Coronavirus update

When the 2020 project season started in February we had 46 service projects planned in 17 states. By mid March the COVID-19 outbreak had intensified in the US and we began cancelling service projects in the interest of the health and safety of our volunteers, staff, and agency contacts.

As this project season has progressed Wilderness Volunteers has closely followed the COVID-19 pandemic in the hope that we could begin fielding service projects again in our public lands. We have reviewed our procedures and have developed new COVID-19 guidelines for our volunteers and leaders to mitigate the new risks COVID-19 presents. These new guidelines include but are not limited to physical distancing on projects when possible, enhanced sanitation and food preparation precautions, additional screening procedures, and new topic-specific leader training.

We are reviewing local conditions and making decisions for each service project on a case-by-case basis at 60 days out from the scheduled project start date. We take our social responsibility seriously and will not begin fielding service projects again until we feel COVID-19 in the US is under control and can be sufficiently mitigated.

So far this 60 day review has resulted in the cancellation of 39 service projects for 2020. We have a few left on the schedule that may run in October/November but the decision will be made at 60 days depending on the current conditions at that time.

On behalf of Wilderness Volunteers, I’d like to thank all of the volunteers who registered for 2020 projects that have subsequently been cancelled for your understanding and flexibility. We hope to see you on a service project next year!

If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact us at the office by phone at (928) 255-1128 or via email at hello@wildernessvolunteers.org.

Stay safe and please remember to recreate responsibly if you’re visiting our amazing public lands during the pandemic.

Ashely Northcutt,
Executive Director

Resources on Coronavirus:
- Coronavirus Situation Summary – CDC
- Rolling updates on coronavirus – WHO
- Travel Advisories – U.S. Department of State
- Coronavirus Cases Dashboard – Johns Hopkins University
- State Health Dept Links – CDC

Recreate Responsibly:
- National Park Service- Plan Your Visit
- US Forest Service- Know Before You Go
- Bureau of Land Management- Recreate Responsibly
- US Fish and Wildlife Service- Recreate Responsibly
- Leave No Trace- Recreate Responsibly Summer 2020

Previous Updates:
- March 13, 2020
- April 2, 2020
- May 1, 2020