Greetings Future Mountaineers!

We have been hard at work for over a year consulting with industry experts and medical professionals, re-designing our programs to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thrilled to be offering in-person First-Year Trips during Summer 2021; in order to do so, we have had to make significant changes to our programming and to our expectations of our participants. Below is important information about our procedures as well as your responsibilities.

POTENTIAL CHANGES AND UPDATES
Thus far (March 1, 2021) we have been given the green light to move ahead with a full summer of in-person trips! However, please recognize that this green light could change to yellow or red if the COVID-19 landscape necessitates as such. It is our priority to update you with any information as soon as WVU updates us. If our program offerings change significantly, or if the pre-trip requirements prove unfeasible for you, we will give all registered students a window of time to cancel their registration with a full refund.

GENERAL INFORMATION
We have updated our FAQ page with general information about our trip operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage you to regularly consult that page along with our general Coronavirus page for future updates. Please note that the expectations outlined in this letter are not exhaustive; all participants must also meet our Essential Eligibility Criteria for participation.

TRIP COVID-19 PROCEDURES
Adventure WV has worked with industry leaders, WVU officials, and WVU Medicine representatives to develop procedures to prevent the introduction of COVID-19 onto a trip and to mitigate the spread of disease while on trip. These procedures represent the highest reasonable level of precaution but cannot fully guarantee the absolute absence of COVID-19 on Adventure WV programs. These procedures also alter the First-Year Trips experience somewhat from other years and create a heightened responsibility on each participant. You must understand and accept these procedures, limitations, and responsibilities to participate. Mitigating procedures include:

- Pre-trip two-stage testing for all participants—see next section
- Expedition Model —aggressively working to prevent the introduction of COVID-19 on a trip via pre-screening, pre-testing and isolation.
- Creating sub-pods within the larger expedition group, to further reduce exposure.
- Limiting interactions outside of the expedition group, and strict distancing, masking, and hygiene protocols when interacting outside of the expedition group.
- COVID-19 kits to maintain a high level of sanitization.
- Wilderness First Aid training with a special emphasis on COVID-19 and disease transmission.
- Specific Policies & Procedures in the event a trip member displays COVID-19 symptoms, including consult with WVU Medicine professionals and evacuation, lodging, and isolation procedures.
- Change in itineraries to keep programs in-state, more local, and more accessible.

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PRE-TRIP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

*We do not anticipate requirements being more stringent than these.*

To establish an Expedition Model pod, all participants must undergo pre-trip COVID-19 testing, isolate as noted below after testing, and receive negative test results. The required steps are as follows. Failure to follow the steps will result in being barred from participation without a refund:

1) **REQUIRED:** Engage in symptom monitoring approximately two weeks prior to your program. Directions forthcoming.

2) **OPTIONAL – but highly recommended:** Obtain a negative PCR test prior to arriving on campus (not provided by WVU). *We recommend it especially for those traveling from outside of the greater Morgantown area—to avoid unnecessary travel if you are COVID-19 positive.*

3) **REQUIRED:** Arrive to campus up to two days prior to your scheduled trip start to undergo COVID-19 testing (2 days is based on current testing turnaround times). It is unknown whether WVU will have available testing infrastructure in place this summer or whether the test will need to be completed through WVU Medicine/private pay/insurance. **Stay overnight in Morgantown (likely in campus housing)** while isolating to prevent COVID-19 exposure. Receive your negative test result.
   
   a. **Detailed procedures are forthcoming (e.g. testing options).** Participants and families should be aware that students are required to isolate and there are no programs during this period. Adventure WV staff are on-call ONLY for emergencies or to assist if a student should receive a positive test result. Food will be provided. AWV is planning to cover some or all of the costs of the overnight stay and meals and will finalize this plan as possible. Recall you will be able to cancel your registration for a full refund if this procedure proves unfeasible for you. Please contact our office if you’d like more details on these potential costs. *We are working to avoid them and do not want them to be a barrier for any student.*

In addition to these pre-trip requirements, all Adventure WV participants are required to follow the procedures as outlined in this letter and as presented by Adventure WV staff. Failure to follow procedures will result in removal from the program without a refund and possible disciplinary action from WVU.

**YOUR REQUIRED NEXT STEPS AS A PARTICIPANT**

1) If you have concerns about your participation having read through these procedures and requirements, please contact our office at adventurewv@mail.wvu.edu.

2) Return all Required Registration Forms within 14 days of online registration.

3) Monitor your @mix email carefully for information from @mail.wvu.edu addresses with more information about your pre-trip symptom monitoring, testing, and isolation requirements.

4) Follow all outlined requirements.

*Failure to read your @mix First-Year Trips emails and follow procedures outlined by Adventure WV staff could result in you being barred from the program without a refund.*

This letter and all other registered student information can be found at adventurefirstyear.wvu.edu/registeredstudents

Keep this letter for your records. Return the “COVID-19 Acknowledgement of Receipt”, along with your other Required Registration Forms via email to adventurewv@mail.wvu.edu.

We are so excited to have you on board and can’t wait to meet you this summer!

- The Adventure WV First-Year Trips Team