This message has information about how AMC will restart volunteer activities. While the restart will have two phases, no volunteer activities can move ahead until we have put appropriate training and systems in place to support updated safety practices. Before we get into details, it’s important to take a moment for appreciation.

1. We owe tremendous thanks to the 80+ volunteers from across AMC who have pored over and assessed the proposed requirements and guidance within a tight timeframe. You have done amazing work and it could not have happened without you!
2. Thanks to all of you! AMC volunteers are highly skilled, talented, and committed and the whole organization thrives on your time and energy. We love the way you love AMC. Even so, we know that some of you have concerns about resuming your volunteer role perhaps for the next many months. It’s ok. Every person has to decide their own level of
comfort in reengaging in social settings and you can hardly get more social than AMC! When conditions change and we reach that happy day when you feel ready and able to step back into volunteering, we will be ready to have you. In the meantime, do what works for you. We will look for ways to keep you connected, so keep opening this newsletter!

**Restart Details:**
This message includes descriptions of the two phases as well as an overview of what must happen before each phase can begin activities. Movement through the phases is not linear and can go in either direction. For example, a chapter that has launched Phase Two activities, may have to cancel events and revert to Phase One depending on recommendations of states, World Health Organization (WHO), and/or Center for Disease Control (CDC).

In Short:

1. **Phase One** aims at launching Trail Adopters, Section Maintainers, and small work parties to do work on trails, cabins, camps, and shelters.
2. **Phase Two** addresses the requirements for leading small groups outdoors across activities, including overnights.
3. **Phase Three will be deployed when government restrictions on movement and activity have been lifted.** This will be the new normal and government health orders will consider the relative levels of testing, herd immunity, vaccines, and PPE available. Masking/social distancing protocols will be per those issued at the time.

**Summary of Minimal Requirements for Any Volunteer Activities to Take Place:**

1. All restrictions on movement must be lifted in the state(s) where the activity takes place including the state the volunteer travels from and to. Do not travel between restricted and unrestricted areas.
2. Volunteers must abide by any expectations defined by the manager of the recreational resource where the activity will take place including restricted hours, limited parking, group size limits, safety, and Leave No Trace requirements.
3. All volunteers will be required to take an online training before resuming activities.
4. AMC has posted the complete Volunteer Activities Restart Rubric at outdoors.org.
Key Features for Phase One: Independent Trail and Volunteer-led Camps & Cabins

Maintenance Activities

1. Group size limited to 4 people.
2. Appropriate group management and screening practices must be followed including practices relating to social distancing and covering faces.
3. Appropriate practices for cleanliness and hygiene must be followed with respect to personal care and food, gear, and equipment including tools.
4. Volunteers must participate in an online training and indicate that they accept and acknowledge risks associated with pursuing these activities particularly in the midst of a pandemic.
5. Volunteers who fall into this group will receive more details directly from your AMC staff liaisons about all Phase One considerations.

Key Features for Phase 2: Volunteer Led Activities in Small Groups Employing Social Distancing Measures

1. Group size is limited to 10 people including all Leaders and Co Leaders.
2. Preregistration is required for every trip using AMC defined registration forms. This will include participants signing the Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release Agreement online.
3. Appropriate group management and screening practices must be followed including practices relating to social distancing and covering faces.
4. Appropriate practices for cleanliness and hygiene must be followed with respect to personal care and food, gear, and equipment including tools. Additional equipment is required.
5. Volunteers must participate in a brief online training and indicate that they accept and acknowledge risks associated with pursuing these activities particularly in the midst of a pandemic.
6. Volunteers who fall into this category will receive more details about how we will implement this Phase.

Extending Cancellation of Volunteer Activities to at least June 15:

The implementation requirements for restarting volunteer activities will take more than two weeks for us to complete. With that in mind, these are the next steps:

1. AMC will cancel all in person trips posted through June 15.
2. Staff will reach out to Activities Database Approvers. Chapters and Committees with only one Approver may want to recruit additional volunteers to help approve trips to ensure compliance with the new trip guidelines.

3. Volunteers will receive an invitation to take the required training once it is ready and that invitation will confirm the date that trips can reopen.

We regret that we must delay the restart for volunteer activities, and we appreciate your patience as we continue to work on this process. We ask that you keep an eye out for messages about training. For trip leaders, we recommend that you consider starting with local events to accommodate people who have cancelled summer vacations, camps, and other plans. We also will continue to rely on volunteers to offer online experiences for people who cannot risk being together outdoors with us for the time being.

Thanks again for all that you do for AMC. We are very excited to have made this much progress.

Best wishes,
Kyra, Amanda, Alex, Aaron, Colby, Hannah, Jess, Seb, Justin, Jessica, Mark, Nancy, Susan, and Faith