

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM LOREN BLACKFORD  
PRESIDENT, SIERRA CLUB**

Dear Sierra Club Volunteer Leaders:

Yesterday you should have received the following message from Executive Director Michael Brune detailing important new measures Sierra Club is taking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can access all current information at our [Coronavirus Info Hub](#) and we encourage you to stay informed via this Campfire page\*.

This email is intended to lift up information most relevant to our work as Sierra Club volunteers. Yesterday's guidance included these new measures impacting volunteer activities:

- **All Sierra Club related travel is suspended as of Monday, March 16th.** Volunteers are urged not to make any future travel reservations for 60 days.
- All volunteers that are currently equipped to volunteer from home should do so. Volunteers should discontinue use of Sierra Club office space for all activities and coordinate with your respective leaders as necessary. **By Monday, staff and volunteers should come to the office prepared to take home anything needed for the next 4 weeks.** Staff and volunteers may choose to access offices from time to time to collect belongings or needed files, but please keep in mind the risks—to yourself, to your colleagues, and to your community at large—and note that if you do come in, there will be limited or no office services. Also, if local authorities issue a quarantine order for the community, those orders should take precedent.
- **All volunteer and staff in-person meetings are suspended between now and April 12th.** Please consider using Google Hangout for smaller gatherings and Google Meet for larger ones. (Many chapter staff have the licenses that will enable you to set up a Google Meet session.) If Google Meet does not meet your needs, and you need immediate access to a Sierra Club conference call line, email Council Secretary Michael Smith at [msmithohiosierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:msmithohiosierraclub@gmail.com) with the date and time for your call and we will provide temporary access to the Council of Club Leaders conference line capacity. We will set up a google calendar to manage access to this conference line on a first-come, first-serve basis. More information on virtual meeting options is coming soon!
- **All Sierra Club events of any size between now and Sunday, April 12th should be cancelled.** Future Events: Postpone scheduling/contracting events 60 days out or less (i.e. prior to May 16, 2020)
- **Local outings, military outdoors and ICO leaders** should ramp down outdoor activities over the next week using their best judgement. Please cancel outings scheduled from March 21 through April 12 and postpone scheduling outings 60 days out or less. Please cancel the listing in Campfire Events, MeetUp, and any other

place you advertise. The window may be extended to a later date depending on circumstances, consistent with the restriction on broader Sierra Club activity. Please contact Mel Mac Innis with questions ([melanie.macinnis@sierraclub.org](mailto:melanie.macinnis@sierraclub.org)).

- **National Outings** schedule is being addressed through Tony Rango and the Outings Committee co-chairs. Please contact Tony with any questions ([tony.rango@sierraclub.org](mailto:tony.rango@sierraclub.org)).

Obviously, this is a lot of transition, happening very quickly. We deeply appreciate the work that staff and volunteers are putting in to quickly provide as many answers and resources as possible. We will share new information as it becomes available and let you know about online convenings.

As Michael Brune noted, we encourage you to reach out if you need support and to create space for others to express their concerns and questions. We also recognize that folks may need to create space for prioritizing their physical, emotional and mental health during this time. (Please don't delay! While you can find many resources online to help you do this, here are links to [WHO Coronavirus Advice](#) and a list for [stocking up. Medicines are also key.](#))

As we shift our volunteer work and meetings into a more virtual space, we will miss the social interactions that contribute to a fulfilling experience volunteering at Sierra Club. We all look forward to resuming our normal lives as Sierra Club volunteers as soon as possible and believe that by strengthening our response to the coronavirus outbreak, Sierra Club is not only protecting staff and volunteers but is doing its part toward contributing to the global effort to reduce the impact the virus will have on people's lives.

Thank you for all that you do! With best wishes,

Loren Blackford, President  
Sierra Club

David Holtz, Chair  
Council of Club Leaders

*\*If you do not have access to Campfire, please visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/covid19> to access the Quick Reference Chart. If you are a Sierra Club leader who feels you should have access to the Campfire Community, but can not access any information after creating an account, please contact your local Group, Chapter, ICO, or Outings leadership and ask that they add you to the Leaders List. National committee members should contact [dassance.raymond@sierraclub.org](mailto:dassance.raymond@sierraclub.org) to be added. If you have further questions, contact [Campfire.Community@SierraClub.org](mailto:Campfire.Community@SierraClub.org).*