Welcome to the 2016 Wilderness Risk Management Conference in Salt Lake City!

It’s an honor and a pleasure to welcome you into this community. While many of us come from programs or organizations that compete with each other for revenue, students, or staff, safety is one area where we should not compete, but rather, collaborate. The spirit of this conference is that by sharing ideas and experiences, we can all come away stronger and better equipped to manage risks effectively.

We have designed the conference to challenge your assumptions and quench your thirst for information, hopefully providing you with connections for your own professional development and the evolution of risk management in your program. We believe that taking risks adds fundamental value to wilderness experiences, but that these risks need to be accurately assessed and appropriately mitigated—and there is no better place to learn fundamental concepts and share learning with your peers than here at the WRMC. While we have a great team of returning speakers and core topics, we also have quite a few new speakers and new topics, keeping this year’s conference fresh and current. We hope you enjoy and learn from the blend of new and returning speakers.

We encourage you to engage, ask questions, absorb as much as possible, make a list of action steps, prioritize that list, and create a reasonable timeline so that you can make progress applying the learning from this conference when you return home.

The WRMC Co-Sponsors and Steering Committee are here to make sure you have a positive, educational experience. Please let us know how we can help make your WRMC experience as rewarding as possible.

Sincerely,
Steve Smith, WRMC Steering Committee Chair

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Wilderness Risk Management Conference (WRMC) is to provide a forum to learn and share common practices in wilderness risk management, and to contribute to a culture of open dialogue among educators, leaders, administrators, students, and other members of the outdoor industry. The WRMC is a gathering of knowledgeable professionals who want to help each other understand and manage risks in wilderness programming.

Goals

The primary goals of the WRMC are to:

- Share practices in wilderness risk management and openly discuss learning from past experiences.
- Influence industry-wide risk management norms and increase collective competence.
- Provide a forum and networking opportunity for wilderness practitioners and today’s leaders in the field.

Tenets

The WRMC steering committee evaluates and selects educational content based on our shared risk management philosophy. We believe:

- Wilderness and outdoor experiences create unique opportunities for personal growth and skill development.
- There is value to taking risks, and those risks need to be thoughtfully assessed and managed.
- We have a responsibility to share learning in order to promote collaboration and improved risk management practices across the industry.
- Each organization should define its own risk management goals and practices, while also striving to learn from the practices and experiences of others.
- Managing the risks to our participants and staff helps us manage the risks to our organizations.
- We can and should enlist our participants as partners in managing the risks inherent in our programs.
- Cultural competence supports risk management and is essential in creating inclusive programs.
- Transparency with participants and their families is valuable and appropriate, including in times of crisis.
- Timely reporting and debriefing of risk management incidents is key to promoting learning and improving practices over time.
- Prudent legal strategies are grounded in running quality programs that thoughtfully manage risk and prioritize the health and well-being of those involved.

The WRMC Co-Sponsors

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2016 WRMC Steering Committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Todd Duncan</td>
<td>Program Safety Manager</td>
<td>Sierra Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amberleigh Hammond</td>
<td>Risk Mitigation Systems Manager</td>
<td>SCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Hansen-Stamp</td>
<td>Attorney at Law</td>
<td>Recreation and Adventure</td>
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<td>Drew Leemon</td>
<td>Director of Risk Management</td>
<td>NOLS</td>
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<td>Katie Baum Mettenbrink</td>
<td>Senior Risk Management Consultant</td>
<td>NOLS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Satz</td>
<td>Director of Partnerships and Innovation</td>
<td>Northwest Youth Corps</td>
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<td>Jeannette Stawski</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>AORE</td>
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<td>Mark T. Vermeul</td>
<td>Vice President of Safety</td>
<td>Outward Bound</td>
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Steering Committee Chair

Steve Smith, Outdoor Program Consultant

Lead Co-Sponsor

Kate Baum Mettenbrink
Senior Risk Management Consultant
NOLS

Mike Pigg
Associate Director of Safety
Outward Bound

Steve Smith
Outdoor Program Consultant
formerly SCA
**Grand Ballroom • Exhibit Hall • The Heart of the WRMC**

The opening event to closing remarks, you will want to spend your non-classroom time in the Grand Ballroom, which is located on the second floor. This space is the hub of the conference, where you can mingle with exhibitors to learn about their services and products, network with peers through formal and informal channels, and re-energize with coffee and snacks.

**Emcee Networking**

Start off the WRMC with a trip around the Exhibit Hall for the chance to meet this year's exhibitors. Join us Wednesday from 5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom for light appetizers, prize giveaways, and more.

**Pre-Conference Schedule**

**Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

- 7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.: Pre-Conference Check-In, Registration Office
- 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: Effective Outdoor Program Design and Management, Paul Nicolazzo, Joel Reid, Topaz
- 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: Navigating Health, Safety, and Security Abroad, Bill Frederick, Canyon A
- 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: NOLS Administrative Risk Management Training, Kate Koons, Brendan Madden, Alpine East
- 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: NFR Recertification, Gates Richards, Liam Downey, Granite

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

- 7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.: Pre-Conference Check-In, Registration Office
- 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: Effective Outdoor Program Design and Management, cont., Paul Nicolazzo, Joel Reid, Topaz
- 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: Navigating Health, Safety, and Security Abroad, cont., Bill Frederick, Canyon A
- 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: NOLS Administrative Risk Management Training, cont., Kate Koons, Brendan Madden, Alpine East
- 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: NFR Recertification, cont., Gates Richards, Liam Downey, Granite
- 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Root Cause Analysis: A Technique for Incident Investigation, Mark Vermeul, Mike Pigg, Canyon B
- 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.: And the Winner Is...?! Hot Issues, Hot Cases, Catherine Hansen-Stemp, Reb Gregg, Salon 1
- 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.: Performing Under Pressure, Deb Ajango, Canyon B

**Conference Opening**

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

- 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.: Conference Check-In, Grand Ballroom
- 5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.: Poster Session, Grand Ballroom
- 5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.: Exhibitor Reception, Giveaways, Appetizers, and Cash Bar, Grand Ballroom
- 6:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.: Opening Remarks, Grand Ballroom
- 7:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.: Reb Gregg Wilderness Risk Management Award Ceremony, 2016 Recipient, Jay A. Satz, Grand Ballroom
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Exhibitor Showcase Grand Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Crisis Management: A Preplan in Action</td>
<td>Canyons BC</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Crisis Communication in the Digital Age: The Basics Still Matter</td>
<td>Alpine East</td>
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<td>1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Blindspot: Near Miss Trauma</td>
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<td>2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Media Masters: Crisis Training for the Spotlight</td>
<td>Alpine East</td>
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<td>4:45 p.m.–6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>The Basics Still Matter</td>
<td>Alpine East</td>
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<td>6:15 p.m.–8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner and Evening Activities</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Movie Night (See ad on page 27)</td>
<td>Seminar Theater</td>
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<td>Friday, October 14, 2016</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Social Hour and Keynote Dinner Grand Ballroom</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Keynote Address and Closing Remarks Grand Ballroom</td>
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Tuesday–Wednesday, October 11–12, two days
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Effective Outdoor Program Design and Management
Paul Nicolazzo, Joel Field
Topaz
This workshop will examine the complex relationships sur- rounding outdoor program design and management from the field instructor, staff trainer, and program administration per- spectives using PowerPoint, interactive lecture, video, and small group activities. It is guaranteed to have a positive impact on how you administer and deliver your programs and courses and train your staff. Tuition includes our Effective Outdoor Program Design and Management textbook and small group exercise man- ual (sent as PDF file prior to conference).

Navigating Health, Safety, and Security Abroad
Bill Frederick
Canyon B
What do international trip leaders need to be able to do and what skills, understanding, and informational access do they need? This training will look at the international health land- scape and the risk management strategies available, including data, standards, best practices, information acquisition, vetting strategies, cross cultural implications for safety, and emergency response. The format consists of small group work on scenarios interspersed with content lectures. Participants will receive read- ing packets prior to the training.

NOLS Administrative Risk Management Training
Kate Koons, Brendan Madden
Alpine East
Using lecture, discussion, exercises, and hands-on scenarios, this two-day training will provide a structured approach and the necessary tools to build a risk management plan appropriate for your organization. You will walk away with a detailed action plan designed to improve your curriculum, administrative pro- cess, staff hiring, field support services, and crisis planning.

WFR Recertification
Gates Richards, Liam Downey
Granite
Are your wilderness medicine protocols on the tip of your tongue or in the bottom of your pack? Join NOLS Wilderness Medicine for a two-day, scenario-based course to review evacuation and decision-making guidelines. This new WFR Recertification course includes online component. Prior to arriving at the course site, you will need to go through mate- rials (readings and videos) and complete the written WFR Recertification test online. Once in the classroom, our dynamic, experienced instructors will refresh you on current techniques, protocols, and controversies in the wilderness medicine field. You will have opportunities to ask questions and participate in challenging practice scenarios and case studies. The Wilderness First Responder Recertification course includes NOLS Adult and Child CPR and Airway Management certification. This course is the most popular recertification program in wilderness medicine and is ideal for current Wilderness First Responders and Wilderness EMTs. The WFR Recertification course is pre-approved for 18 hours of EMT Continuing Education Units by CECBEMS.

Wednesday, October 12, full day
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Communicating Through Crisis: A Holistic Approach
Skip King, Will Marling
Canyon C
Something bad has happened, and there’s no way it won’t be a big story. Do you know what to say to individuals and their fam- ilies who have gone through this traumatic incident, and how to respond to their emotional reactions? Meantime, the public and reporters are clamoring for all the gory details. But how do you answer all the questions consistently, while remaining respectful of both family privacy and the public’s right to know? This informative and entertaining session provides skills-based protocols for understanding victim language and culture in the aftermath of a critical incident—and tools to use with public communications efforts.

Wednesday, October 12, half day
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Parent Phone Call Practice Lab
Jamie O’Donnell
Salon 1
Test your conflict communication skills in this interactive parent phone call lab. Spend three hours preparing for and practicing challenging phone call scenarios and hone your skills by serving as both caller and coach. After each call, the “par- ent,” an experienced program administrator, will offer feedback to help you develop your skills. We will review successes and persistent challenges, and you will leave with strategies for applying lessons learned to your own program.

Root Cause Analysis: A Technique for Incident Investigation
Mark Vermaal, Mike Pigg
Canyon B
Root Cause Analysis (RCA) is a structured process designed to help identify not only what and how an event occurred, but also why it happened. The RCA process enables investigators to identify and address the root cause of a problem (the “root cause”) as opposed to just symptoms of the problem. Only when inves- tigators are able to determine why an incident occurred will they be able to specify corrective measures that prevent similar future incidents.
**Poster Session**

**Wednesday, October 12**

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Grand Ballroom

Poster presenters will be available alongside their posters to interact with conference goers and answer questions. Posters will continue to be accessible for the duration of the conference as stand-alone presentations.

**From the Gecko to the Stag: How to Prioritize and Optimize Your Organization’s Insurance Program**

Don Pacheco

Most outdoor organizations purchase insurance based on recommendations from a board member or third party insurance agent or consultant. This presentation will help you analyze, prioritize, and optimize your organization’s insurance program and policies from the standpoint of your board and administrator priorities.

**Prepare Administrative Staff to Manage Programs in the Field: A Team Approach**

Katie Farthing, Lindsay Venable

Broadreach manages over 1,000 students yearly in 39 different countries with 22 full-time staff at headquarters. In an industry where office staff have diverse roles and responsibilities that change constantly, our goal is to consider the subtle and overt processes for solidifying a team at headquarters that can manage a variety of scenarios in the field.

**Search and Rescue Victims: Who Are They and What We Can Do to Reduce the Risk**

Daniel Hadley

Requiring assistance from Search and Rescue (SAR) is an undesirable outcome of a wilderness outing. Review the latest research about SAR victims and how we can create better messaging from it—does solo wilderness travel increase risk for backcountry accidents?

**What Does the Law Require of Me? How to Determine Your Legal Duties**

Michael Black

Wilderness activities involve an inherent amount of risk and lack of control over the environment. But what does the law require of you? Using the law of negligence as a case study, this presentation explains where your legal duties come from, how you can understand them, and preventative steps you can take to best ensure you comply.

**Structured Networking**

**Thursday, October 13**

4:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Grand Ballroom

Join your peers for some engaging and informal conversations and hear how like organizations manage similar challenges. We will provide topics and facilitate the formation of small discussion groups. The goal is to provide a venue for participants to connect with others who experience similar challenges and to share ideas that will help attendees improve their programs. Find a list of this year’s topics at the registration table marked “WRMC Resources.”

**What We Can Do to Reduce the Risk**

Daniel Hadley

The true value of attending the WRMC is in the resulting action you take upon returning to your organization. Each presenter has contributed three action steps from their workshops. Action steps are measurable tasks or ideas you should be able to do or implement in your program within a reasonably short timeframe. They are not meant as large sweeping changes, rather as small steps to move you forward in your risk management strategy. In some cases the action steps parallel the main take-home points of the workshop; in other cases the action steps are examples of a multitude of possible follow-up action. This year’s action steps can be found on the WRMC online resource page.

**Emergency Planning & Crisis Response**

**Thursday, October 13**

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Drew Liebman

Canyon BC

Responding to a crisis, such as a participant fatality, presents a complex situation that demands a thoughtful and reasoned response. This workshop will provide attendees with an overview of the five elements of successful crisis management and begin to delve into the complexities of responding to crisis situations through the presenter’s personal and professional experience, while providing a forum for exchanging ideas and sharing experiences of the audience. Additionally, this workshop will provide a starting point for creating a crisis management plan.

**Workshop descriptions are organized under their appropriate tracks. Track headings are ordered alphabetically and workshops are in chronological order.**
Friday, October 14

**Risk Management: The Traumatic Aftermath**
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Will Marling
Canyon BC
This workshop is an introduction to processes and protocols for addressing the traumatic impact on clients, staff and responders in the aftermath of a traumatic critical incident. It is based upon 40 years of field-tested, evidence-informed preferred practices in the area of trauma mitigation and education.

**Complexities in Intercultural Emergency Response**
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Tim Hare
Keynote
As many programs move into international settings, both in wilderness education and otherwise, increased attention should be given to the complex variables present when operating abroad. While many lessons from wilderness risk management transfer, many others must be learned. This session will use case studies from an international program to highlight lessons related to unreliable communication, variable medical infrastructure, local hazards, diseases, mental health concerns, and competing stakeholder demands.

**Small Organization Emergency Response Plans: Where Do I Start?**
1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
John Kolby
Canyon A
Through the lens of a small independent school, this presentation will reflect upon the creation of an in-house risk management plan. This presentation will provide others with the tools and resources needed to begin the process of creating a current and user-friendly emergency response plan for their institution.

**Risk Management and Crisis Response: A Case Study**
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
Catherine Hansen-Stamp, Doug Stevens
Keynote
This is a unique opportunity to review a valuable case study involving the death of a minor student and serious injury to another during an adventure travel trip. We will engage the audience in discussing pre and post-incident issues including information exchange, risk and hazard assessment, contractor vetting, and interaction between company staff and subcontractors. Post-incident issues include emergency response, social media, documentation, communication with subcontractors and students’ families, and the cultural challenges of operating in a distant region. We will also discuss the resulting litigation.

**The Frontier of American Belaying: Changing a Folkcraft to a Science**
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Ron Funderburke
getKeynote
The American Alpine Club will demonstrate the history of belaying as a risk management practice in all climbing contexts (recreational, professional, and institutional) using interactive props and discussion. Historically, claims about belay standards and best practices have often been contradictory, and that makes risk management difficult. Instead, attendees will learn to use the Universal Fundamentals of Belaying as a tool to re-evaluate what we think we know about the seminal risk management tool in American climbing.

**I Can’t Believe They’re Doing That! Lessons from the Intersections of Guiding and Outdoor Adventure Education**
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Joshua Cole, Erik Halm
Alpine West
While there is an enormous overlap in the activities of commercial guiding and outdoor adventure education, there is very little exchange of risk management practices between the two worlds. We will present selected practices and standards from each sphere within the context of varied missions, risk tolerances, and client profiles. We believe that there is much that these intersecting parts of our industry can learn from one another and will utilize the expertise of our audience to begin the process of integrating these practices into our own programs.

**Administration of Epinephrine in the Backcountry: Evolving Legal Considerations**
1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.
Nadia Kimmell, Leah Corrigan
Canyon A
Many states have recently passed laws limiting liability for administering epinephrine to an individual reasonably believed to be suffering from anaphylaxis. These laws will ease restrictions on the use of epinephrine by backcountry field staff, which has been widely believed to expose outdoor professionals (and their employers) to liability. The presenters will discuss the status of the law in the western states and the practical considerations in implementing a protocol for epinephrine administration.

**Supporting Struggling Participants: Managing Behavioral and Mental Health Issues**
3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
Kate Baum Mittenbrink, Emily Ledingham
Canyon BC
Managing behavior and mental health issues, and deciding who should stay or leave the field, can be intimidating and draining for field staff and administrators alike. This workshop aims to help you more effectively support struggling participants who can stay on your program, and identify those who should leave. We will explore continua of behavior through scenarios, and provide a framework to define thresholds of acceptable behavior and corresponding management tools that match your program. This workshop is targeted towards field staff and administrators in non-therapeutic programs.

**Advanced Foot Entrapment Techniques**
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Nate Ostis
Canyon A
Is your river team ready? Sure you’ve got those bags, carabiners, and pulleys in your kit. But is your team ready for a fast and effective response to the life threatening scenario of foot entrapment? There is no time to waste in these scenarios. Successful outcomes are a combination of effective preparation and a bountiful load of good luck. Is your team leaning too heavily on luck? Come and see the latest techniques for stabilizing an airway and extricating a patient. Distinguish between a heads-up rescue vs. a heads-down recovery. Throw ropes and gain confidence.

**The Developing Adolescent Brain with Respect to Education and Safety Management**
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Steve Creech
Canyon A
Are you sometimes dumbfounded why an adolescent did something that seemed so obviously risky? In an ever-evolving world of education and neuroscience research, this presentation focuses on understanding developing brains and implications for educators and safety managers. We will explore competing levels of maturity in the brain. By examining research, we will focus on transferring knowledge and scientific research into intentional educational and empowering strategies to create learning opportunities and improved safety management.

**Climbing Gear Testing: Facts, Myths, and Breakin’ Stuff**
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Garth Tino, Russell Slaugh
Or site at Black Diamond Testing Facility (pre-registration required)
Do you have questions about climbing equipment uses, failures, proper vs. improper use? Do you ever wonder about specific scenarios you have encountered in climbing and wondered about the results that could happen? This session will be an interactive presentation on the laws of physics and how they interact with and affect climbing gear. This session will be held at the Black Diamond testing center, on their drop-test tower, where we will create scenarios that push equipment to the limit and beyond, showing failures and how to avoid these issues. We will show how and why equipment fails or can fail, and how to mitigate these failures. We will be joined by members of the Black Diamond Quality Control team to answer a multitude of scenarios.

**Tools for Behavioral Crisis in the Remote Setting**
1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Laura McGladey, Will Marling
Alpine East
What would you do if you’re in the backcountry and one of your program participants is demonstrating extreme behaviors? This workshop is designed to build capacity to distinguish between common and extreme behaviors in order to mitigate risk and manage evacuations when necessary. You’ll explore meaningful and evidence-based interventions as well as learning techniques for supporting staff. This is a practical and scenario-based learning opportunity to gain tangible skills for managing challenging behaviors.

**Wilderness Medicine Panel**
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
Tod Schimelpfenig, Greg Moore, David McEvoy, Shana Tarter
Canyon A
Panelists will offer updates on new topics and trends in wilderness medicine including mosquito-borne diseases, changes in spinal injury management, and psychological first aid. Attendees may submit questions to the panelists for response during the session, or for follow-up by email post-session.

**Legal Considerations**
Thursday, October 13

**Risk Management Primer**
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Tod Schimelpfenig
Canyon A
From wading to swimming in the big risk management primer pool. This will be a session where we set up your knowledge base by working on some of the key concepts (yup—all in the same session) and then we will take those concepts and start you off wading and eventually get you swimming (normalattire OK). You’ll apply these concepts to designing a risk management program, understanding what a case structure will look like (so you understand what to collect after an incident that will help you defend your operation), giving thought to your emergency response plans and protocols, understanding the standards that will apply to what you are doing in your program and how they will affect a post-incident inquiry, and dealing with outside media inquiries. We’ll put a lot of language on the table, try various skills sets, and demonstrate that all language and skill sets in risk management create a unified field if you can get it all in your brain at once. We are going to cover some distance here so if you are looking for a mellow snooze session, this is not your class!
**Friday, October 14**

**Core Workshop**

**Working with Minors: Legal Issues**
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Catherine Hansen-Stamp
Alpine East

**What is “in loco parentis” and the duty of care owed to a minor regarding supervision and instruction? What about free or unstructured time and a child’s personal responsibility? What are an organization’s responsibilities considering an evolving “child”?**

How important is information exchange with the participating minor and his or her parent? Can a child release a program from liability, or assume certain risks? Is your program addressing the reality of potential sexual abuse issues? Share your thoughts in this interactive session as Cathy presents these and other issues in the context of current legal cases.

**Program Administration**

**Thursday, October 13**

**Making Good Programming Decisions in the Face of Media Hype**
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Chad Dietz
Canyon A

You’ve spent the last six months researching, scouting, and marketing your new trip to Costa Rica. Everything’s looking great and enrollment is sold—but are the headlines reality? This workshop will explore the “whopping” potential media hype and how to create new programs that will avoid headlines and understand your mission more than the people designing programs, writing grants, or sitting on the board! When a new program model is identified, is there a clear process by which that model is vetted against existing mission, safety, and training filters? This presentation will explore the common risk management challenges programs face to innovate new programs without drifting away from their actual mission.

**10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

**2016 Wilderness Risk Management Conference Program**

This workshop will focus on (1) recent changes in wage and hour regulations and laws; (2) classification of employees vs. independent contractors; (3) employment issues such as interviewing, hiring and terminating employees; and (4) issues relating to volunteers and interns as opposed to paid staff.

**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**Frances Mock, Seth Hawkins**

Alpine West

**Medical Screening: Options and Answers**

This presentation by a lawyer and a practicing emergency room physician will address three different approaches to medical screening—legal issues, including what questions you are allowed to ask under the Americans with Disabilities Act and what statements you should include; general strategies for assessing medical risks; specific high risk or common medical conditions; implications on management of medical conditions in the field, and interfacing with healthcare providers during decision making.

**1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.**

**Steve Neal, Sam Daume**

Alpine East

**Sexual misconduct, vehicle accidents, medical malpractice, crisis response—what do all of these exposures have in common? If not managed properly an occurrence involving any of these can quickly lead an organization into a deep financial and public relations mire. Are you covered? Is having an insurance policy enough?**

Having an understanding of when an incident (occurrence) may necessitate pulling the policy off the shelf to put it to work is critical. Also critical is understanding what is required of you, the insured. During this session, a series of scenarios and guided discussion will explore the complexities of managing exposures and incident response through the lens of an insurance policy.

**3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.**

**Leslie Arutunian, Reb Gregg**

Canyon BC

An earthquake in Nepal, an alleged sexual assault in Panama, suicide ideation in Thailand, a puma encounter in Costa Rica, and an arbitrary injury in Chile. This isn’t a wilderness program nightmare but a bundle of emerging industry challenges faced by wilderness programs. This presentation looks at the research as it applies to wilderness and adventure programs, and explores how they aren’t just headlines to programs that operate around the world. You’ve spent the last six months researching, scouting, and marketing your new trip to Costa Rica. Everything’s looking great and enrollment is sold—but are the headlines reality? This presentation will explore the “whopping” potential media hype and how to create new programs that will avoid headlines and understand your mission more than the people designing programs, writing grants, or sitting on the board! When a new program model is identified, is there a clear process by which that model is vetted against existing mission, safety, and training filters? This presentation will explore the common risk management challenges programs face to innovate new programs without drifting away from their actual mission.

**10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

**Monday, October 10**

**Drew Leemon**

Canyon BC

**Does your organization approach risk management with the same strategies as the rest of the industry? Small groups will discuss how they view risk management for 12 common field hazards and will compare their assumptions with findings from a 2016 industry-wide risk management benchmarking survey conducted by the University of Utah and NOLS. We will discuss the most pressing risk management concerns for 2016, identify changes since 2003, and discuss broader implications for the field.**

**1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.**

**Bill Frederick**

Alpine East

The international hazard landscape and the approaches and tools for managing risk are evolving at an ever-increasing pace. This workshop will identify fundamental program components on a continuum in order to tailor risk management strategies to the particulars of a given program. We will also look at hazard hot topics and the new strategies emerging to address them to include prevention, avoidance, and response.

**2016 Wilderness Risk Management Conference Program**

This workshop will focus on (1) recent changes in wage and hour regulations and laws; (2) classification of employees vs. independent contractors; (3) employment issues such as interviewing, hiring and terminating employees; and (4) issues relating to volunteers and interns as opposed to paid staff.

**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**Clare Dalal**

Canyon A

Workshop participants will receive a new structured approach for identifying the network of risks/hazards related to activity design and delivery. The method, called NO-HARMS, is theoretically underpinned by a systems-based model and understanding of accident causation (Rasmussen, 1997). It considers hazards and actors beyond those associated solely with the immediate context of the activity. A key advantage offered by NO-HARMS is the ability to identify risks and hazards outside of the activity itself, such as risks related to program design, communications with schools/parents, and activity planning and preparation.

**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**Rob Terry, Millie Jimenez, Megan Kohli**

Alpine East

This session will examine how the National Park Service Academy, a collaborative program between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Student Conservation Association (SCA), has developed a spectrum of program elements and interventions designed to support members from a host of backgrounds currently underrepresented in NPS as they come together to diversify the agency’s workforce.

**1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.**

**Rick Curtis**

Canyon A

Incident data is critical to any program’s risk management plan. To effectively manage risk you need to track incidents in a database and uncover trends by utilizing new advances in Business Intelligence (BI) data analytics. Learn how to capture incident data as illustrated by the International Incident Database System and how to implement data analytics with user-friendly tools right from your computer. You’ll learn powerful new approaches to incident data collection and best practices for data analytics.

**3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.**

**Steve Smith**

Alpine BC

Is your program’s mission clearly identified, understood, and referred to by staff at all levels? Does your field staff know...
Thursday, October 13

Checklist Manifesto for Outdoor Programs
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Al Wright
Alpine West

The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right is a New York Times Bestseller written by Atul Gawande. Dr. Gawande brought the concept of research-based protocols combined with operational ‘checklists’ to surgical practice. Implementation of simple checklists had a dramatic decrease in surgical complications and death rates. Explore the application of Gawande’s simple principles garnered from the fields of medicine, construction, and aviation to operational ‘checklists’ in common adventure activities.

Decision Making: Errors of Perception
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Gates Richards
Canyon BC

In this session, we will explore the neurobiological factors of perception that contribute to human errors in decision making. Using video, activities, and magic, we will experience and discuss errors of attention, errors of pattern recognition, and priming errors. Though we cannot eliminate these hazards from our decision-making process, we can recognize their effects, account for their presence, and minimize the chances of significant fallout from the traps they set. By increasing our awareness of how the brain processes information, we can take steps toward being more deliberate in our decision-making awareness, and perhaps make more consistently good decisions.

How You Know Too Much! Understanding and Mitigating Your Expert BlindSpot
1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.
Emily Abell
Alpine West

Staff know much more about the outdoors than their participants. Directors know much more about risk management than their staff. While this knowledge gap keeps you employed, it can also be a liability. In this interactive session, you’ll learn how your expert blindspot can lead you astray, and learn specific design thinking techniques to help you stay on track. In the closing exercise you’ll have a chance to practice locating and busting your expert blindspots.

3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
Miran Leibach
Topaz

Drawing from recent research in high-impact training, we will highlight successful ways your programs can use social training techniques to enhance engagement in and retention of training materials for staff. With an emphasis on integrating training into the broader operations of your organization, we hope to support programs in reducing the emphasis on singular “training weeks,” instead making training an ongoing—and more effective—process.

Friday, October 14

Rejecting the Binary: Managing Risk for the Queer and Trans Communities
8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Elysa Bylander, Kira McGilsson
Alpine West

Facilitators from OUT There Adventures will draw from their experience as one of a very small number of programs who lead wilderness expeditions specifically for queer and trans participants. Participants will explore challenges that might face their organization as more queer and trans individuals enter outdoor programs. The workshop will cover risks for the queer and trans communities that your organization may currently be taking and how to manage these risks. In a safe and learning-focused environment, participants will be able to ask questions about how to better support an underserved community in outdoor programming.

Core Workshop: Training Your Staff to Be Risk Managers
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Kate Koons
Alpine West

Learn how to use the limited amount of time you have for staff training to maximize your staff’s alignment with organizational values and make them competent field-based risk managers. Learn how to influence organizational culture and build risk management knowledge specific to your program. We will address the needs of small and large programs.

Building Intuition for Low Frequency/High Consequence Events
1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Clinton Culp
Alpine West

Most of our decisions are, at least initially, made intuitively and typically serve us well when dealing with high frequency events. However, there is a problem: intuitions typically do not work well in low frequency/high consequence, non-discretionary time-to-task events. We will look at several traits that may give the expert decision maker an advantage over the novice. Along the way we will design and practice deliberate training techniques that are intended to develop good intuition.

Inclusion Practicum
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
Sydney Clark, Anne Peick, Emily Ledingham
Alpine West

We want our programs to reflect the diversity of the world around us, but are we ready to manage the emotional risks that come with this diversity? Oftentimes behavior that may result from not feeling included is chalked up to bad behavior or lack of motivation, leaving unaddressed a non-inclusive atmosphere that presents an emotional risk. This scenario-based workshop will present the technical skill and build confidence to manage inclusion incidents and engage teams in inclusion work. You will participate in a formation activity to break down stereotypes and start conversations around diversity. Through scenario work we will practice how to recognize and interrupt microaggressions, and when to deploy allyship action to maintain inclusive course culture.
Emily Abell is an experienced designer, hiker, safety geek, and former outdoor tour company staffer. In 2014, she completed the Masters of Design program at Carnegie Mellon University. Her thesis, entitled Park Visitor at Known Hazard: Designing for Imperfect Humans to Combat ‘Human Error’, explored creative approaches to understanding and reducing day hiker incidents at Grand Canyon National Park. In between weekends, Emily works at Athenehealth San Francisco designing software that helps doctors work smarter.

Deb Ajango has presented nationally and internationally on the topic of risk management, emergency action planning, and wilderness medicine at a wide variety of conferences across the United States and abroad. She has provided risk management consulting throughout Alaska, the United States, and around the world. Deb has been an instructor for Wilderness Medical Associates for more than 20 years.

Leslie Arutunian, after 16 years in higher education, became director/owner of Wildlands Studies in 2008. Operating in 16 countries, with 42 faculty and 230 students, Wildlands Studies enrollment has increased by 200% with above industry standards in risk management, academic accountability, faculty hiring standards, and insurance coverage. The result of living abroad and traveling to 40 countries, Leslie’s personal interests lie in experiential education with a focus on the outdoors as a medium for personal empowerment.

Dr. Clinton Culp is a retired U.S. Marine with several combat deployments. He has spent time as the Officer in Charge of the USMC’s Mountain Leaders course at Bridgeport, California, a Company Commander in the infantry, and Naval ROTC instructor. He is an avid climber, mountaineer, backcountry skier, and educator. He has taught Adventure Leadership at the University of Idaho and is currently teaching Outdoor Adventure Leadership at Montana State University in Billings.

Steve Creech loves learning and loves inspiring others with what he has learned. He gets to teach staff and students about the wilderness, education, leadership, and development of strong character in his role as an associate program director of course quality and safety for the Colorado Outward Bound School in Moab, Utah.

Michael Blasie is a graduate of NYU Law School and seasoned litigation attorney. After over five years of civil and criminal cases at the Manhattan office of the international law firm of Coosley LLE, he moved to Colorado where he currently serves as law clerk to the honorable David Richman of the Colorado Court of Appeals. During his transition to Colorado he completed the NOLS Wilderness Medicine and Rescue seminar, earned his WETM and WFR certifica- tions, and learned rescue skills in mountain, rock, and swift water environments.

Dr. Clinton Culp has been director of the Outdoor Action Program at Princeton University for 34 years, running one of the larg- est college outdoor orientation programs in the US. He is the founder of OutdoorEd.com, the premiere website for outdoor professionals and the author of The Backpacker’s Field Manual. A software and database developer, he is the architect of the International Incident Database System, a standard for incident data collection in the outdoor industry.

Rick Curtis has a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Resort Management from the University of Arizona. He is a retired U.S. Marine with several combat deployments. He has spent time as the Officer in Charge of the USMC’s Mountain Leaders course at Bridgeport, California, a Company Commander in the infantry, and Naval ROTC instructor. He is an avid climber, mountaineer, backcountry skier, and educator. He has taught Adventure Leadership at the University of Idaho and is currently teaching Outdoor Adventure Leadership at Montana State University in Billings.

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Clare Dallat is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Human Factors and Sociotechnical Systems at the University of the Sun- shine Coast, Australia. For 13 years, Clare held the position of director of risk management at The Outdoor Education Group (OEG), an organization with 40,000 participants and 400 staff participating annually on multi-day programs. She now leads Risk Resolve, an OEG risk management consultancy service. Clare spends her time working with organizations and schools throughout Australia, assisting them to develop, test, and improve their systems. She has responded in field and leadership roles, to critical incidents, has served in an expert witness capac- ity, and is familiar with the inside of a courtroom.

2016 Wilderness Risk Management Conference Program
Sam Daume has been in the insurance industry since 1986 and has a degree in business with educational institutions since 1989. He joined the NWC as the Fred C. Young Junior Professor and Education Practice Leader for Mass. Sam has provided risk management advice and insurance brokerage service to independent schools and colleges and universities of all shapes and sizes as well as several well known institutions. Married 27 years with 2 kids, Sam loves the outdoors and traveling with his family. His highlights include climbing and hiking in national parks, rock climbing in Quebec, and a family trip to South Africa. He is an active member of Massachusetts Audubon, Appalachian Mountain Club, Trustees of the Reservation, and Sierra Club.

Liam Downey divides his time between practicing austere medi- cine as a remote paramedic and teaching wilderness medicine and survival. He has worked as an emergency care provider in the rugged desert environments of the American Southwest, Texas, the Navajo and Hopi tribal reservations of northern Arizona, Black Rock City of Nevada, Yellowstone National Park, and beyond. Downey is a senior lead instructor for NOLS Wilderness Medicine, and an instructor and subject matter expert in desert survival for US Army Special Operations, BORSTAR, US Marshals Service, and others. He has worked as a river guide in the American southwest and India, and still takes every opportunity he can to row boats.

Todd Duncan has managed and directed adventure, research, and education programs on five continents. He specializes in developing new programs, and has been creating and run- ning programs in Hawaii and Belize for 10 years, where he also served with the Wildlife Conservation Society as a field director for Greater Yellowstone. In 1993, Duncan founded and ran an emergency response team to help the victims of Hurricane Andrew in South Florida. He has been a NOLS instructor since 1995, and is the director of safety and student life for the School for Field Studies, responsible for overseeing 10,000 student field days per year. He is actively involved with adventure and action sports industry develop- ment. He has presented at WRMC many times over the years, introducing alternative models of safety performance such as risk taking, non-normal, and training to failure. The safety culture work at this year’s conference is based upon his PhD research.

Kate Farthing is in her ninth year at Broadreach and currently acts as the director of Field Operations, which includes overseeing both general and program specific risk management prac- tices. Her perspective ranges from being a field instructor for many years to coordinating scouting programs to her current position overseeing the team of program coordinators at Broad- reach. Kate has attended the WRMC numerous times.

Bill Frederick is the founder of Lodestone Safety International, specializing in health, safety, and security for educational and service organizations operating abroad. Prior to that he served as director of safety at The School for Field Studies for 8 years and as an instructor and program director at Outward Bound for 16 years. Frederick is a member of the Wilderness Medicine Associates International. He holds an M.Ed from Har- vard University and a CTH from the International Society of Travel Medicine.

Ron Funderburke is the education manager at the American Alpine Club where he has been working hard to educate all climb- ers and climbers about the Alpine Club’s ethical guidelines, the RMB 100 values, and the American Alpine Club’s mission. He is a PMI certified guide and an AIARE 3 guide. He was an alpine guide in the Canadian Rockies for 10 years. He is a member of the AMGA SPI program and serves on the AMGA Board of Directors. Ron has published a handful of climbing related titles through FalconGuides. He lives in Golden, Colorado, with his wife and sons.

Wilma Gray, born in Ontario, Canada, received her BA degree from Queen’s University in 1984 and JD in Law from New College of California in 1996. Wilma has practiced law since being admitted to the Bar of California in 1999, and serves as the McNamara Law Firm in 1998, and became a partner in 2005. She is a member of the State Bar of California, American Board of Trial Advocates, International Society of Barristers, American Bar Association, Comtra County Bar Association, and Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California. When not in trial or depositions, Wilma loves to get outdoors to enjoy hiking, canoeing, biking, skiing (cross-country and downhill), wakeboarding, and fly fishing. She lives in Oakland, California with her husband and dogs, Tahi and Tahoe, a ski school for the disabled at Alpine Meadow and Squaw Valley.

Reb Gregg is a Houston, Texas attorney specializing in outdoor adventure and education law. He is on the Board of the Inde- pendent Schools Experiential Education Network and on the Risk Management Committee for North Carolina Outward Bound. Reb serves as legal counsel to the Association for Challenge Course Technology and to a number of adventure programs including summer camps, college and secondary school out- door programs, and challenge course and zip line operators and builders. He is a frequent lecturer and writer, and honoree of the Charles (Reb) Gregg Wilderness Risk Management Award.

Daniel Hadley has been on the Salt Lake City Search and Rescue team for five years. He studied wilderness rescue dur- ing his undergraduate and grad degrees at the University of Utah.

Erika Halm is the Washington program director at the North- west Outward Bound School. She has worked in adventure and outdoor education for more than eight years in a variety of set- tings, from independent schools and wilderness medicine to expeditionary outdoor education. Erika is a lead instructor for the Wilderness Medicine Training Center.

Amberleigh Hammond is a program quality manager and func- tions as the national medical screener for the Student Conserva- tion Association (SCA). Her primary focus is screening, leader training, incident response, and compliance with field standards. Prior to the SCA, Amberleigh was at Outward Bound for six years as the national senior medical screener for OBUSA. Amber- leigh is a former field medic and EMT and has served in the military as a military emergency medical technician. She has been a ski patroller. This will be her second year serving as a WRMC Steering Committee member.

Nadia Kimmel founded Desert Sound Mountain Institute (DSMI) in 1998. As executive director, she teaches wilderness medicine, trains instructors, develops course curriculum, and consults with outdoor recreation organizations concerning wilderness risk management. Nadia has been an instructor at the American Alpine Club and Colorado and Out- ward Bound. In addition to being an outdoor professional, she continues to stay current in the field of emergency medicine as an ER nurse.

Seth Hawkins is an experienced outdoor program medi- cal advisor. Board certified in both Emergency Medicine and EMS, he is also the first physician to be designated a Master Fellow by the Academy of Wilderness Medicine. He serves as medical advisor for North Carolina Outward Bound, and medical advisor for Landmark Learning, and REI. Seth is an assistant professor at Wake Forest University and maintains a full-time clinical emergency medicine practice.

Jeff Jackson is a professor and coordinator of Algonquin Col- lege's Outdoor Adventure guide training diploma programs, overseeing 10,000 student field days per year. He is actively involved with adventure and action sports industry develop- ment. Jeff has presented at WRMC many times over the years, introducing alternative models of safety performance such as risk taking, non-normal, and training to failure. The safety culture work at this year’s conference is based upon his PhD research.

Mike Meisinger is an outdoor educator, risk management consultant and director of the Wildland Training Center. Mike has been involved in the risk management field since 1989. He is a Certified Risk Management Professional (CRMP) and serves on the AMGA Board of Directors. Mike has given professional trainings to Outward Bound and Dragons instructors, school faculty, and to conference attendees. He has a keen interest in advocating for engaging risk growth as well as training to the nuances in managing risk in interna- tional settings. An accomplished rock climber and alpinist, he has climbed, instructed, and guided throughout the US West, Alaska, and the Andes. Tim believes that healthy risk taking is essential for living an inspired and full life.

Katherine Hansen-Stamp is an attorney in Golden, Colorado and a current member of the WMRC Steering Committee. She represents the outdoor industry and teaches wilderness medicine classes periodically at Prescott College and works as a climbing guide in a variety of locations.

Skip King began working in emergency medical services before graduating high school. He worked EMS in Boston during col- lege, then became a professional ski patroller and later a patrol director and mountain operations manager. He shifted to com- munications in 1996, and has since handled many of the ski industry’s most visible communications crises. King believes his com- munications and operational experience makes him a rarity in the crisis management field. In private practice since 2002, he serves a variety of clients in the active outdoors industry, includ- ing Outward Bound.

Tracey Knouton graduated from Montana State University with a B.S. in Animal Science, then received her J.D. from the Univer- sity of Montana School of Law (JD granted by University of Montana) in 1989. Tracey served in the United States Peace Corps between her undergraduate and graduate training. During and following law school, Tracey worked in the Missouri, Montana County Attorney's office, in private law offices, and as a law clerk in the Alaska Court System before joining Delujo, Moran, Geraghty & Zobel in 2002 where she joined Rod Sisson as a partner in Sisson & Knuton where she continued her extensive trial practice. In 2004 Tracey began the firm of Knuton and Associates and has oriented the firm's focus to the representation of clients involved in risk management issues. She has had a rich background of insurance defense litigation, defend- ing oil field companies, native housing authorities, insurers, outdoor recreation and adventure or sports entities, and a vari- ety of other clients. She has tried numerous tort litigation-style cases and regularly participates in appellate level practice. Tracey has an extensive history of charitable, community and volun- teer oriented activities. She has been elected without opposition to the Municipalities of Anchorage from 2003-2007 on the Girdwood Board of Supervisors.

Megan Kohli is responsible for the Education and Outreach at Grand Teton National Park, just celebrated 10 years with the National Park Service (NPS). Previously at Grand Canyon National Park, she started the field school program there, designing and guiding a 14-week course on EMT and wilderness emergency management. She has been involved in the outdoor field since graduating high school. She has been a professional ski patroller for 8 years, a law clerk, and a mountaineer. Megan is currently a member of the AMGA SPI program and serves on the AMGA Board of Directors.

John Kelley has worked in outdoor and experiential education for the last 15 years. He is currently the dean of students at the Fountain Valley School of Colorado. He has been an instructor at a number of therapeutic wilderness programs, international schools, collegiate outdoor programs, and adventure travel organizations. In addition, he also teaches wilderness skills periodically at Prescott College and works as a climbing guide in a variety of locations.
Kate Koons has worked in the field of outdoor recreation since 1995. She has 20 years of experience leading expeditions around the world, guiding and teaching a variety of students and clients. She is a senior field instructor at NOLS and as a program director she has held since 1990. Educated in the mountain rescue discipline, she has spent many years cumulatively living and working in the Himalaya, a place she likes to call her second home. Kate lives in Victoria, Idaho with her husband and two dogs where she can be found in her garden, running, or backcountry skiing.

Emily Ledingham is a senior NOLS field instructor and administrator. She has accumulated over 200 weeks of experience instructing hiking, mountaineering, whitewater, and backcountry ski courses. Emily currently supervises faculty and risk management as a program supervisor at NOLS Rocky Mountain and NOLS Yukon.

Drew Leemon, Director of Risk Management at NOLS, began his career as a program supervisor at NOLS Rocky Mountain and later moved on to work at NOLS as a program director. He has held his current position since 1996. He is a past chairman of the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee and is on the Steering Committee for the Wilderness Risk Management Conference. He has published papers on wilderness injury and incident data and is co-editor of the Manual of Accreditation Standards for Adventure Programming and co-author of Risk Management for Outdoor Leaders.

Micah Leinbach has been the director of Crystalite Adventures for four years, every year sending college-aged summer employees on drives that can last up to 12 hours. His experience stems from having worked in the backcountry as a pit Stern staff in a short amount of time, and he has conducted research in using social approaches to motivate successful training.

Brendan Madden is director of operations and national safety officer at Outward Bound Canada. He has been active in the expeditor-based adventure education field for over 20 years, mostly as a program director and senior instructor at both Outward Bound and NOLS. Brendan has also been a risk management trainer and consultant at NOLS. He was the former director of Huillett Outdoor Centre in Vermont. Brendan continues to be fascinated by the confluence of systems thinking and human-factor elements in outdoor risk management.

Dr. Will Martin earned his undergraduate (1986), graduate (1989), and medical degrees (1993) in a variety of disciplines. Trained in crisis intervention, trauma mitigation and education, and responding to hundreds of incidents over 25 years, his praxis has been informed by a variety of national and international courses, and by his medical training. In his senior position as a chief of a national victim assistance organization, he knows the challenges of leading an organization whose job is to engage and respond to crises.

David McEvoy began volunteering for the Student Conservation Association in 1983 and has worked for Student Conservation Association as education manager, the National Park Service, US Forest Service, and other outdoor and land management organizations since that time. He has worked as a paramedic since 1990 and founded Aerie in 1995. With Aerie, Dave trains his staff to teach wilderness medicine courses to outdoor organizations and the US military throughout the US, in addition to teaching courses in Central America, Africa, and Asia.

Kira McIvor is an attorney specializing in advising outdoor organizations when not working at NOLS. She works as a backcountry ski guide in the winter in her home range, the Tetons, and occasionally travels south to assist science groups on remote scientific research expeditions. She has also spent many years cumulatively living and working in the Himalaya, a place she likes to call her second home. Kate lives in Victoria, Idaho with her husband and two dogs where she can be found in her garden, running, or backcountry skiing.

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Steve Smith is an outdoor program consultant specializing in risk management. He spent five years as vice president of program and operations in New England for NOLS, where he led a team responsible for risk management, training, program evaluation, and continuous program improvement. He has been associated with Outward Bound since 1998, first as a mountaineering instructor and later in safety management and administration. He has been a certification examiner for NOLS since 2001 and a co-founder of NOLS’ Mountain Safety and Risk Management Conference. He has been a frequent presenter at conferences and has authored numerous presentations on the subject. He has been an active member of the Outward Bound Risk Management Committee since its inception and has been a frequent presenter at the annual Outward Bound Risk Management Conference. He is a frequent presenter at the annual National Council of Outdoor Recreation and Education (NCORE) Conference and has been a frequent presenter at the annual Wilderness Risk Management Conference. He has also presented at numerous national and international conferences on risk management and outdoor education. He has been a frequent presenter at the annual National Council of Outdoor Recreation and Education (NCORE) Conference and has been a frequent presenter at the annual Wilderness Risk Management Conference. He has also presented at numerous national and international conferences on risk management and outdoor education. He has been a frequent presenter at the annual National Council of Outdoor Recreation and Education (NCORE) Conference and has been a frequent presenter at the annual Wilderness Risk Management Conference. He has also presented at numerous national and international conferences on risk management and outdoor education.
Mark Vermeal, Vice President of Safety for Outward Bound, USA, is responsible for the oversight of safety management systems for all Outward Bound Charters in the US. Mark has almost 20 years of experience managing staff at organizations like the Student Conservation Association and White Mountain School. As a Wilderness EMT, Mark managed emergent situations, and has been a wilderness medicine instructor and classroom teacher in anatomy and physiology. With rock, ice, and alpine guiding experience, he is a certified AMGA rock instructor and single pitch instructor provider who co-owns and guides for Mountain Sense. Mark currently serves on the Steering Committee for the WRMC and has presented at the WRMC since 2007.

Dr. Al Wright is a professor and outdoor coordinator for the Recreation and Tourism Management department at California State University Northridge where he teaches courses in leadership and outdoor education. He has worked with risk management and safety management issues for outdoor programs throughout his professional career. Al supervises both land-based and water-based outdoor programs that serve over 8,000 participants a year.

Karmina Zafiro specializes in crisis communications, issues management and consumer PR. She has worked with educational institutions facing critical issues and crises related to town-gown relations, accidents, injury and death, litigation, activist action, labor negotiations and organizational restructuring/layoffs. She has worked with outdoor education clients including NOLS, HMI and Overland, and managed crises for universities including UC Hastings College of the Law and UC Santa Cruz. Karmina also leads the analytics division at Fineman PR.

OutdoorEd.com
The Professional’s Resource

OutdoorEd.com is the premiere outdoor education Web resource. Our mission is to provide the best collection of online resources for outdoor education professionals. Whether you are presenting your company or school, offering trainings, looking for a job, developing a new program or looking for risk management resources, when people want information about outdoor education, they turn to OutdoorEd.com. We are excited to announce the opening of our new website with a full array of new features.

Company & School Profiles and Job Postings are the best way to find new staff and Training Listings let you promote your program activities. With rich outdoor education curriculum, blogs from industry experts, articles, online media and shared documents, OutdoorEd is your portal to a better program.

The Recreation Law Center at OutdoorEd.com is the online legal resource that provides subscribers with analysis of important legal cases that can impact your organization’s safety. When the conference is over, you can continue your learning and sharing at OutdoorEd.com.

AN AMERICAN ASCENT

Thursday, October 13th
8-9pm I Seminar Theater

A feature documentary about the first all African American expedition to tackle North America’s highest peak, Denali.

Photo: Madhu Chikkaraaju
Founded by Hans Deuter in 1898, we are one of the oldest backpack manufacturers in the world. We make sure that our products are functional and durable enough to accompany active people. That is why we invest a great deal of time and effort in the development, production, testing and repairs service of our backpacks, bags and sleeping bags.

For over a decade, Global Rescue has provided individuals, families, enterprises and governments with the critical medical, security, information and intelligence needed to avoid and respond to crises. Since our founding in 2004 in partnership with Johns Hopkins Medicine, Global Rescue has grown to become the recognized leader in travel risk, crisis management and response services. We are the only fully integrated provider of medical, security, intelligence and communication.

We believe in making it easier for organizations to work and grow on an international scale. We can help you achieve your goals by preparing your employees for travel and supporting them whilst they are in unfamiliar and remote locations. We help to keep them healthy and safe, so you can focus on your core business activities.

Over the last 20 years, our independence and willingness to do things differently has driven innovation in outdoor apparel and equipment. You’ll see more Mountain Hardwear expedition tents on 8,000 meter peaks than any other brand. From the first taped soft shell jacket to the first tent with 180° views, our products combine cutting edge materials technology with unconventional design solutions.

Mountain Hub is the first real-time social and information network for the mountains, a “Waze for the outdoors.” Mountain Hub’s mission is to inspire safe exploration and a culture of contribution in the outdoors and is used across 50 countries around the world.

Osprey packs provide innovative design and exceptional fit, making them a leader in gear-carrying equipment. For over 35 years, Osprey has been actively involved in outdoor education programs. We continue this effort in the evolution of the Escalante program-specific series.
Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries (SROM) is a premier Christian outdoor leadership education and wilderness adventure ministry. Our programming activities include backpacking, rock climbing, mountaineering, backcountry cooking, alpine and backcountry living, orienteering, and community building. SROM programming occurs in the heart of the Rocky Mountains and desert southwest with courses and trips conducted in Wyoming, Colorado, and Arizona in locations such as Rocky Mountain National Park, Wind River Wilderness, and Grand Canyon National Park. SROM is the only wilderness ministry accredited by the Association for Experiential Education.

Wilderness Medicine Training Center provides practical courses in wilderness medicine and outdoor program risk management. Hybrid courses require home study using animated lectures (DVD), texts, and online testing before attending a practical session.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is America’s conservation corps. Our members protect and restore national parks, forests, marine sanctuaries, cultural landmarks and community green spaces in all 50 states. Each year over 4000 SCA members provide more than 1.6 million hours of direct conservation service and positively impact millions of visitors to America’s public lands and waterways.

Klean Kanteen collaborates with and supports dozens of organizations working to protect people and our planet. Our network of friends stretches across the country and around the globe, and includes everything from tiny hometown environmental education programs to nationally acclaimed leaders in advocacy for health and environmental stewardship, music festivals, and private companies known worldwide for their conscientious approach to doing business.

Cleanwaste has been providing solutions for “when plumbing’s not available” for over 12 years. We are the manufacturers of the Original WAG Bag and produce quality solutions such as the GO Anywhere Portable Toilet, the GO Anywhere Toilet Kit, Pee Wee Unisex Urine Bag and the Toilet in a Bag.

Most companies have one bottom line. At Clif Bar & Company, we are a private, family and employee-owned company guided by five “bottom lines” or what we call our Five Aspirations: Sustaining our Business, Brands, People, Community and the Planet. These aspirations help us consider decisions from multiple perspectives that we value, and we choose the word “aspiration” in recognition that we’re on a journey and can always do more in each of these areas.

In the backcountry, having the right shelter is crucial. For over 40 years, Hilberg has specialized in making that “right shelter” by building the highest quality all-season tents that offer the ideal balance of low weight, extraordinary strength and remarkable comfort.

For over three decades, McNett and its family of brands, Gear Aid®, Outdry®, MC Essentials™, Aquamira®, and Camo Form, have provided quality, innovative products for the outdoor, sporting goods, dive, and military markets. With its unique blend of reliable products and personality, McNett enhances the lives of people working and playing outside. For more information, please visit www.McNett.com.

Nemo Equipment, manufacturers of Sleeping pads, sleeping bags and tents, designs products to improve the experience of adventure. NEMO believes meaningful adventures are possible for everyone, anywhere. Possible, that is, if you bring the will, the imagination, and the right gear.

Hilleberg is crucial. For over 40 years, Hilleberg has specialized in making that “right shelter” by building the highest quality all-season tents that offer the ideal balance of low weight, extraordinary strength and remarkable comfort.

At Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), we love to get outside and play, and we know first-hand the importance of quality outdoor gear. We stand behind all our products with a 100% satisfaction guarantee, and we design our own line of award-winning REI brand gear and clothing. Whether you’re new to outdoor adventure or a seasoned pro, we gladly share our enthusiasm for our products - and the trails, slopes and waterways where we play.
Experience matters.
For 45 years, Hilleberg has been making the highest quality, most dependable backcountry tents available.

The all-season Nammatj is an outstanding choice for adventure in any terrain or weather. It’s very strong and remarkably lightweight, and is available in 2, 3 and 4 person versions. Seen here near Mt Kenya.

YOUR BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURE DEPENDS ON YOUR EQUIPMENT. Choose wisely, and trust tents that have been rigorously tested and constantly proven, in all conditions, on all continents. Hilleberg tents are conceived and developed in northern Sweden and made in our own factory in Europe, and they offer the ideal balance of low weight, strength, and comfort. To learn more about our tents and about us, visit our website, hilleberg.com

Order a FREE catalog online at HILLEBERG.COM or call toll free 1-866-848-8368
follow us on facebook.com/HillebergTheTentmaker

The Hilton Salt Lake City Center

Internet
Complimentary high-speed wireless internet is available throughout the hotel and in guest rooms. Please contact the hotel front desk if you need assistance.

Sustainability
The WRMC is committed to developing sustainable event practices. The Hilton Salt Lake City’s 2016 GREEN initiatives include recycling, waste minimization, energy and water conservation, and responsible purchasing. To help with sustainability efforts, we suggest you bring your own coffee mug and water bottle for beverages.

Stay Active
Amenities at the Hilton include a pool and fitness center, and there’s no shortage of hiking and biking trails in the Salt Lake area. The hotel front desk can you provide you with a map of hiking trails and information on bike rentals.

GREENbike Program
There are currently 20 bike stations around the downtown Salt Lake City area. You can view them online at greenbikeslc.org. Download the free mobile app that shows how many bikes and docks are available at every station in real time.

Meals and Dining

Your registration fee includes appetizers at the exhibitor reception, coffee and snacks during morning and afternoon breaks, and a meal at the keynote dinner.

Community Dining
We’ll have community tables and grab-n-go breakfast and lunch items for sale in the exhibitor hall on Thursday and Friday.

Keynote Dinner
Dinner prior to Grant Statham’s keynote address on Friday, October 14 is included in your WRMC registration and will commence at about 6:30 p.m. following a social hour and remarks from steering committee members.

Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options are available. Just let your server know your dietary needs.

Other Dining Options
• There are many restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.
• Each room at the Hilton comes equipped with a mini fridge.

Dining Options at the Hilton
• Trofi Restaurant offers regional breakfast options and a modern bistro menu for lunch.
• Starbucks offers pastries and breakfast sandwiches.

Free Fare Zone
Ride free if you Enter and Exit the Bus or TRAX within the boundaries of the Free Fare Zone.

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In 1992, representatives from Outward Bound, Alpine Towers, Wilderness Medical Society, Wilderness Education Association, Exum Mountain Guides, Association for Experiential Education, International Safety Network, National Association of Search and Rescue, American Mountain Guides Association, American Alpine Club, Outdoor Network/Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America, the National Park Service, and NOLS met in Lander, Wyoming, to form the original Wilderness Risk Managers Committee. The group set an agenda that involved an examination of current issues within the industry and each organization. The committee wanted to serve as an informal think tank, providing better understanding and coordination in the outdoor education arena.

After meeting for a second time in 1993, the committee sponsored the inaugural Wilderness Risk Management Conference (WRMC) at NOLS Pacific Northwest in Conway, Washington, in 1994. Since that time, the conference has served as a venue for sharing experiences and aligning practices in wilderness risk management. The conference is known for its high quality workshops and spirit of collegiality and openness.

Over time, multiple groups have influenced the WRMC. The WRMC Steering Committee has included outdoor schools, guide services, organizations, and land managers who have helped to develop the conference agenda and to attract high-quality presenters. NOLS, the lead conference sponsor, along with co-sponsors Outward Bound and the Student Conservation Association, continue to enhance the professionalism of the conference and extend its reach within the industry.

The WRMC continues to evolve under the guidance of the co-sponsors and remains an excellent educational opportunity for those providers new to the field and the premier venue for established professionals in the adventure education industry.

History of the WRMC

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