidents**  
1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.  
R. Bryan Simon *Fiesta III/IV*

The purpose of the American Alpine Club’s yearly guide, *Accidents in North American Climbing*, is to educate the climbing community, guide services, and outdoor organizations regarding safe climbing practices in an effort to prevent injuries. This presentation will describe the mission of the guide, discuss collected injury data (since 1948), and how risk managers can apply this information along with recent medical literature data to identify hazards and prevent future injury in clients and students.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**NEW How to Hijack Heads and Hearts: Creating Culture, Psychological Safety, and Fast-Tracking Your Way to a High Performing Team**  
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.  
Amberleigh Hammond *Fiesta III/IV*

Drawing from core tenets of Daniel Coyle’s newest book *The Culture Code*, we will explore how we can use brain functioning, performance metrics, and research from some of the world’s highest performing teams and culturally savvy companies to make our outdoor programs more successful. We will explore tactics to create psychological safety, ways to engineer social connection, getting your participants to function as a high performing team faster, and discuss how most of our programs are already doing a lot of this work unintentionally (and ways to do it even better).

**NEW Connecting to Nature: Culturally Appropriate, Inclusive, Risk Management Field Practices to Promote Community and Individual Health and Healing**  
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Misty Blakesley, Marquel Musgrave, Reuben Chinana, Renae Lee *Enchantment E/F*

How we see nature is fundamental to our risk in the outdoors. Is nature a challenge to be conquered, or is it our home—a place we belong and can be nurtured. In this experiential workshop with the Mountain Center, we will explore the colonial concept of wilderness, a mythical place devoid of humans, and how we can bring people back into nature’s realm through land acknowledgment and recognition of and reconciliation with Native people.

**NEW Compassionate Risk Taking for the Positive Future**  
1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Misha Golfman *Fiesta III/IV*

Compassionate risk taking is essential for educating civic-minded, altruistic youth. Compared to adult generations, the world is safer by every measure, while we perceive it as becoming more dangerous. During this interactive workshop participants will examine the benefits of risk-taking approach to life and education, create a list of personal and institutional healthy risk-taking habits, and develop methods for holding exciting briefings with parents and students aimed at replacing the irrational fear with excitement for adventure!

**Updates and Overview: Navigating Health, Safety, and Security Abroad**  
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Bill Frederick *Enchantment A/B*

The increasing rapidity of change in the hazard landscape of international programming is driving the development of risk management strategies and standards. In this session we’ll survey the latest trends. Using scenarios, we’ll look at what you need to know. We will also explore the question “Is world travel really more dangerous now than it used to be?” and suggest ways to incorporate risk management into curriculum to enhance the experience of international education

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31****NEW Almost Safe and Proud of It**

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Reb Gregg *Enchantment E/F*

Acknowledging that risks, and losses, possibly severe, are inherent in what we do, we will discuss a program's legal duty of care, the management of that duty, and how to prepare for the defense of claims of negligence. Particular attention will be paid to the doctrine of Primary Assumption of Risks which, in sports and recreation of significant social value, may forgive the simple negligence of a service provider or co-participant.

**NEW Epi Laws: How to Find What You Need to Know**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Frances Mock *Enchantment A/B*

Most states now have laws that allow lay people to be trained to administer epi. But how can you find the laws that apply to your program? This session will show you how to find relevant statutes and understand what they say. We'll read a real statute together and identify common legal requirements. We'll also talk through some of the potential problems. You should leave with a better understanding of how to comply with complex epi laws.

**Top Ten: Observations from a Recreation Defense Trial Lawyer**

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Tracey Knutson *Enchantment E/F*

There are very specific areas of law, specific types of claims and specific instructor/operator practices that are "hot" right now in terms of generating claims or making claims harder to defend. In this session we want to look at a literal "Top 10" and examine what these areas of law, practices, and claims are, to develop our growing awareness of how we avoid creating liabilities and therefore lawsuits. This workshop is geared towards individuals with a basic familiarity of legal considerations in the outdoor recreation context.

**Responding to Sexual Assault Claims from a Proactive and Reactive Perspective**

3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Dave Dennis, Doug Stevens *Fiesta III/IV*

As we become more aware of the prevalence of sexual misconduct, it is imperative for organizations to understand the legal and operational challenges these incidents present. This is a unique opportunity to discuss two valuable case studies involving alleged sexual assault claims. One involves a staff-on-staff assault after working hours. The other involves a participant's claim against a trip leader after a program's conclusion. Attendees will discuss strategies for investigating incidents and handling post-trip issues including victim and participant support, legal and insurance considerations, mandatory reporting obligations, and effective communications within a workshop environment. We will emphasize both reactive and proactive measures to minimize future risks.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1****NEW Have Your Cake and Eat It: Understanding the ADA to Protect Your Program and Increase Inclusivity**

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Chad Olcott, Ben Tettlebaum *Fiesta II/II*

Are you afraid of the ADA? Shed your fears! Our goal for this interactive session is for you to leave understanding how embracing (rather than hiding from) the ADA can actually increase your programs' inclusivity while decreasing your programs' risk exposure. We will break down the ADA in practical terms. Then, you'll practice developing "essential eligibility criteria" for hypothetical programs. From there, we'll work through scenarios to help you understand when you may need to accommodate a person with a disability and when an exception may apply. By the end, you should have a better grasp of how the ADA applies to your programs, along with clear actionable steps to assist with compliance.

**CORE WORKSHOP Have You Got it Covered? Insurance 101 with Exposure Scenarios that Could Lead to Catastrophic Organizational and Financial Loss**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Sam Daume, Steve Neal *Fiesta II/II*

Sexual misconduct, vehicle accidents, medical malpractice, crisis response. What do these exposures have in common? If not managed properly an incident involving any of these can quickly lead an organization into a deep financial and legal quagmire. Are you sure your insurance policies are properly protecting your organization's assets and reputation? Also critical is having an understanding of what is required of you, the insured, to trigger coverage. Participants in this session will learn the basic structure of a good insurance program and through a series of scenarios and guided discussions, will explore the complexities of managing incident response.

**Lawsuits, Legal Issues, and Lessons for the Outdoor Industry**

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Wilma Gray, Catherine Hansen-Stamp *Enchantment C/D*

Using actual lawsuits, participants will work through steps of litigation for defending a lawsuit. Legal theories and issues to be discussed include: who is sued, causes of action, defenses, waiver and release, third party contractors, insurance, jurisdiction, staffing, safety, post incident actions, industry standards, policy and procedures, social media, and documents. Lawsuits to be studied include programs sued in court, including a wilderness rafting program, an international adventure program, a school group wilderness excursion, and a winter backcountry skiing program. Participants will play an active role by reviewing and analyzing the defense of the wilderness organization.





## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

**NEW** Managing Risk Through Participant Engagement

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Kate Farthing *Fiesta II/II*

A practical and successful way to prioritize safety and successfully implement risk management protocols is to engage participants as active risk managers through pre-program education, on-program instruction, and post-program follow-up. This presentation will discuss real-world ways to implement an engaging risk management strategy. Through discussion, reflection, and active sharing, workshop attendees will walk away with a tangible list of action items that can be implemented to empower their participants to take an active role in their risk management journeys.

**#TimesUp: Go Beyond Policy in Managing Harassment**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Victoria Kerr, AJ Wojtalik *Whyte Room*

Workplace sexual harassment continues to dominate the news and while the majority of U.S. organizations have a sexual harassment policy, it's clear that the presence of policy is only the first step. As leaders, we have to do more to protect both staff and organizations from the potential results of predatory conduct. This presentation will help you identify risk areas within your organization, increase training effectiveness, and respond in the case of an incident.

**NEW** Wildfire in the Backcountry

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Eric Levy, Scott Christy *Enchantment C/D*

Large, fast-moving wildfires are becoming more common across North America. Although the chance of being caught in the path of a fire is low, the consequences are potentially catastrophic. And wildfires can create other complications for our field teams and our programs: route changes, evacuations, anxious participants and families, and air quality concerns, among others. This workshop will provide a framework for managing the risk of wildfire, including pre-planning, avoiding fires, what to do in the unlikely event of being caught in the path of a wildfire, guidelines for program staff, and potential complications of wildfire-related evacuations.

**Dech̓ta Nez̓q Gots'udí (Living on the Land in a Good Way): Supporting Indigenous Resurgence Through Anti-Colonial Approaches to Risk Management Planning**

3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Jess Dunkin, Walter Bezha *Enchantment C/D*

In 2017, ʔehdzo Got'ine̓ Gots'ę Nákedi (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board–SRRB) and the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA) began work on a safety plan for the SRRB's land-based programming. Reflecting on the lessons learned over the past three years through the entwined processes of developing, implementing, and revising the plan, titled Dech̓ta Nez̓q Gots'udí (which roughly translates as living on the land in a good way), we consider the possibilities of anti-colonial methodologies and cross-cultural approaches for risk management planning.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**NEW** Medical History Form Trends: The Pros, Cons, and Potential Consequences

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Nadia Kimmel, Paul Nicolazzo, Leah Corrigan *Enchantment C/D*

The manner in which the medical history of trip participants is obtained prior to backcountry outings varies greatly within the outdoor recreation industry. We will discuss the legal and programmatic pros and cons of current trending medical history forms and how program managers can support field staff in the face of medical omissions. We will also review “red-flag” medical conditions and medications, and resources that can aid with decision-making in the field.

**NEW** What White People Working with Folks from the Global Majority Can Do (and Not Do)

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Mel Mac Innis *Whyte Room*

In this session we will focus on Sierra Club's efforts to grow a culture of equity and inclusion with a special focus on the lived experience of one white manager. We will discuss specific challenges and practices that we have integrated into our organization and offer space for discussions to explore how this community can work as individuals and as a collective to make the outdoors and our organization welcoming and inclusive. This workshop is geared towards program directors and supervisors.

**NEW** Abuse Prevention as an Empowerment Tactic

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Courtney Aber *Enchantment A/B*

There are more and more examples of sexual abuse cases in the news every day and outdoor organizations are not immune. Additionally, previous abuse affects a significant part of the population. Learn how to use an abuse prevention system to empower participants and staff while helping to protect your organization as well. We will look at how policies, training, and documentation can work together to create a positive and open culture. This workshop is geared towards administrators and field staff.

**NEW** Beyond the Schoolyard Gate: Guiding Principles for Managing Risk Off Camp/School Property

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Ann McCollum *Enchantment C/D*

This session is for folks from schools and camps who likely wear 12 hats and who are trying to sift through the mind-boggling task of developing a “risk management plan” for their off-property programs. We will break down the general program areas, identify take-away principles, and provide a simple structure for identifying and addressing specific risks, including ultimately asking the question “Is this risk worth taking?”

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31****NEW Safety Differently! Key Concepts from Safety Experts in Other Industries**

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Steve Smith *Enchantment A/B*

Traditional views of safety are deeply ingrained in how we talk about, measure, and attempt to manage risk in the outdoor/experiential education industry. Experts and researchers from other sectors (manufacturing, aeronautical, health care, occupational health and safety, etc.) have evolved and are making great strides in what is known as Safety Differently—a progressive new way of thinking about safety. Although the sectors that have primarily led this movement are not outdoor education programs, we have much to learn from the high level research and thinking associated with Safety Differently. Participants will walk away with a one-page handout showing a compare/contrast and outlining key action steps to take to apply a Safety Differently lens to their own program.

**NEW Standardizing Training: The Effect It has and How to Do It**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Amber Barnett, Julia Makowski *Fiesta II/II*

Changing student demographics, shrinking budgets, and increasing expectations force us to evaluate how and what we train. This session will explore the effect implementing competency-based training and assessment has had on the training system. We will also discuss the very real impact standardizing our practices has had on our programs. Participants can expect to take away not only the learning we have had but also tangible strategies to take to their training programs.

**NEW Breaking the Halo: Empowering Students in Outdoor Education**

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Katjarina Hurt *Fiesta I/II*

Following the death of a climbing student in 2018, we found several contributing thinking errors and a need to better prepare and empower students to confront heuristic traps. “Breaking the Halo” offers a simple, universal approach to confronting complacency, assumptions, and communication breakdowns between students and instructors. Attendees will receive a copy of the “Breaking the Halo” book and training tips to bring back to their community.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1****NEW Reflections and Updates on a Sexual Misconduct Systems Review**

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Emily Ledingham, Liz Tuohy *Whyte Room*

Over the past two years, NOLS has undergone a comprehensive review on systems around preventing, reporting, and responding to sexual misconduct. We’ll share some of the things that led us to engage in systems review, the challenges we encountered, key lessons learned, and areas of focus moving forward. If your organization has interest in fostering an environment in which participants and staff can work, free from distraction and harm of sexual misconduct, this talk may be for you.

**NEW Building and Evaluating Decision-Making Skills**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Sarah Carpenter *Enchantment A/B*

Across the board, field-based programs rely on effective decision-making from field staff. Students look to these same field staff to develop their own decision-making skills. This session will explore techniques for training and developing staff decision-making. We will discuss how to build decision-making coaching into staff training, as well as how to build it into a program. We will also explore how to evaluate decisions, rather than outcomes, after the fact. This is an important distinction that can shift how and what people take from debriefs and after action reviews.

**CORE WORKSHOP Training Your Staff to Be Risk Managers**

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Liz Tuohy *Whyte Room*

You don’t have very much time to train staff. But you can take advantage of every interaction with them that you have, from hiring to season wrap up to all the conversations in between. In addition, you can influence your organizational culture with a series of complementary interventions. Take a systems approach to field-based risk management training in this workshop, which will include lecture, small group exercises, and reflection on your program.

**NEW Holding Adult Volunteers Accountable: Walking the Staff/Volunteer Line**

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Brian Anderson *Fiesta III/IV*

Are field volunteers the life of your organization? Do you ever feel that there might be a different way to manage them? Sierra Club is a nationally known organization that was established in 1892 and has been running outings all over the world with trained volunteers. Join Sierra Club’s full-time staff to discuss how they manage to run nearly 250 trips a year all led by volunteers with a 1.01% rate of incidents in the field.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

**NEW Emotional First Aid: Supporting Your Participants' Mental Health Needs**

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Jamie Robinson, Gary Robinson, Laura Thompson *Fiesta III/IV*

Mental health emergencies are a growing concern, especially with experiential education organizations that may not have immediate access to counseling professionals. Emotional First Aid training is a critical set of skills to better equip your organization and staff to deal with the increase in mental health issues facing programs. In this session, you will learn how to identify people in crisis, practice and learn basic helping skills, and know when and how to bring in professional help. The co-founders of P3 Mental Health Advisors will share some best practices learned while working with their organizational clients.

**NEW Mental and Behavioral Health Crisis Management in the Wilderness**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Coulter Stone, Mariah Loftin, Norman Elizondo *Enchantment C/D*

Mental and behavioral health related incidents in the wilderness are becoming more common. How can we help support those participants while they are in our care? How can we, as supervisors, increase our staff's bag of tools so that they feel more confident in managing these situations? Come learn the basics of how to manage those in behavioral and/or mental health crisis and the first steps in teaching your staff how to do the same.

**NEW Gender Identity Inclusion Practices: Things We Are Learning at NOLS**

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Shannon Rochelle *Enchantment A/B*

A recent Harris/GLAAD poll noted that while 12% of the US population identifies as LGBTQ, that number among Americans aged 18-34 is 20%. Transgender, non-binary, and other gender-expansive individuals are participating in wilderness-related activities in growing numbers. This presentation will share some of the things we are learning at NOLS through our efforts to become a community that includes and supports people of all genders, and to continue learning from across the world of wilderness education. Please come contribute to the conversations, learn from experiences of others, and take away ideas that may enable your organization to support participants of all genders.

**CORE WORKSHOP Stress, Trauma, and Mental Health in the Workplace: A Program to Build Organization Resilience**

3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Mike Pigg, Victoria Kerr, Laura McGladrey *Enchantment A/B*

We must increase the effectiveness with which we support the emotional well-being of staff and students after exposure to significant stress. This session will outline a new program to build organizational resilience and target the effects of stress exposure (whether cumulative or single event trauma), thus minimizing the likelihood of stress injury formation. Finally, see how such a program fits into an organization-wide approach to mental health and emotional wellness in the workplace.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**NEW Exclusive Spaces: Managing Inherent Risks to Traveling as a Visibly Marginalized Group**

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Colleen McHugh, Monique Dailey *Enchantment A/B*

Traveling as a visibly marginalized group poses inherent risks to programs and participants. Over 20 years, City Kids Wilderness Project has experienced the challenge of traveling in white outdoor spaces as People of Color. City Kids continues to develop a holistic approach to reducing the risk of emotional or physical harm to participants and staff through program design, staff training, and inclusion incident mitigation and response. This presentation aims to share lessons learned.

**NEW Ability Awareness: Emotional Well-Being for People with Disabilities**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Nathan Vink *Fiesta III/IV*

Whether it's people on the autism spectrum, people with spinal cord injuries, or veterans with unseen injuries, it is essential to understand the unique aspects and abilities of the person, not just their disability. In a strengths-based discussion, participants will gain resources on how to adapt any program to support people with disabilities. This workshop will explore the mental, social and emotional safety of people with different physical and cognitive abilities and how recreation pursuits can be adapted to help individuals achieve the highest quality of life.

**NEW The Body Doesn't Lie: Managing Risk Through Somatic-Based Learning**

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Tracy Rekart *Fiesta I/II*

The body doesn't lie. In high risk situations, our body will do what it has practiced. Understand your baseline reactions, learn new ways to manage your response, and practice what you need to successfully navigate high risk situations calmly and effectively. Join Tracy in this 90-minute experiential conversation to learn about cutting-edge brain science, body-based practices for students and instructors/administrators, and the challenges of being in and leading groups.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31**

3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

*Whyte Room***Risk Management Lessons from Baja Road Signs**

Eric Boggs

A near death experience prompts critical reflection on a quint-essentially mundane material—the road sign. The search for meaning reveals risk management lessons that encourage us to stay vigilant and creative in the quest to run zero-incident courses by training risk managers to think creatively and critically through metaphor.

**NEW I Did Not Grow Up Like You AND I Still Belong Here**

Mel Mac Innis

In this session we will focus on what we can do as individuals and as organizations to dismantle the culture of ableism, masculinity, and heterosexism in our community. Using the Story of Self, Us and Now we will understand where we are now and how we can make transformational change.

**NEW When P and P Go Out the Window**

Tyler Carroll

“If they had just followed procedure.” As leadership, it can be frustrating when established policies and procedures (P and P) are not followed. Instead of getting frustrated, lets get proactive. In this short talk, we will unpack five of the top reasons this occurs and look inward to see how we can improve.

**NEW At the End of My Rope and Hit by a Rock and Stuck in a Hard Place: Two Patients’ Perspectives vs. Perceptions**

Jeannette Stawski, Christine Lagattolla

Luckily, few individuals have personally experienced a severe accident as the injured. While the industry continues to improve its curriculum and training of wilderness medicine and evacuation procedures, it’s important to explore the patients vantage to expand understanding in times of an accident. In this short talk, Jeanette and Christine will share their first hand experiences as patients to help attendees expand their capacity for care, increase their attentiveness in training, and explore new ways of thinking from the patient perspective.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

*Whyte Room***NEW We are Failing Our Leaders: A Discussion and Dialogue on How We Can Better Serve Our Field Staff**

Kai Johnson

Our industry exists on the backs of our leaders (field staff), but as an industry we are failing these leaders. Leaders face a lack of knowledge about the industry, rampant instability, and a lack of community. This can lead to career-paralysis, burnout, exhaustion, loneliness, and isolation. This short talk will address how we can solve these industry challenges.

**NEW In the (Data) Field: Information Management as Risk Management**

Sara Martin

Enrollment paperwork, incident reports, gear-maintenance logs, staff development records, participant feedback, etc.—all information crucial to safe and successful delivery of our programs. This short talk will explore challenges of managing our information effectively and strategies for harnessing our information as a vital risk management resource. We will consider an information cycle model, examine a case study, and map information cycles with an eye toward risk management concerns.

**NEW Building Capacity for High School Students to be Backcountry Medical Providers**

Allison McGuire, Madison Dressler

The 6th-12th grade Bosque School uses medically licensed EMS high schoolers in a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program to perform “school nurse” functions within the school and as wilderness medicine providers on outdoor education experiences. Our novel approach maintains EMS provider skills in between wilderness deployments mitigating the challenge of low patient encounter numbers. Consider how your organization can partner with a local high school to provide authentic leadership and professional opportunities for students.

**NEW Risk, Reflection and Resilience: Storytelling as Pedagogy**

Eric Boggs

Resilience is a critical skill that helps participants overcome challenge, uncertainty and adversity. This presentation will introduce research and teaching tools on the development of personal narratives as a reflective tools to help overcome adversity, build community and thrive in uncertainty.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Courtney Aber** is the national director of YMCA BOLD & GOLD focusing on expanding the program and working with local Ys to balance mission, risk, and logistics. BOLD & GOLD brings youth from all backgrounds together for 1-3-week expeditions. Courtney has been involved with outdoor programming since 1992 when she decided to take a summer “off” before getting a real job. Since then she has led trips on 3 continents, in 5 countries, and throughout the United States.

**Laurel Ady** has worked in environmental and outdoor education nonprofits for over 10 years in Maryland, North Carolina, and the Pacific Northwest. She has a B.A. in outdoor leadership studies from Warren Wilson College. In 2015 she earned her M.Ed and Certificate in nonprofit management from Island Wood and the University of Washington. She currently works as safety and training coordinator for the Student Conservation Association. Laurel believes that active listening is the most important aspect of leadership. She is most excited to get people connected to the natural world around them.

**Brian Anderson** has been an outdoor guide for 20 years. He brings experience from the field to his role at the Sierra Club as the national outings training and development manager. He received his degree from Western Colorado University in outdoor recreation and education with a minor in business, then received his masters from Regis University in nonprofit management. Brian has been a white water and rock climbing trainer for different companies.

**Amber Barnett** is currently the training and curriculum manager for Colorado Outward Bound. Starting with Outward Bound in 2006, Amber has worked for multiple schools both nationally and internationally including a long stint with Outward Bound Australia as an instructor, trainer, and training manager. These combined roles have supported her to think critically about training’s role in risk management and student outcomes.

**Walter Bezha** spent most of his early years on Mother Earth out on the land with all of his grandfathers, travelling and learning the Dene traditions of Sahtú (Great Bear Lake) in the Northwest Territories. After 32 years in the resource development field with both the federal and territorial governments, he switched to working with Indigenous governance organizations. Walter is a research associate with ʔehdzo Got’ıneḡ Gots’ ́ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board) and the lead for ʔohdakə (Elders Council) with the Délıneḡ Got’ıneḡ Government. Now semi-retired, Walter has more time to spend with his grandchildren on their traditional lands and documenting Dene history.

**Brett Billings** is the expedition coordinator and Concord, N.H. outreach worker for the Mayhew Program. In these roles, he leads summertime backpacking, canoeing, and mountain biking trips throughout New England. During the school year, he serves as a full-time, community-based mentor for under-served boys, ages 10-16. He is also a graduate student in school psychology at Plymouth State University.

**Misty Blakesley** works at the Mountain Center with Native American communities, survivors of trauma, folks in recovery, and people in the juvenile justice system. She encourages healing and growth through connection with the natural world. She is a mentor with the Tracking Project, a 500+hr yoga teacher, and the head rock climbing trainer at the Mountain Center. Her thesis work at the Institute of American Indian Arts was on tracking, mapping, and humans’ connection to nature.

**Eric Boggs** serves as an instructor of leadership in the University of Oregon’s Lundquist College of Business. In the classroom, he draws from his decades of experience leading wilderness expeditions for NOLS and the integration of scenario-based learning he gained teaching for NOLS Wilderness Medicine. From the fusion of these work-experiences, Eric draws on the power of storytelling to develop leadership skills and attitudes in the face of adversity.

**Sarah Carpenter** is one of three owners of the American Avalanche Institute. She has worked in the outdoor industry since 1998, when she began her career as a ski patroller at Bridger Bowl. Sarah has worked as a ski patroller, a NOLS instructor, a guide, an avalanche educator and a ski guide. Managing risk and communicating this risk assessment and management has been a focus and an interest throughout her career. As an owner of AAI, Sarah’s focus includes training staff on risk management, decision-making, and communication.

**Tyler Carroll** is originally from Birmingham, Alabama but attended college in South Carolina where he received his degree in psychology and sociology. After college, Tyler moved to Utah where he fell in love with the mountains and was lead guide at Aspiro Adventure for three years. Tyler now runs the risk management department at Aspiro with his border collie side kick Braxton.

**Reuben Chinana** is a Pueblo (Zia, Jemez) artist and educator who is employed at The Mountain Center as an emergence and therapeutic adventure program coordinator. His work promotes social justice among various populations in New Mexico—with an emphasis on Pueblo communities. Reuben implements social justice through a range of skills and experiences which include but are not limited to: mediation, facilitation (including diverse, “at risk,” and vulnerable populations), cultural competency, artistic collaborations (poetry, woodwork, leather craft, drawing, printmaking, guitar, origami, story telling, calligraphy/lettering), athleticism (total body conditioning, Tai Chi, hiking, rock climbing, skateboarding, running), wilderness education (primitive/survival skills, fire building, flint knapping, natural cordage), research/computer skills, and written & oral communication skills. Reuben holds a BFA in creative writing and is certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, and administering CPR, Epinephrine Auto-injector, & NARCAN (naloxone hydrochloride injection).

**Scott Christy** has served as an administrator at NOLS Southwest and NOLS Rocky Mountain and worked in non-profit conservation as the Wyoming coordinator for Trout Unlimited. As NOLS faculty he has accumulated nearly 200 weeks in the field educating students and worked with clients such as the US Navy, NASA, the US Marine Corp, and Google. When not working NOLS Custom Education courses, Scott practices the art of audio storytelling for Yellowstone National Park's science podcast "Telemetry."

**Joshua Cole** is an owner and guide at North Cascades Mountain Guides based in Mazama, Washington. He has more than 20 years of experience working in outdoor education, commercial guiding, the ski industry, and secondary education. In addition to his work in the field, he has experience as an administrator having served as Washington program director for Northwest Outward Bound School for eight years. Josh has given trainings and presentations on wilderness risk management for numerous organizations and also supports outdoor programs with risk management expertise as an Associate Consultant with Experiential Consulting, LLC. Josh is an American Mountain Guides Association certified ski guide, single-pitch instructor, and assistant rock and alpine guide.

**Leah Corrigan, J.D.** is a lawyer who advises and defends outdoor recreation businesses. She is an experienced litigator and the

founder of Recreation Law Center, LLC, based out of Jackson, Wyoming. The Recreation Law Center provides comprehensive legal and risk management services, including lawsuit defense, to outdoor recreation businesses. Leah spent ten years as a wilderness river guide before becoming a lawyer, and is an avid skier, mountain biker, and river-runner. She is passionate about helping her clients run a professional recreation business, while keeping the adventure in their operations.

**Tom Costley** founded Overland in 1984. Over his career, Tom has guided Overland from its modest beginnings through 35 years of growth and maturation. Along the way, he's made every possible mistake and tried to learn from all of them.

**Monique Dailey** is the program director at City Kids Wilderness Project, providing strategic leadership for and management of City Kids programs. She provides organizational leadership for program and grants management, full time staff training, risk management, and curriculum development. Prior to City Kids, Monique worked for six years at the Student Conservation Association (SCA) in various roles including the D.C. Area programs manager and the national director of member experience at SCA. She is a returned Peace Corps volunteer and spent two years serving in the Philippines as a coastal resource management volunteer.

**Dr. Clare Dallat** is the executive director of The Outdoor Education Foundation and Research at The Outdoor Education Group (OEG), Australia. OEG's 400 staff work with almost 50,000 young people annually on led outdoor education programs across Australia. Clare also leads Risk Resolve; an organization that provides proactive and reactive risk management services for organisations across Australia and internationally. She has a PhD in human factors and an MSc. in risk, crisis and disaster management and is an adjunct research fellow with the Centre for Human Factors and Sociotechnical Systems at The University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

**Sam Daume** has been in the insurance industry since 1986 and has worked with educational institutions since 1989. He joined the Fred C. Church Education Team as a client executive in January of 2009 and is the co-leader of the firm's Outdoor + Adventure Practice. His experience includes 30 years as an account executive with three insurance brokers assuming various leadership positions including New England Education Practice Leader for Marsh USA. Sam has provided risk management advice and insurance brokerage service to independent schools, colleges and universities of all shapes and sizes as well as numerous well known outdoor experiential educational organizations.

**Dave Dennis** is the global safety & risk management director at Rustic Pathways. He has a master's degree in risk management and 23 years of experience in the adventure and student travel industry. Dave also owns a consulting firm specializing in the development and implementation of risk management and emergency response programs for both domestic and global tour operators. Dave is an active speaker and remains passionate about safeguarding travelers while preserving life-changing experiences.



## NOLS RISK SERVICES

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**Kit DesLauriers** is the first person to ski from the highest mountain on each continent, aka the Seven Summits, as well as a 2015 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year and a two time World Freeskiing Women's Champion. A member of The North Face Global Athlete Team since 2005, Kit has led expeditions around the world including to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the Brooks Range of Alaska where she made several first ski descents of the highest peaks and contributed to a scientific mapping project in the region. Kit lives in Teton Village, WY with her husband and two daughters.

**Tony Dixon** has been working in the field of therapeutic adventure for fourteen years and serves as the executive director for The Mountain Center in New Mexico. Over the years he has overseen risk management, training, operations, and programs for the center and for the last five years he has been a part of the leadership team for The Mountain Center. Tony has been a site reviewer for accreditation for the Association for Experiential Education for adventure and outdoor behavioral healthcare programs. He serves on the International Adventure Therapy Committee as a representative for the USA and for the Outdoor Behavioral Health Council.

**Kristen Dowling** has spent the past 11 years working in non-profit and small business administration, focusing on international and domestic travel programs. She joined World Learning in 2016 and currently works as the youth exchange operations officer, focusing on logistical and risk management planning for the organization's international and domestic youth exchanges for over 1,200 participants per year. She received her bachelor's degree in mass communication and Spanish language from Boston University.

**Madison Dressler** is a high school senior and co-president of the Bosque School Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). She has taken the lead responsibility for engaging the Bosque School MRC student membership in community health care and related activities. She coordinates MRC student members participating in off-campus activities where they use their medical skills in both emergency and non-emergency public health initiatives.

**Paul Dreyer**, a self-proclaimed "mercenary educator," has had the opportunity to work with numerous organizations, including NOLS, Where There Be Dragons, HMI, and Watershed School. Paul has worked as a facilitator, curriculum designer, coach, expeditionary leader, risk management consultant, staff trainer, and team builder. Currently, Paul is the CEO of Avid4 Adventure, helping support the mission to empower kids to lead active and healthy lifestyles outdoors.

**Todd Duncan** has managed and directed adventure, research, and educational programs around the world. This includes leading research expeditions for the Wildlife Conservation Society, working as a wilderness guide on multiple continents, and serving as safety director for the School for Field Studies. Currently Todd is the director of safety, security and emergency preparedness for the Sierra Club. He currently serves on the WRMC Steering Committee.

**Jess Dunkin** is the director of research and innovation at the NWT Recreation and Parks Association. She was previously the director of On the Land Programs. Jess is based in S̓m̓ba K'è (Yellowknife, NWT) in Akaitcho Territory (Treaty 8), homeland of the Yellowknives Dene, though she works with Dene, Inuvialuit, and Métis communities and organizations across the NWT. Jess holds a Bachelor of Education from Trent University and a PhD in the history of recreation from Carleton University.

**Norman Elizondo** began his career in wilderness therapy as a field instructor in 1998 at Aspen Achievement Academy. During his time at the Academy he served as field director, education director and was trained and certified as an EMT as well as becoming a trainer for crisis communication, de-escalation through Positive Control Systems. As a part of Open Sky's founding team, Norman served as the first field guide for Open Sky and is now the family wellness counselor. The focus on family systems and parallel process with parents has been an inspiration and driving force in Norman's work at Open Sky. He helped create the programming for the Wellness Weekends and has facilitated these weekend intensives since the very first one in 2006. In addition, he facilitates the parent support calls, graduations, meditation instruction, field guide trainings and Aegis, crisis communication, and de-escalation.

**Kate Farthing** is in her thirteenth year at Broadreach and currently acts as the director, which includes overseeing both general and program specific risk management practices. Her perspective ranges from being a field instructor for many years to coordinating and scouting programs to her current position overseeing the team at Broadreach. Kate has attended the WRMC numerous times and this will be her second time presenting.

**Emily Ferrell** has been a part of Overland in a variety of roles—first as a leader guiding students on cross-continent bicycle trips and currently in admissions—since 2007. Emily holds a J.D. from University of Colorado and also attended Pomona College. Emily splits her time between Boulder, Colorado and Williamstown, Massachusetts.

**Cathy Fornaris** has spent over 25 years working in the outdoor industry and gained valuable perspective and experience in the realm of risk management. Having instructed and guided over 15 years of field time in all skill sets, she brings real life experience to her current work. Today, combining her past experiences she is able to support the Colorado Outward Bound School to take their safety practices to the next level.

**Colleen Fox** is a program manager for the Therapeutic Adventure Program at The Mountain Center, working predominantly with adjudicated youth, survivors of trauma, people in recovery, and youth in foster care. She has worked at a wide breadth of organizations in the experiential education field for 12+ years including Outward Bound, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, WolfTree, and Naturalists at Large. She is a certified teacher with a degree from The University of Michigan. Colleen is a staff trainer and rock climbing instructor at the The Mountain Center. She is an avid rock climber and enjoys time in nature with her daughter, Wren and dog, Rooster.

**Bill Frederick** is the founder of Lodestone Safety International specializing in health, safety, and security for educational/service organizations operating abroad. Previously he was the director of safety at the School for Field Studies and an instructor/program director for Outward Bound for 16 years. He is a faculty committee member for Wilderness Medical Associates International. He holds an M.Ed from Harvard University and a Certificate in Travel Health from the International Society of Travel Medicine.

**Kirstin French** (she, her, hers) is a youth program professional who specializes in risk management, staff training, and program logistics. Kirstin has been managing international youth programs at World Learning and The Experiment in International Living since 2011. Prior to World Learning, she worked as a program manager for youth programs focusing on service learning and social justice in Central Appalachia. She has an M.A. in youth program leadership from SIT Graduate Institute.

**Rory Gawler** is the assistant director of Dartmouth Outdoor Programs and the general manager of the Dartmouth Outing Club. He advises more than 150 student leaders, leading more than 500 trips per year, including whitewater kayaking, rock and ice climbing, and hunting and fishing. He also coaches the Woodsman's Team. Rory is responsible for training student leaders and has helped develop seminars in group dynamics, risk management, and a variety of outdoor skills.

**Misha Golfman** is a co-founder of Kroka Expeditions, a farm-based wilderness expedition school in Marlow, N.H. He was raised in Russia in an outdoor tradition foraging for sustenance and enjoying long winters at a ski-in cabin. Misha and his wife Lynne raised their four children on long expeditions and the nature-connected homestead. He continues to lead remote trips including those in Canadian north. Before starting Kroka in 1996 Misha was a school teacher and worked at Mahoosuc Guide Service and Outward Bound.

**Wilma Gray**, born in Ontario, Canada, received her B.A. from Queen's University in 1984 and J.D. in law from New College of California in 1996. In practice since being admitted to the California Bar in 1997, she joined the McNamara Law Firm and became a partner in 2005. She is a member of the State Bar of California, the American Board of Trial Advocates, the International Society of Barristers, American Bar Association, the Contra Costa County Bar Association and the Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California. When not in trial or depositions, Wilma loves to get outdoors to enjoy, hiking, canoeing, biking, skiing (cross-country and downhill), and snowshoeing. Winter recreation time is spent volunteering at "Achieve Tahoe", an adaptive ski school at Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley.

**Reb Gregg** is a Houston, Texas attorney specializing in outdoor adventure and education law. He is a member of the Accreditation Council of the Association for Experiential Education and the Risk Management Committees of SCA and Outward Bound International. Reb serves as legal counsel to the Association for Challenge Course Technology and to a number of adventure programs including summer camps, college and secondary

school outdoor programs, and challenge course and zip line operators and builders. He is a frequent lecturer and writer and honoree of the Charles (Reb) Gregg Award, established by the Wilderness Risk Management Conference in 2009.

**David Gregory** is an experienced outdoor education teacher from Australia who has worked on various domestic and international programs for over 18 years. David has planned and led outdoor education programs for students from primary age right up to senior school. From a second grader's first overnight experience to immersive six month long residential programs, David has worked with a diverse range of students in their pastoral and social development, focusing on personal growth, teamwork, and leadership.

**Darren Gruetze** has occupied a wide range of roles within the conservation and wilderness therapy industries over the last 10 years. Currently he manages Pittsburgh based programming for the Student Conservation Association. He approaches leadership and management from a bottom-up perspective, believing that those he leads know best what will facilitate their growth, and that it is his job to provide a safe and supportive structure in which they can achieve it.

**Amberleigh Hammond** is a member of the Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness team at Sierra Club. She has deep experience in operational risk management, outdoor education,

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and training. Amberleigh is an EMT, Outdoor Emergency Care instructor, ski patroller, Leave No Trace master educator, and Mental Health First Aid instructor. Mornings, evenings, and weekends she can be found playing ultimate, fastpacking, ski mountaineering, mountain biking, and training for ultramarathons. She currently serves on the WRMC Steering Committee.

**Catherine Hansen-Stamp** is an attorney in Golden, Colorado and a current member of the WRMC Steering Committee. She advises recreation and adventure providers on law, liability, and risk management issues. She speaks and writes on these issues both regionally and nationally, and has presented at the WRMC since its inception in 1994. Cathy provides legal counsel to a variety of organizations, including recreation, adventure and sport program providers, camps, schools, outfitters, and guides. She is a member of the Wyoming and Colorado Bar Associations, and co-authors for *ACA CampLine* with Reb Gregg.

**Melissa Harper** is a clinical and program manager for the Therapeutic Adventure and Counseling Services Programs at The Mountain Center, working predominately with youth and adults struggling with substance use, trauma, and other co-occurring diagnoses. Melissa has a background in secondary education, an MA in counseling from Southwestern College of Santa Fe, and studies Gestalt Equine Therapy at the Gestalt Equine Institute of the Rockies. She is a horse rider and enjoys time with dog, Scout, and horse, Sunny.

**Dr. Seth Collings Hawkins**, anthropologist, writer, and physician, holds dual board certification in emergency medicine and EMS. He currently serves as medical advisor for REI and NC Outward Bound School. He is the executive editor of *Wilderness Medicine Magazine*, co-author of *Vertical Aid: Essential Wilderness Medicine for Climbers, Trekkers, and Mountaineers*, editor of the textbook *Wilderness EMS*, and founder of multiple wilderness medicine organizations. He is the first physician designated as a Master Fellow by both the Academy of Wilderness Medicine and the Adventurers & Explorers Guild.

**Katjarina “Katja” Hurt** is an outdoorsy nerdette with a penchant for volunteering and trying to make the world a better place. In 2018, Katja left her six years in law enforcement to launch *Wilderness Chaplains*, a nonprofit providing education and crisis support to wilderness first responders. She wrote *Breaking the Halo*, a presentation-turned-publication on empowering students to confront heuristic traps in outdoor education. Katja’s degrees include crisis and disaster management, communication studies, and a master’s in pastoral studies...but she prefers to be known for her work as a police and fire chaplain, Outdoor Emergency Care instructor, and 12+ years volunteering with the National Ski Patrol.

**Jonathan Igoe** has worked with students in schools, recreation programs, and summer camps for the past twenty years. A 1997 graduate of Yale, Jonathan is the director at Overland. Prior to Overland, Jonathan taught for five years at independent schools in Baltimore and New York City and served as the executive director of the Williamstown Youth Center. Jonathan has presented at the WRMC and the ACA New England Conference. He is on the Board of Directors at YMCA Camp Belknap and

serves as the chair of the Risk Management Committee. Jonathan lives in Williamstown, Massachusetts, with his wife and three children.

**Jeff Jackson, PhD** is an award-winning educator and longtime contributor to the WRMC, introducing concepts such as sensemaking and systems planning. Jeff is a professor and coordinator of Algonquin College’s Outdoor Adventure guide training diploma, where he oversees 10,000 student field days per year. He is the author of *Managing Risk: Systems Planning for Outdoor Adventure Programs*. His PhD research is in safety culture, peer influence, and internalizing safety values.

**Mike Jensen** has spent more than 32 years working with communities and volunteers through the Cooperative Extension Service in Michigan, Florida, and Washington State. He researches and presents on community issues focused on risk management, wildland fire, and emergency response. He regularly presents in person and through national webinars and meetings on these important topics.

**Anna Johnson** was introduced to wilderness environments at a traditional summer camp continuing as a student with ActionQuest aboard a sailboat in the Caribbean. In addition to several years working on tall ships in remote environments, she has spent 20 summers working for ActionQuest with roles including operational director, head EMT, trip update manager, food coordinator, and photographer. During the year, Anna lives in D.C. and spends her free time volunteering with a dog rescue organization and training for running races.

**Kai Johnson** spent the past decade working as a leader and director in the international and experiential education segment of the field. Through his experience and his observations of fellow leaders, he came to understand the deep challenges which leaders can face in this field. In 2017 he founded Act Normal, a company created to identify and address these industry challenges.

**Mark Johnson** is currently the senior manager of standards for Tim Hortons Foundation Camps, based in St. George, Ontario. He has been facilitating experiential education programs at camps and wilderness centers since 1982. He started leading wilderness trips back when the risk management plan consisted of a map and a baggie of change for a phone call. He and his family moved from Kentucky to Ontario in late 2012, primarily so he could get more curling in.

**Victoria Kerr**, originally from Scotland, was lured to Colorado by the promise of endless blue skies and alpine lakes. Instructing for Outward Bound and college programs she spent over a decade teaching avalanche, snow, and mountaineering courses throughout Colorado, Utah, Alaska, and Ecuador. Gaining valuable knowledge of group dynamics, leadership and communication, Vic transitioned into her current role as human resource and operations director for Colorado Outward Bound School where she oversees the safety, programming, staffing, and training vision for over 200 staff. Vic is drawn to the challenge of balancing operational and individual needs through innovating organizational and cultural strengths and capacity. When not exploring the inner workings of the Affordable Care Act, Vic

enjoys traveling with her husband and toddler in an Airstream and taking very slow walks.

**Nadia Kimmel, M.S., RN**, is the founder and executive director of Desert Mountain Medicine (DMM). She teaches wilderness medicine, trains staff, develops course curricula, and consults outdoor recreation organizations in wilderness risk management. Nadia has 22 years experience as an outdoor educator for Colorado Mountain College and Colorado Outward Bound. Nadia splits her time as an outdoor professional with working in various emergency departments first as an EMT and later as an RN. She currently manages DMM in Wilson, Wyoming.

**Skip King** has 30 years of public relations, crisis management, media training and marketing communications experience. Skip offers a rare combination of skill sets in providing crisis communications training and counsel: he has dealt with numerous crises from both operational and communications perspectives. In 2002 he founded the award-winning Reputation Strategies, LLC, a public relations consultancy. His company has successfully managed major business interruption stories, catastrophic accident cases with international reach, environmental and land use issues, and a wide range of other challenges. His practice focuses on high-risk outdoor organizations, including experiential education programs like Outward Bound USA. He works extensively with the ski industry and also serves water parks and challenge course operators.


**Kristin Kirschner** is the branch chief of Wilderness and Emergency Services at Olympic National Park. In this capacity,

she oversees Search and Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Incident Management as well as the Wilderness patrol, education, and permitting functions for the park. She has been with the NPS since 1999 and worked in a variety of parks, including Yellowstone, Mount Rainier, Rocky Mountain, and Yosemite. As a member of the Western Incident Management Team since 2012, she has responded to incidents ranging from the Presidential visits to stabilization efforts following hurricanes, floods, and wildfires. Kristin is currently an All-Hazard Type-2 Plans Section Chief and is training to become a Type-2 Incident Commander.

**Tracey Knutson** practices law focused on defense of recreation entities (commercial operators, non-profits, public land administrators, educators, insurers, etc.) so she sees risk management issues from both the proactive stance (drafting releases, permit applications, operations plans, legislation, in-house training, etc.) and the reactive stance (dealing with litigation and defense of actual claims made against operators). She has been speaking publicly in the arena of recreation risk management for 15+ years and has spoken both nationally and internationally to groups that range from the emerging Commercial Human Spaceflight industry to the America Outdoors Association to the Colorado River Outfitters Association to the Dude Ranchers Association, WRMC, etc. She serves as general counsel to large entities like the American Alpine Club, O.A.R.S., etc. and is regularly hired by insurance companies both to defend lawsuits and to look at underwriting standards for recreational insurance products.

**Kate Koons** began her career in outdoor education when she was 19. Over the past 23 years, Kate has worked in a variety of capacities in the outdoor industry. After years of working with a few small outdoor education and wilderness companies, she started her work at NOLS, where she still works on occasion. Kate continues to work for NOLS teaching risk management trainings and instructor seminars. In between field contracts and through the years, Kate worked in Antarctica managing risk at small camps and accompanying scientists on expeditions for five seasons, as well as guiding throughout the Himalayas. For seven years, Kate managed the winter program for NOLS, training instructors, and creating curriculum for both avalanche and backcountry touring. In 2017, Kate transitioned to working for the American Avalanche Association as the pro training coordinator, managing professional avalanche education within the US, as well as ski guiding, and teaching avalanche courses across the west. When not working, Kate can be found in Victor, Idaho with her husband and two dogs wandering in the mountains, cooking food, and dreaming up the next adventure.


**Christine Lagattolla** has worked in adventure recreation and education programming at a university setting since 2006. She has a B.S. in physical education and M.S. in educational psychology from Northern Illinois University. A Marine Corps combat veteran, yoga teacher, and first aid instructor, she currently serves as the outdoor program director at Northern Illinois University. She enjoys training her staff to lead trips and benefit from the important learning that comes from outdoor experiences.



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Drew has published papers on wilderness injury and incident data, is co-editor of the *Manual of Accreditation Standards for Adventure Programming*, and co-authored *Risk Management for Outdoor Leaders*.

**Eric Levy** started fighting fire in 2001 with a volunteer fire department. He quickly realized wildland fire was an opportunity to work outdoors, and has been doing that ever since. He has worked on engines and helicopters but his passion is with handcrews. He has led hotshot crews and traveled extensively throughout the western United States and Alaska camping, traveling, fighting fires in the backcountry, and training others to do so.

**Mariah Loftin** is a clinical therapist at Open Sky Wilderness Therapy. She has spent the last 25 years working with complex individuals with developmental disabilities, in foster care, and the criminal justice system. Mariah holds an undergraduate degree in anthropology from the University of California-Santa Cruz, an M.A. in transpersonal counseling psychology with an emphasis in art therapy from Naropa University, and a post-graduate certificate in applied behavior analysis from the University of North Texas.

**Mike Lucas** has over 30 years in the insurance industry working as a risk management consultant and insurance broker for clients in manufacturing, engineering, public and independent schools, conservation, and experiential education. As one of the founders and leaders of the Outdoor + Adventure Practice at Fred C. Church Insurance, he has gained in depth experience and deep appreciation for the world of experiential education working with current clients that range from Aerie Backcountry Medicine to World Leadership School, SCA, NOLS, and Outward Bound. Mike also brings invaluable work experience as an engineer in fire protection, safety and industrial operations as well as on the line as a lumber yard worker and textile weaver. A father of four grown children, Mike lives in Keene, New Hampshire with his wife Jamie where hiking, skiing, biking, snowshoeing, and kayaking are all enjoyed right outside the back door.

**Emily Ledingham** has worked as an instructor and administrator at NOLS. She has accumulated over 160 weeks of experience instructing hiking, mountaineering, whitewater, and backcountry ski courses, and has supervised faculty and risk management at a variety of NOLS locations. Emily currently serves as the field staffing director for the school.

**Renaee Lee** is Diné of the Salt Clan, originally from Kayenta, Arizona, and currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Renaee specializes in the experiential practice of purposeful learning through team building activities and outdoor education. She is currently a program coordinator at The Mountain Center, where she designs and facilitates cognitive problem solving and team building initiatives to safely prepare students/clients/groups for hikes, rock climbing, rappelling, front and backcountry camping, snowshoeing, and various rope course elements. Renaee has been working with children, teenagers, and young adults for nearly a decade across the country with various tribal nations, public schools, and non-profit organizations. Renaee has led an evidence-based program for a nationally recognized collaborative, multiple outdoor group excursions, and multiple summer camps for Native and non-Native youth. She is CPR certified and is a current Wilderness First Responder.

**Drew Leemon**, director of risk management at NOLS, began his career in outdoor education in 1979 and has held his current position since 1996. He is a past chair of the WRMC.

**Mel Mac Innis** (she/hers) is a whitewater raft guide, a walker, and a sometimes open water swimmer. As director of Sierra Club Outdoor Activities, Mel trains and supports volunteers and staff across the country to connect ALL people to meaningful outdoor experiences. Mel's introduction to the outdoors took place when she was 23 as a participant on a Sierra Club Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) rafting trip. Mel's passion for the environment, people, and herself was realized after becoming a volunteer ICO leader.

**Brendan Madden** is the director of learning and adventure and national safety officer at Outward Bound Canada. He has been active in the expedition-based adventure education field for over 20 years, mostly as a program director and senior instructor at both Outward Bound and NOLS. Brendan has also been a risk management trainer and consultant at NOLS. He was once the director of Hulbert Outdoor Center in Vermont. Brendan continues to be fascinated by the confluence of systems thinking and human-factor elements in outdoor risk management.

**Julia Makowski** started working with the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School over 15 years ago as a field instructor in the sea program. She currently serves as the school's safety director and associate director of education and innovation. She still loves to get out in the field and finds inspiration in working directly with students and staff. Julia spends her summers in Maine where she likes to swim every day and winters in Colorado where she works part time as a ski patroller and strives to get out on the hill as much as possible.

**Dr. Will Marling** earned his undergraduate (1986), graduate (1989) and post-graduate (1997) degrees in a variety of disciplines. In 2000 he was trained by the National Organization for Victim Assistance© (NOVA) and added to his skill set and experience base in responding to people in crisis. His praxis has been informed as a responder to a variety of national and international events from violent crimes to natural disasters.

**Sara Martin** (she, her, hers) currently sails as the chief mate aboard Maine Maritime Academy's sail training vessel, the Schooner Bowdoin. Before joining the Bowdoin Sara served as the participant medical officer for The Experiment in International Living, worked as an expedition guide in SE Alaska, and sailed for Sea Education Association, Thompson Island Outward Bound, as well as various other sail training programs around the U.S. She holds a master's in education from Harvard University and a merchant mariner's license from the USCG. Sara loves teaching on, through, and for the sea.

**Ann McCollum** is a New Mexico based attorney and risk management consultant working with schools and camps throughout the country. Her consulting and law practice is informed by 20+ years in independent schools and summer camps, as well as work in adolescent counseling (M.Ed.) and education, tort, and criminal defense law. Ann is a two-time NOLS graduate (Alaska Mountaineering and Instructor Course), has been certified in WEMT and WFR, served on the ACA National Standards Commission, and has 100+ weeks of backcountry leadership experience in backpacking, hiking, climbing, kayaking, and rafting. Ann has trekked extensively in the Nepal and Indian Himalaya, and most recently cycled 1000 kms from Lhasa, Tibet to Nepal.

**Laura McGladrey** has instructed for NOLS Wilderness Medicine for the past 20 years and is a nurse practitioner with dual certification, practicing both emergency medicine and psychiatry across the lifespan. She currently serves in the Emergency Department and the Stress Trauma Adversity Research and Treatment (START) Center, providing trauma support for Emergency and Wilderness Responders. She has a background in international and relief work and continues to teach wilderness medicine and lectures nationally on psychological first aid and stress injuries. She is the stress and resilience advisor for Portland Mountain Rescue, Colorado Outward Bound, and Eldora Ski Patrol.

**Allison McGuire** is a high school senior and co-president of the Bosque School Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). As a New Mexico licensed medical first responder, she oversees a 45-person (all high school student) medical response organization that func-

tions under physician medical control and provides medical care in school and wilderness settings. She also co-leads a high school organization that lobbies for and provides peer education on reducing youth risk from gun violence and sexual assault.

**Colleen McHugh** is the Wyoming site director for City Kids Wilderness Project, serving as an organizational leader in program management, staff training, risk management, and curriculum development. She has been with City Kids since 2009 in a variety of roles. Colleen began her outdoor career serving on trail crews, wilderness therapy, and as an educator on historic boats. She is also a Wilderness EMT and teaches wilderness medicine for NOLS.

**David Mephram** is a professor in the Outdoor Leadership Educational Unit at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC). He is also the director of the Outdoor Research and Expertise Laboratory. David's main fields of expertise are wilderness first aid and risk management. David actively contributes to the development of several areas of Québec's outdoor adventure field by conducting research projects and by providing professional training. He was director for the bachelor's degree in outdoor leadership for eight years and is the risk manager for the program.

**Katie Baum Mettenbrink** (she/her) has worked in outdoor education since 1999. She currently leads NOLS Risk Services, which provides risk management training and consulting for individuals and organizations, and chairs the WRMC Steering Committee. She is also a senior field instructor at NOLS, with 140 weeks of experience on extended wilderness expeditions. Before landing in her current role, she oversaw staffing for NOLS Custom Education, was the program manager at NOLS Alaska, taught environmental education in the Pacific Northwest, and worked for the outdoor program at Princeton. She lives in Lander, Wyoming with her partner and son.

**Frances Mock** is an attorney specializing in risk management and claims management for wilderness and experiential education programs. She is counsel to NOLS, Outward Bound, SCA, L.L.Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools, and other clients providing advice about responding to deaths, animal attacks, sexual assaults, and other serious incidents; claims and lawsuits; medical screening; and other operational issues. She has spoken at numerous national conferences for the outdoor and study abroad industries and has been teaching at Duke Law School for more than ten years. Frances worked as a Class V whitewater rafting guide, was a volunteer cross country skiing instructor for special needs populations, was trained as a WFR, and worked in the outdoor industry for about ten years before becoming an attorney.

**Marquel Musgrave (Thamu Tsan)** is from the Pueblo of Nambe and is a therapeutic adventure and emergence project coordinator with The Mountain Center. She focuses on resilience building and reclaiming indigenous knowledge systems. Marquel has B.A. in business administration and served an elected term as Tribal Council Secretary. Marquel is passionate about cultural and language revitalization and preservation. Marquel is a creative director for the online magazine, *Indigenous Goddess Gang*.

**Steve Neal** is the risk management officer for Outward Bound USA and a member of the WRMC Steering Committee. Steve has been a risk management and safety professional for over 40 years. As a former paramedic, he developed a keen understanding of the importance of proactive loss prevention. His career spans his current position with Outward Bound; nine years as risk manager for the City of Portland, Maine; 20 years in the ski industry focusing on ski patrol, safety and risk management; and six years as an insurance professional providing insurance, loss control and claim services to the outdoor recreation industry. A native Mainer (or “Maniac”), Steve enjoys all the seasons and outdoor activities New England has to offer.

**Paul Nicolazzo** is the director of the Wilderness Medicine Training Center International. He began his outdoor career in 1978 as a river and climbing guide. In subsequent years he worked for numerous outfitters including 22 years with Outward Bound as an instructor, course director, staff trainer, and program director. He has numerous first descents by kayak, canoe, and ski—and a few first ascents of chossy climbing routes that no one in their right mind should ever repeat—in his resume. He is the author of numerous books and articles on wilderness medicine and outdoor program risk management.

**Chad Olcott** is an attorney and director at Pinnacle Risk Strategies, with deep expertise in outdoor risk management. He has been a director at Apogee Adventures for a decade and has served as the company’s in-house general counsel. Previously, Chad served as a litigator and command advisor in San Diego and Sardinia, Italy, while serving in the U.S. Navy. Chad lives in Brunswick, Maine, with his wife and their twin daughters.


**Mike Pigg** has been involved in the experiential education industry for over 15 years as an educator, trainer, and administrator. He has a long history with Outward Bound (OB) Australia where he served for several years as the safety director, and then general manager. In addition, his experience in Australia includes extensive work within the tertiary/vocational training sector. Mike joined OB in the US in 2015, first as OBUSA associate safety director and then director of operations at Colorado Outward Bound. Today Mike is the OBUSA national safety director; and a member of the OB International Risk Management Committee, the AEE Accreditation Council, and the WRMC Steering Committee.

**Aparna Rajagopal, J.D.** (she/her) is a former engineer and lawyer who shifted gears nearly a decade ago to supporting outdoor and environmental organizations with their justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) efforts. Over the years she has facilitated workshops on JEDI topics for thousands of outdoor educators, nonprofit leaders, outdoor industry professionals, land managers, conservation grantors, natural resources and environmental scholars, and conservationists. As a thought leader in the JEDI space, she has helped organizations that work on engagement, connection, caring, and management of “more than human nature” evolve to actively having difficult conversations about topics such as bias, privilege, oppression, equity, justice, and accompliceship. She and her work have been featured in *California Lawyer* magazine, *Backpacker* magazine, *Outside* magazine, *Sierra* magazine, *The Adventure Gap*, and SNEWS (among

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others) as well as the “She Explores” podcast and “Outdoor Voices” podcast, and she has contributed to the *Harvard Business Review*, *Earth Island Journal*, the *Journal of Leisure Research*, and National Geographic’s adventure blog. She has also spear-headed projects that amplify stories and connections of black, indigenous, and people of color in nature, including *Expedition Denali: Inspiring Diversity in the Outdoors*. Aparna is founding partner of the Avarna Group and co-founder of the People of the Global Majority in the Outdoors, Nature, and the Environment (PGM ONE) Summit.

**Tracy Rekart** is a master somatic leadership coach and organizational consultant. She prepares people to lead with confidence, curiosity, and clarity. Her research and cutting-edge approach marries brain science and body-based wisdom. Through experience, application, and practice, she teaches essential communication skills, awakens people to the power of their bodies, and anchors both in purpose. She works internationally with a range of individuals, public organizations, and Fortune 500 companies. In her down time, she explores remote mountains with her family.

**Gates Richards** is a senior instructor for NOLS Wilderness Medicine. Gates has been involved in outdoor education and EMS since the early '90s. Over the years he’s worked outdoor programming throughout the Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest, and Alaska. He’s worked urban EMS in Washington, D.C.; Seattle, Washington; Gunnison County, Colorado; and is an

Intermediate EMT in Lander, Wyoming. Gates began teaching for NOLS Wilderness Medicine in 1998 and now bears the title of special programs manager. He oversees NOLS Wilderness Medicine's WEMT and instructor training programs and is a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine.

**Gary Robinson** has dedicated himself for over 30 years to helping high school and college-aged students to maximize their potential and overcome barriers to learning. His clinical specialties have included stress management, mood and anxiety disorders and life coaching/mentoring. Gary was a part of the first disaster mental health team sent by the American Red Cross to New York City after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and since has also coached many organizations in the principles and practices of critical incident stress de-briefing. He holds degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and the State University of New York. Gary has served in a variety of professional counseling roles in several university and college settings and currently holds the post of director of counseling services at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, a position he has enjoyed for the last twenty years. As co-founder of P3 Mental Health Advisors, Gary conducts staff training, admissions screenings and on-call mental health crisis management for study abroad, gap year, adventure, experiential education, service learning and volunteer programs both domestically and abroad. He is the co-author (Outskirts Press, 2018) of *The Daily Brew: A 365-Day Guided Journal*.

**Jamie Robinson** provides crisis management, training and support to the international education community in her role as mental health advisor to multiple organizations within the field. Jamie is also a psychotherapist within higher education and has held positions at The University of California, San Francisco and Notre Dame de Namur University. Jamie has a private practice based in San Francisco and is a mindfulness educator and a licensed marriage and family therapist. Jamie was a member of NAFSA's Health and Safety Education Abroad Knowledge Sub-Committee and has presented nationally on the topic of pre-departure preparation in the field of study abroad. Jamie is bi-cultural and bi-national by birth.

**Shannon Rochelle**, currently the NOLS research manager, has worked as a field instructor and administrator at NOLS since 1999. She lives in Lander, Wyoming with her partner and dog, and spends her free time running trails and roads.

**Suellen Sack** currently is the director of safety and open enrollment at Voyageur Outward Bound School. She has 15 years of management and practical experience on an emergency response team as a program director or director.

**Jay Shields** is the chief ranger of Olympic National Park, responsible for the management, direction, and oversight of all emergency services to include Federal Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Search and Rescue, and Fire. He has worked for the National Park Service for 26 years in nine different National Park units to include Rocky Mountain, Grand Tetons, Yosemite, Olympic, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Blue Ridge, Great Smoky Mountain, and Pipestone. Jay has worked on several national committees associated with

emergency medicine as a tactical medic and with K-9 tactical emergency casualty care, teaching various agencies and officers in prehospital care and medicine. He co-authored the National Tactical Emergency Medical protocols for the NPS which has been assimilated to other Federal Agencies. He has worked countless numbers of search and rescues during his career in various types of terrain and complexity, in multiple disciplines, and in multiple roles. He holds memberships in various tactical, medical, and SAR groups, and maintains national certifications in these disciplines.

**R. Bryan Simon** is the senior editor for the American Alpine Club's, *Accidents in North American Climbing*. He is a board member for the Appalachian Mountain Rescue Team, an AMGA Certified Single Pitch instructor, a fellow in the Academy of Wilderness Medicine, and a master fellow in the Australian Adventurers and Explorers Guild. He holds a diploma in mountain medicine from the UIAA and has a master's degree in mountain medicine through the University of Leicester.

**Lorca Smetana** is an award-winning educator, consultant, and inspirational speaker in leadership and human resilience development, helping people and organizations design for energy, creativity, and compassion. A survivor of the 1986 school tragedy on Mount Hood, she has been teaching and learning for over thirty years about risk, personal sustainability, resilience, and joy. She is currently on the faculty of the Human Leadership Development Program at Montana State University.

**Steve Smith** is the founder of Experiential Consulting, LLC, specializing in risk management services for outdoor programs. He has written emergency response plans, training manuals, field manuals, designed crisis response scenarios, conducted risk management audits, presented at over 30 professional conferences, and published articles in outdoor magazines, podcasts and journals. He has been associated with Outward Bound in a variety of ways since 1998, first as a mountaineering instructor, then staffing manager, and eventually as a board member for the Northwest Outward Bound School, where he serves on the school's safety committee. Steve lives in Seattle and loves to explore and photograph the wildlife, mountains, and coastlines of the Pacific Northwest.

**Christian Sommer** is from Santa Fe, New Mexico, and began working at The Mountain Center in 2013 after a several year stint living in Brooklyn wondering why people live in cities. He has a lifelong background in wandering around in the desert and in the mountains and enjoys producing music and experiences for dancing, a few different adventure sports, and fireside niceties. He feels incredibly grateful to be working in a community that has given him so much and to have unique opportunities to connect with the people of his home. Christian is currently the field supervisor at The Mountain Center.

**Jeanette Stawski**, serving as executive director for the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE), holds a master's in nonprofit administration, a bachelor's degree in resource policy and behavior, and is also a Certified Association Executive [CAE]. She directed the University of Michigan's Outdoor Program for 11 years and had worked as a

NOLS instructor, wilderness medicine instructor, EMT, and raft guide. Jeannette serves on the WRMC and Coalition for Outdoor Access Steering Committees.

**Doug Stevens** is a Boulder, Colorado attorney who has provided legal services to outdoor recreation and adventure travel organizations for many years. He has defended serious and high-profile personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits. Doug frequently assists clients with all facets of their risk management, emergency response, litigation, and contractual needs. Doug speaks and writes on these issues for outdoor professional groups throughout the country and is licensed in both Colorado and Wyoming.

**Coulter Stone** has a master's in science education from Western Governors University and is a practicing Wilderness EMT. For the last 10 years, Coulter played tug-of-war with his passions for wilderness medicine and education until he found his niche as the assistant health director for Open Sky Wilderness Therapy and as faculty for NOLS Wilderness Medicine. He now sits in equilibrium, with risk management always in the forethought of his brain.

**Paul Tame** is a senior lecturer at Western State Colorado University in Gunnison, Colorado, where he has worked for the last 11 years, leading expeditions both domestically and internationally, facilitating and teaching in the classroom and serving on the school's risk management committee. Before moving to Colorado, Paul worked for Outward Bound (in six countries), NOLS, and as a consultant with Action Learning Associates.

**Ben Tettlebaum** is an attorney and director of Pinnacle Risk Strategies. He specializes in risk management for the outdoor industry. Ben has worked in the industry for over 20 years, including as a current NOLS Wilderness Medicine instructor and W-EMT. Previously, Ben worked for a public interest law firm, launching a legal services organization for food and agriculture businesses. He also lobbied for sustainable food and energy policy and litigated cases involving traditional and clean energy operations.

**Dr. Laura Thompson**, a member of the P3 team, has worked with students in university settings, both nationally and internationally, since 1994. She holds a master's degree in counseling from the University of Nevada, Reno and a Ph.D. in counseling and counselor education from Syracuse University. While at Syracuse, Laura also completed a certificate of advanced studies in addiction studies. Laura is passionate about topics including international education, intercultural adjustment, college student mental health, and substance abuse within the college student population. For her dissertation, she conducted research with college students studying abroad and examined factors, including mental health, which impact drinking-related consequences for U.S. students participating in educational programs abroad. Prior to completing her doctoral work, Laura spent seven years working in Europe with college students attending study programs there. She has worked on three Semester at Sea voyages (most recently as a counselor on the Spring 2019 voyage). Laura is currently working as a counselor at Regis University in Denver.

**Liz Tuohy** has worked for NOLS since 1994, serving as field instructor, admissions officer, program manager for NOLS Rocky Mountain (overseeing student outcomes and staff performance for 250 staff annually), and risk management consultant. Liz currently serves as NOLS education director.

**Mark Vermeal** is the senior safety and risk advisor for Fred C. Church, Inc. where he works with a team of professionals dedicated to serving the unique safety, risk management, and insurance needs of the outdoor and adventure industry. With 20 years of experience as a senior-level administrator, Mark led the Outward Bound USA Safety Department overseeing the safety management systems for Outward Bound's eleven regional schools. Mark has implemented strategies that have enhanced a culture and climate of safety at OBUSA and the SCA and served as the director of the Wilderness Skills Program at the White Mountain School, where he developed a ground up, nationally recognized outdoor education program. As a Wilderness EMT Mark managed emergent situations, and has been a wilderness medicine instructor and a classroom teacher in anatomy and physiology. With rock, ice, and alpine guiding experience, he is a certified AMGA rock instructor and single pitch instructor provider. Mark currently serves on the Outward Bound International Risk Management Committee, Outward Bound Canada Board Risk Oversight Committee, the American Alpine Club's Education Task Force. Mark served on the WRMC Steering Committee from 2007-2017 and been a WRMC presenter since 2007.

**Nathan Vink** is the adventure senior program manager at the National Ability Center (NAC) in Park City, Utah. Before joining the NAC in March of 2018, Nathan was the assistant director of outdoor adventure at the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando, Florida. He spent eight years in Moab, Utah with the Colorado Outward Bound School, where he held the positions of instructor, course director, and program manager. Nathan holds a master's in educational leadership from UCF and enjoys rafting, mountain biking, and skiing among many other outdoor pursuits.

**Lyle Walkinshaw** is the program manager for the Youth Leadership Program at Tim Horton's Foundation Camps in Manitoba. He oversees program implementation, staffing, risk management, and field response. Lyle grew up in central Ontario where his exposure to the outdoors eventually lead him to the Outdoor Adventure Program at Algonquin College and his career with Tim Hortons Foundation Camps. Lyle firmly believes in the power of camp and the lasting impact a wilderness trip can have on youth.

**Pat Warner** is the director of public relations and external affairs for Waffle House restaurants. His duties include developing and executing strategies intended to create and uphold a positive public image for the restaurant company. A 19-year associate, Pat's "Waffle House Experience" has included weddings, funerals, major motion pictures, Super Bowls, and Shaq. A member of the corporate crisis team, he's been involved in the Waffle House response to more than twelve hurricanes, and numerous ice storms and tornadoes. Pat is the secretary and member of the executive committee of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation

which supports the brave men and women of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department. Pat also serves on the Urban Atlanta Security Initiative on the executive working group. He lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia with his wife and daughter. He is an advocate for children with dyslexia, an avid sports fan, and has been a guest dancer with the Southern Ballet Theatre.

**AJ Wojtalik** joined the Colorado Outward Bound School (COBS) as marketing director in February of 2013 after an eight-year stint in media, preceded by marketing in the outdoor recreation industry and roaming the Western Slope of Colorado on horseback. Now overseeing the marketing, communications, and business development team at COBS, she continues to fuse her professional background with her lifelong love of the outdoors and experiential learning. She is responsible for brand messaging, partnerships, and internal and external communications

(including crisis communications), and supports the HR department and senior leadership team in developing and implementing the vision and strategy for the school. AJ graduated from Western State College (now Western State Colorado University) with a degree in English and when she's not sprinkling marketing magic across the land, she can be found on wild adventures with her young daughter.

**Dave Yacubian** has been working for NOLS in various capacities since 2000. Dave owns Ready SF, which specializes in risk management and emergency preparedness services. Previously, he was the director of risk management for NatureBridge. He sits on the risk management committees of The Crossroads School, Environmental Traveling Companions, and Outward Bound California. Dave has two daughters who bring him endless joy and continual risk management opportunities.

## JIM RATZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Jim Ratz (1952-2005) was a passionate mountaineer, father, and husband dedicated to outdoor education and the preservation of wilderness. As NOLS Executive Director (1984 -1995), Ratz was instrumental in the creation and vision of the inaugural Wilderness Risk Management Conference.

Thank you to the following donors for supporting 2019 Jim Ratz Memorial scholarships!



Individual Donors: Caroline Burnett, Chuck Ford and The Chrysopolae Foundation, Lewis Glenn, David Johnson, Shana Tarter



## SUPPORTERS & EXHIBITORS

### FEATURED SPONSOR



### EXHIBITORS



Being self-sufficient in the outdoors is essential, especially during an emergency when assistance from rescue teams may be hours away. Adventure Medical Kits is dedicated to bringing you the most innovative products, to help keep you safe in the outdoors.



American Conservation Experience (ACE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing rewarding environmental service opportunities that harness the idealism and energy of a volunteer labor force to help restore America's public lands and local communities. ACE is grounded in the philosophy that cooperative labor on meaningful conservation projects fosters cross-cultural understanding and operates on the belief that challenging volunteer service unites people of all backgrounds in a common cause. ACE is committed to protecting and restoring our public and private lands while inspiring our members through a conservation based service learning environment to be future land stewards and leaders in conservation.



The Association for Experiential Education (AEE) is a nonprofit, professional membership association dedicated to experiential education and the students, educators, and practitioners who utilize its philosophy.



The American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit that is dedicated to supporting the American mountain guiding and climbing instructor community. As the leading organization of America's most vibrant, inspiring community of climbers and skiers, the AMGA offers you cutting edge knowledge and hundreds of years of collective experience that you won't get from any other climbing organization. AMGA guides and staff are the experts in the business of being a guide. We spent 30 years setting standards for American guiding instruction, protecting the guiding environment, and organizing a powerful, unified community of guides and clients. And we will spend the next 30 supporting you as you pursue your passion.



Here at Black Diamond it's all about climbing and skiing. We share the same experiences that you do on rock, ice and snow and these experiences push us to make the best gear possible for our worldwide family of climbers and skiers.



College Outside is a multi-brand sales channel built for Higher Ed, institutional, and rental gear orders. We offer a streamlined system to purchase gear at wholesale (or below) from over 50 leading outdoor brands including Black Diamond, Marmot, Kelty, NRS, and more. With no minimum orders, one login, one invoice, and customized recommendations, ordering gear for your program just got a whole lot easier! In addition to your Group Purchasing account, we also offer pro-deal discounts to your student leaders and staff. Apply now at [www.collegeoutside.com/apply](http://www.collegeoutside.com/apply).



Desert Mountain Medicine is a Colorado-based company committed to delivering cutting-edge, innovative wilderness medicine courses. We prioritize hands-on scenarios and simulations that are based on the latest industry standards to best serve outdoor professionals and backcountry users. For over 20 years we have been preparing students about prevention, assessment, and treatment of injuries and illnesses common to backcountry travel.



EVERYWHERE Communications delivers communications products that save lives, increase situational awareness of your teams in the field, provide always-connected communications and significantly increase your organization's risk management position. We provide advanced technology to enable three simple things to help you best manage your outdoor programs; SOS alerting from anywhere on Earth, situational awareness to know exactly where your leaders and students are, and communications that work anywhere.



Founded in 2008, Experiential Consulting, LLC helps clients maximize the educational outcomes of their outdoor programs, while assessing and managing risks to individuals and organizations. We believe in the transformative power of outdoor experiences and are here to help you make the most of your program's educational opportunities. Serving a wide range of organizations, schools, and conservation corps programs, our goal is to help you achieve your mission while accurately assessing and effectively managing risk to your participants, staff, and organization. We specialize in risk management audits, policy and procedure manuals, training for board and staff, risk management systems, incident reporting tools, and building organizational culture conducive to your risk management goals. Contact us for a free estimate at [steve@outdoorrisk.com](mailto:steve@outdoorrisk.com) or visit us at [www.outdoorrisk.com](http://www.outdoorrisk.com).



Journeys of Discovery in Aotearoa, New Zealand. ExpedNZ offers unique experiential learning programmes designed to inspire positive change for individuals and groups. Our education focused programmes provide access to unique cultural immersion, environmentally connected and adventure based programmes whilst exploring the diverse and spectacular New Zealand wilderness. Underpinning programmes is a focus on personal and social growth. Individuals enroll through our Global Citizenship programme and groups through our tailored programmes. [www.expednz.com](http://www.expednz.com)



Fred C. Church is a full service insurance broker and risk advisor who partners with their clients to identify, assess, and address the full spectrum of risks facing outdoor and adventure-based organizations. With a combination of in-depth experience in the outdoor and adventure industry and a wealth of knowledge in insurance and risk management, the Fred C. Church team offers custom-designed safety, risk management, and insurance solutions.



Garmin International, a worldwide leader in navigation and communication products, is the maker of inReach SE<sup>®</sup>+ and inReach Explorer<sup>®</sup>+ satellite communication devices. inReach is the ideal remote communications and logistics coordination solution for any professional application that requires remote connectivity for tracking, messaging, field data collection, and more. Garmin offers an array of flexible and custom inReach professional solutions that can help keep your remote workers oriented, accessible, and informed.



Hope 4 Kids International reaches out to every child and community we serve by bringing hope through our 4 pillars of hope: Dignity, Health, Joy, and Love. By responding to critical needs, we strive to significantly impact lives and assist children and families who are struggling to survive in destitute communities to become self-sufficient. For over 45 years, we have been leading teams of volunteers on short-term international mission trips to support our long-term projects. Each child, community, project, and country is different, but our focus is always centered around improving health and education for the children and communities we serve in order to break the cycle of extreme poverty.

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Logos Wilderness Therapy provides survivors of sex trafficking a “safe house” in the wilderness where these individuals can continue their journey of healing within a community of survivors and be guided by both wilderness and mental health professionals. By combining the benefits of adventure and experiential education with multiple evidenced-based individual and group therapy modalities, participants are empowered towards healing and freedom.

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When you work with Merchants Fleet, you have a client-oriented, innovative, and experienced team dedicated to finding the right services and solutions for your fleet. We realize no two fleets are alike, so you can rest assured you’re getting customized recommendations that are built with your specific business needs in mind. Experience the difference of having not just a fleet provider, but a true fleet advocate, in your corner.

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The National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Gallup and Albuquerque, New Mexico, working over 30 years to empower the lives of American Indian youth through year-round, culturally guided, outdoor experiential adventure-based learning. NIYLP is nationally recognized as an innovator and leader in positive youth development for American Indian youth.

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New Mexico Wild is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and continued enjoyment of New Mexico’s wildlands and wilderness areas. Founded in 1997, we achieve our mission through administrative protection, federal wilderness designation, and ongoing stewardship. We have a membership of individuals from all corners of New Mexico and across the nation.

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NOLS is a nonprofit school that seeks to help you step forward boldly as a leader. We believe that anyone can be a leader; it’s our role to provide the environment and training to help you discover your full potential. We do that in classrooms close to home and in remote wilderness areas around the world. We’re an organization with heart, expertise, and wildness, and these qualities help us support powerful, authentic experiences.

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Osprey grew from one person’s desire to use and make more comfortable, longer lasting and functionally sound packs. We’re inspired by and celebrate the desire to explore life with curiosity and passion. We don’t believe that adventure is accessible to few, it’s open to everyone and is found anywhere you have the willingness to look. For nearly 45 years we’ve been actively involved in the outdoor education and recreation world, and continue to dedicate ourselves as we evolve our program-specific Escalante Series.



OutdoorEd.com is the premiere outdoor education Web resource. Our mission is to provide the best collection of online resources for outdoor education professionals. Whether you are presenting your company or school, offering trainings, looking for a job, developing a new program or looking for risk management resources, when people want information about outdoor education, they turn to OutdoorEd.com. We are excited to announce the opening of our new website with a full array of new features.

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35-50% PRO DEALS for WRMC Attendees: Outdoor Prolink's members are the heart of the outdoor industry. They are mountain guides, search and rescue, ski patrol, outdoor educators and more. They provide the most authentic form of marketing: personal knowledge and experience. Outdoor Prolink connects our network of 100,000 hand-verified outdoor pros with 35%-45% off retail on over 100 top outdoor gear brands. Sign up for free membership at [www.outdoorprolink.com](http://www.outdoorprolink.com).

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Since its first course for the Peace Corps in 1961, Outward Bound in the United States has been preparing young people to go places in their lives and on this earth to make a difference in the world. Outward Bound students learn about themselves. They learn about others. They learn technical expeditionary skills and, most important of all, they learn that they can do more than they ever thought possible.

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Pachner & Associates, LLC insurance brokers & consultants are leaders in insurance for outdoor recreation, nature and outdoor education, environmental conservation, scientific research/media, trail associations, and outdoor clubs. Members of The Conservation Alliance.

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Every day SCA provides opportunities for young people to make a positive impact on the world around them. Every year we motivate and deploy thousands of young people who care passionately about improving their natural world. We put them to work in our parks and public lands and urban green spaces to make improvements and learn conservation and sustainability practices. We teach them how to plan, enact, and lead, all while making a tangible impact in conservation.

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Sierra Club Outings is the leader in environmentally-friendly adventure travel and part of the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country. No matter your passion, we're committed to creating opportunities for everyone to experience the transformative power of the natural world. Browse the full lineup, search for trips, learn about our volunteer leaders, or request your free trip guide at [sierraclub.org/outings](http://sierraclub.org/outings).

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Taos Ski Valley is in the midst of a \$300M revitalization effort. With the support of a community who are proud stewards of the area, we're guided by the belief that growing better is more important than growing bigger. Located where the Rockies begin, where Native North American and Hispanic cultures blend with European influences, and where the iconic terrain is preserved by independent ownership and a clear vision.



The Mountain Center is a nationally recognized and accredited 501(c)3 educational and therapeutic organization that, since 1979, has been dedicated to promoting personal discovery and social change among youth, families, and groups through the use of creative learning experiences in Nature, community, and cultural environments. We provide unique opportunities for people to transform their lives through remarkable experiences and adventures.



The Wilderness Society is the leading conservation organization working to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Founded in 1935, TWS has led the effort to permanently protect 109 million acres of wilderness and ensure sound management of our shared national lands. TWS recently released Public Lands in the United States, a curriculum that builds connections between people, landscapes, and the movement to create and protect public lands, past and present.



Viristar provides outdoor and experiential programs with risk management consulting and training, program development services, business management consulting, and wilderness medicine courses. Viristar's risk management services include two-day, four-day, and custom outdoor safety trainings; risk management reviews (safety audits); incident review and expert witness services, and safety program development. Viristar's clients include wilderness programs, international schools, outdoor centers, and government, aboriginal, and non-profit organizations on multiple continents.



Wholesum Food Calculator is an online platform that helps outdoor programs and outfitters streamline food planning for groups: use your own recipes, automatically accommodate dietary restrictions, scale meal plans, and create complete shopping lists.



We provide crisis intervention, education, and support services to wilderness first responders. Wilderness Chaplains was established by and for first responders. Our focus is compassionate critical incident response in wilderness and remote environments. Our services are available to everyone, regardless of religion, faith, or spiritual preferences.



Wilderness Medicine Training Center provides practical courses in wilderness medicine and outdoor program risk management. Hybrid courses require home study using animated lectures (DVD), texts, and online testing before attending a practical session.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS



Chums is a family owned company that's been in business for over 35 years. We originally started in a small town in Utah called Hurricane, and has now expanded to two other locations, Salt Lake City & Ketchum, ID. Chums has been domestically manufacturing innovative accessories that transfer easily from the outdoor market into a wide variety of sales channels. Each year we continue to grow by employing and promoting the best people possible and translating our passion for all things outdoor into creating the best and most versatile accessories on the planet.

## Cleanwaste®

Since 1999, Cleanwaste's goal has been to produce a dignified and safe portable dry toilet system for use when plumbing is unavailable. Now the world leader in human waste management when plumbing is not available, Cleanwaste® is the brand of choice for hospitals, US and foreign military, National Parks, and major outdoor retailers. Our toilet kits and packaging are, and always have been, disposable in normal trash.



Most companies have one bottom line. At Clif Bar & Company, we are a private, family and employee owned company guided by five "bottom lines" or what we call our Five Aspirations: Sustaining our Business, Brands, People, Community, and the Planet. These aspirations help us consider decisions from multiple perspectives that we value, and we choose the word "aspiration" in recognition that we're on a journey and can always do more in each of these areas.



Founded by Hans Deuter in 1898, we are one of the oldest backpack manufacturers in the world. We make sure that our products are functional and durably reliable companions for active people. That is why we invest a great deal of time and effort in the development, production, testing and repairs service of our backpacks, bags and sleeping bags.



Our mission is to get more people outside—using their hands in the process. And we know there are times where you need to fix your gear. When your gear shows wear, it shows love. We teach people how to keep their well loved and expensive gear in like new condition, thereby increasing performance, saving money, and consuming less in the process. And if you're using one of our lights, camouflage wrap, or tube of glue, you'll get the best performance on the market. That is one mission we're proud to share with the next generation.



Whether you're on the trail needing to drink from a dirty stream, or filling up at a questionable hotel sink in Peru, GRAYL has you covered. FILL. PRESS. DRINK. with these fast and easy steps to make safe, clean purified water — anywhere in the world.



In the backcountry, having the right shelter is crucial. For 45 years, Hilleberg has specialized in making that "right shelter" by building the highest quality all season tents that offer the ideal balance of low weight, extraordinary strength and remarkable comfort.



Klean Kanteen collaborates with and supports dozens of organizations working to protect people and our planet. Our network of friends stretches across the country and around the globe, and includes everything from tiny hometown environmental education programs to nationally acclaimed leaders in advocacy for health and environmental stewardship, music festivals, and private companies known worldwide for their conscientious approach to doing business.



Rugged. Authentic. Reliable. Timeless. What started as a casual conversation at the Shady Lady Saloon in Jackson Hole, Wyo. has become a topperforming mountain-inspired lifestyle apparel brand. Established in 2003, Mountain Khakis quickly became a staple in the wardrobe of everyone from ranch hands to golf pros, those who travel by jet, as well as those who travel by thumb. The Mountain Khakis brand story continues to resonate as it connects to the enthusiast who believes that freedom and rugged adventure is a way of life. Mountain Khakis "Built for the Mountain Life."



# 2020

## Facing Challenges Together



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