

Saving Wilderness.



Changing Lives.

## 2020 Volunteer Season Update

Dear Returning Volunteers,

Recently, many of you shared your thoughts on summer volunteering and we greatly appreciated hearing from you. We received the full spectrum of interest from very enthusiastic to very unenthusiastic, which is to be expected given the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also given that our Wilderness areas and other public lands are seeing unprecedented visitation this year.

Our USFS Boulder Ranger District (BRD) contacts expressed to the Board that they want IPWA to provide patrol support this summer and they have submitted the requisite documentation to resume volunteering. They are now awaiting final approvals from Senior Forest Service Leadership.

Given BRD's interest in IPWA patrols, the Board discussed risks, benefits, and impacts, and unanimously approved supporting patrol volunteering this year. Unfortunately, trail maintenance, WIS and trailhead host volunteering are not an option this year because of COVID-19 concerns.

### **FIRST AND FOREMOST:**

As always, and especially in the context of COVID-19, **volunteering is 100% optional**. There is NO pressure for you to volunteer this summer, as your health and safety come first. We respect whichever choice you make.

### **IF YOU CHOOSE TO NOT VOLUNTEER THIS SUMMER:**

- Your membership will "roll over" to 2021; this means that next year you will be considered a Returning Volunteer.
- You do not need to register or complete the online training this year.

### **IF YOU CHOOSE TO VOLUNTEER THIS SUMMER:**

- **Registration: Fri. 6/22 – Fri. 6/26** - You will receive an email notice with a signup link when online registration is officially open.
- **Registration Fees** - are WAIVED this year, due to the abbreviated patrol season and COVID-19 uncertainties. However, if you would like to donate this year's membership fee, you may do so on our website.
- **Training: Sat. 6/27- Thurs. 7/2** - An online training quiz will be emailed to all registered volunteers. Assistance will be available if you experience issues with the training form.
- **Patrol Scheduling: Fri. 7/3** - The Volunteer Portal will be open for scheduling and reporting on Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Patrol Requirement:** There is no requirement to do 4 patrols this summer.
- COVID-19 procedures will be included in IPWA's online training and must be adhered to by all IPWA volunteers.
- COVID-19 procedures are based on the BRD risk assessments and in coordination with local partners, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, City of Boulder Parks and Open Space, and current CDC and Colorado State COVID-19 guidance.

**Please note:** The above dates are subject to change and volunteering can be suspended at any time if pandemic conditions worsen. The BRD, Boulder County Health Department and IPWA will be monitoring conditions continuously as we go forward.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to navigate these dynamic circumstances. Please feel free to contact us ([hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org)) if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

The IPWA Board



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**Be sure to like and follow us on social media!**

