



## ETC Response to Covid-19

August 5, 2020

### Dearest ETC Community: Volunteers, Donors, and Participants,

I hope and trust that you are all taking care of yourselves and your loved ones and staying healthy as we all navigate these uncharted times.

ETC continues to dialogue with our Board, staff and volunteers regarding how to keep our community safe while offering some small pod-style outdoor adventures.

The staff members of Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC) are working hard from our individual home offices as we continue to creatively pilot, pivot, and adapt to our new reality and to stay connected with our amazing community in safe and creative ways.

### The BIG Question has been: what about ETC programming?

To assess the possibility of offering safe and accessible adventures we have been in continual conversation with our agency and school partners; ETC guides and trip leaders; and other synergistic outdoor programs and camps. After analyzing this information and in concert with the CDC and State and Country guidelines, we have adapted our program offerings for 2020. **The safety and well being of our community is always our guiding light.**

Here are some of the key steps ETC has taken:

### ETC Programs and Inclusive Adventures

- We have been running successful family-style pod trips for both ETC's River and Sea Kayaking Programs with Covid-19 safety protocols and mitigations in place. **Check out the flyers below for the variety of safe ways to enjoy the beauty and healing power of nature while supporting ETC.** Have an adventure – give an adventure!
- ETC's Grand Canyon and Rogue River Adventures have been postponed until 2021. The Grand Canyon will take place August 22 through September 5, 2021 and has some spots available. The Rogue River 2021 date has not been decided yet. Reach out to Dan Berger at 916-990-1016 or [riverprogram@etctrips.org](mailto:riverprogram@etctrips.org) if interested in either of these spectacular shared adventures.
- ETC's Youth LEAD Fellows were able to meet virtually on a weekly basis and they had a powerful Graduation online. **We congratulate them for all their commitment and hard work as they continue to step up as bold young leaders.**
- Sadly, we had to cancel all of our two and three-week Youth LEAD Summer Courses for 2020. **We hope to have a robust Youth LEAD Program in 2021, offering five 14 to 21-day educational youth leadership courses!**

- We rescheduled most of our Sea Kayaking and Whitewater Rafting trips from April through July.
- We ended our Winter Ski Season one month early to protect the safety of our participants and Winter guide team. But we were able to host twelve awesome adventures in the snow with our agency partners. Check out this video with Vista Center for the Blind:

## Events

- Special times require Special Community Events. Stay tuned for the **ETC Challenge**, a fun and engaging community event to be held in October 2020 for a great cause, ETC! We will offer some swag to entice and encourage you. More details will be shared soon!
- ETC's Make a Ripple Gala was to take place on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cavallo Point Resort and sadly we had to cancel it for this year. **We encourage and hope our generous guests will donate their table sponsorship, ticket and Fund-a-Need Gifts to help ETC survive during these challenging times.**
- Staff have been planning and delivering online events for our community such as a Netflix Watch Party and Discussion of the film Crip Camp which depicts the history of the Disability Revolution. We highly recommend this film!

## Volunteer Guide Trainings

- We have been offering Sea Kayak Volunteer Guide Trainings online and conducted an on-water San Francisco Bay Training in mid-July.
- We completed ETC's first Virtual Inclusion Training on Saturday, May 16 from 10-1pm.
- ETC cancelled River Guide Training for 2020 due to the uncertainty of the Season. **2020 selected volunteers and interns are encouraged to train in 2021.**

**Please reach out with any questions, thoughts, or wise counsel:**

[Diane@etctrips.org](mailto:Diane@etctrips.org) or 415-994-7207

Connecting with nature and one another is healing. Let's continue to support one another though this pandemic. We can't do this alone (even as we remain six- feet apart).

**Stay healthy! Stay Connected! We will get through this together!**

**Yours in wellness,**

Diane Poslosky

ETC Executive Director



## ETC New Family-Style Paddling Trips! Sea Kayaking Adventures

If you and your “pod squad” are ready to get out in nature and feel the sea breeze and sun on your face, ETC’s sea kayak trips on San Francisco Bay or Tomales Bay are the perfect adventure for you!

***Paddle it Forward!*** Proceeds from your trip go to ETC’s scholarship fund to sponsor program adventures for people with disabilities and under-resourced youth!

***Have an adventure— give an adventure!***



### Day Trips on San Francisco Bay or Tomales Bay

- ° \$100/person
- ° **Open Bookings:** choose your date and call or email to schedule

### Tomales Bay Magical Evening Bioluminescence Paddles

- ° \$100/person
- ° **2020 Dates:** August 15, September 19, October 10

### ETC Moonlight Paddles on San Francisco Bay with a Gourmet Pizza Dinner

- ° \$135/person
- ° **2020 Dates:** July 4, August 29, October 3

**Pods of 4-12 people maximum**

**To Book your ETC Kayak Trip or inquire about sliding-scale scholarships, contact Rose Livermore at: [kayak@etctrips.org](mailto:kayak@etctrips.org) or 415-474-7662 #13**

Payment due 1 week from booking. Once booked, you will receive our Covid-19 Safety Guidelines & Health Forms. Cancellations 5 days or less before the trip date incur a 15% booking fee. Full refund if ETC or you must cancel due to Covid-19. The health and well being of our guides and guests is of our utmost concern!





# ETC New Family-Style Pod Trips!

*Special times require special trips. So, gather your “splash mob” and paddle it forward with ETC’s NEW family-style pod trips. All trips will be run with Covid-19 safety protocols and mitigations. Proceeds from your trip go to ETC’s scholarship fund to sponsor accessible & educational adventures for people with disabilities and under-resourced youth! **Have an Adventure—Give an Adventure!***

## Whitewater Rafting and Camping

Are you ready for your “pod” or “bubble” to get out in nature on a thrilling rafting adventure? ETC has a variety of safe ways for you to come enjoy the beauty and peace of our ecologically designed River Camp in Lotus, California right on the banks of the South Fork American River!



### Raft and Camp

- ° Full-day rafting trip on the S Fork of the American River
- ° Available for groups of 10-24
- ° \$175/person: Includes a delicious lunch and camping
- ° \$125/person extra day rafting

### Day Rafting Only

- ° Full-day of rafting trip on the South Fork of the American River
- ° Available for groups of 4 people or more
- ° \$150/person. Includes a delicious and hearty lunch.

### Weekday Camping Package

- ° Rent ETC’s entire camp and have exclusive access to our stunning facilities and your very own riverside camping oasis!
- ° \$1000/night (24-person maximum)

**To book your ETC River Adventure or inquire about sliding-scale scholarships, contact: Dan Berger at: [riverprogram@etctrips.org](mailto:riverprogram@etctrips.org) or 530-642-8189**

Payment due 1 week from booking. Once booked, you will receive our Covid-19 Safety Guidelines & Health Forms. Cancellations 5 days or less before the trip date incur a 15% booking fee. Full refund if ETC or you must cancel due to Covid-19. **The health and well being of our guides and guests is of our utmost concern!**