

WILDERNESS RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR CHALLENGING ISSUES



2010 CONFERENCE AGENDA

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, OCTOBER 14-16



Welcome to the

2010 Wilderness Risk Management Conference

This year's conference balances new sessions and speakers with our core workshops to ensure there is something for everyone. Also, we've organized presentations into five main tracks so you can get the most out of your conference experience. Follow along on one track or mix and match to tailor the conference to your specific needs. A full description of workshops, tracks, and presentations can be found starting on page 5 of this agenda, followed by speaker biographies on page 12.

Conference Opening and Exhibitor Reception

Kick off this year's conference on Thursday, October 14, from 5:30–6:45 p.m. by networking with great companies who support our industry and enjoying light refreshments and drinks from the bar. We will be raffling some exciting giveaways, so show up to win! A list of conference exhibitors, donors, and supporters starts on page 18.

Structured Networking

On Thursday, October 15, time has been set aside from 4:45–6:00 p.m. for dialogue that will not interfere with any conference sessions. We will provide topics and facilitate the formation of small working-groups so attendees may maximize the networking experience.

WRMC Resource Center

The learning doesn't stop when the conference ends! We responded to your requests by making the most popular proceedings articles, workshop presentations, and action steps available for your continuing education needs. Visit www.nols.edu/wrmc/resources.shtml.

Social Networking

Follow the conference on Twitter (@attend_wrmc) and report on the happenings of the conference (#wrmc).

Core Workshop

Look for this symbol to identify workshops that provide a fundamental introduction to risk management and mitigation strategies. If you are new to the WRMC we highly encourage you to attend the core workshops.

Presentation Tracks

Staff Training & Decision-Making
Program Administration
Field Practices
Legal Considerations
Emergency Planning & Crisis Response

Meals and Dining

Please note that break food and the keynote dinner are the only food included with your conference registration. Below are nearby restaurant options for your other meals during the conference. See map on page 22 for locations.

On The Border

Tex-Mex. Open for lunch and dinner. (719) 635-0100

Red Robin

American. Open for lunch and dinner. (719) 447-8810

IHOP

American. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. (719) 635-0777

Bennigans Bar & Grill

American. Open for lunch and dinner. (719) 540-5050

Macaroni Grill

Italian. Open for lunch and dinner. (719) 540-9833

Chili's

American. Open for lunch and dinner. (719) 576-0440

Carrabas

Italian. Open for lunch and dinner. (719) 527-1126

Outback Steakhouse

American. Open for dinner. (719) 527-8745

Denny's

American. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. (719) 576-3394

Village Inn

American. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. (719) 540-9773

Cover photos (clockwise from upper left) by Mitsu Iwasaki, Rainbow Weinstock, and the SCA.

Pre-Conference Schedule

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Wilderness First Responder Recertification Gates Richards and Shana Tarter, <i>Fremont</i>
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Wednesday, October 13, 2010

7:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m.	Pre-Conference Workshop Registration, Lobby
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Wilderness First Responder Recertification cont. Gates Richards and Shana Tarter, <i>Fremont</i>
	NOLS Risk Management Training Liz Tuohy and Jim Hutchison, <i>Pikes Peak I</i>
	Effective Outdoor Program Design & Management Paul Nicolazzo, <i>Pikes Peak IV</i>

Thursday, October 14, 2010

7:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m.	Pre-Conference Workshop Registration, Lobby
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Wilderness First Responder Recertification cont. Gates Richards and Shana Tarter, <i>Fremont</i>
	NOLS Risk Management Training cont. Liz Tuohy and Jim Hutchison, <i>Pikes Peak I</i>
	Effective Outdoor Program Design & Management cont. Paul Nicolazzo, <i>Pikes Peak IV</i>
	Sharing in Safety: Risk Management for Corps Jill Baum, David Critton, Lee Gault, Dave McEvoy, Mark Vermeal, and Jay Satz, <i>Pikes Peak III</i>
	AMGA Top Rope Site “Tools of the Trade” and Other Tricks Ed Crothers, <i>meet in Lobby to travel to workshop destination</i>
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Workshop Registration, Lobby
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	What the Courts Want Us to Know: Hot Issues, Hot Cases Reb Gregg and Cathy Hansen-Stamp, <i>Salon D</i>
	Using Case Studies as a Risk Management Teaching Methodology Deb Ajango, <i>Salon E</i>
	Managing Risk With Volunteer Leaders Alex Kosseff, Brenda Porter and Leigh Jackson-Magennis, <i>Salon F</i>
	Urban Program Risk Management Intensive Rebecca Bear, Frances Mock, Michael Lindsey, Matt Osgood, Nancy Oswald, and Vanessa Mendillo, <i>Salon G</i>

Conference Opening

Thursday, October 14, 2010

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Early Conference Registration, Lobby
5:30 p.m.–6:45 p.m.	Conference Opening and Exhibitor Reception, Exhibit Hall
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Conference Opening with Plenary Speaker Mike Gauthier, Exhibit Hall

Conference Schedule

Friday, October 15, 2010

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. **Exhibitor Showroom and Coffee Service Open, Exhibit Hall**

STAFF TRAINING & DECISION-MAKING

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Ambushed By Myself: Growing Beyond Several Unexpected Leadership Pitfalls
Lester Zook, *Salon D*

Core Workshop
Small Program Risk Management
Justin Talbot, *Pikes Peak I*

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. **Break and Exhibitor Showcase, Exhibit Hall**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Evacuation Decision-Making
Deb Ajango, *Pikes Peak III*

Managing Risk from Behind the Desk: A Systems-Based Approach
Josh Cole, Mitsu Iwasaki, and Steve Smith, *Salon D*

12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. **Lunch Break and Exhibitor Showcase Open**

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

The Phone Interview: Evaluating Candidates from a Distance
Gates Richards, *Salon D*

Medical and Psychological Screening for Outdoor Programs
David Johnson, Billy Roos, and Amberleigh Hammond, *Salon E*

3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. **Break and Exhibitor Showcase, Exhibit Hall**

3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

When Judgment Fails
Brendan Madden, *Salon E*

Risk Management and Technology
Peter DeRogo and Hannah Burgard, *Salon G*

4:45 p.m.–6:00 p.m. **Structured Networking: The Experts Are in the Room, Exhibit Hall**

Saturday, October 16, 2010

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. **Exhibitor Showroom and Coffee Service Open, Exhibit Hall**

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Risk Management Lessons from the Aviation Industry
Clark Glenn, *Pikes Peak III*

Essential Eligibility Criteria: A Risk Management Tool
Janet Zeller and Cathy Hansen-Stamp, *Salon D*

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. **Break and Exhibitor Showcase, Exhibit Hall**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Is Your Outdoor Adventure Program Safe? Balancing Staff Competency with Program Design
Paul Nicolazzo, *Salon D*

Insurance Basics: What You Need To Know!
Rick Braschler, *Salon G*

12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. **Lunch Break and Exhibitor Showcase Open**

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Core Workshop
Medical Topics: New, Controversial and Old
Dr. David Johnson, *Pikes Peak I*

Land Management Panel: There's No Risk to Manage Without Connection to the Land
Jay Satz, Jen Lamb, Jim Bedwell, Rick Potts, and Robert Ratcliffe, *Salon E*

3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. **Break and Exhibitor Showcase, Exhibit Hall**

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Core Workshop
Training Your Staff to be Risk Managers
Liz Tuohy, *Pikes Peak I*

Crossing the Border Matters: Practical Risk Management in International Settings
Mark Ritchie and Brendan Carroll, *Pikes Peak III*

6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. **Keynote Dinner and Presentation of the Charles (Reb) Gregg Award, Exhibit Hall**

8:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. **Conference Closing with Keynote Speaker Maggie Fox, Exhibit Hall**

FIELD PRACTICES	LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS	EMERGENCY PLANNING & CRISIS RESPONSE
Behavioral Risk Management: Preventing Critical Incidents in the Field Sky Gray and Kevin Moeller, <i>Salon E</i>	Chose Words Carefully...What You Say Matters! Wilma Gray, <i>Salon G</i>	Getting Beyond Operator Error: Using Systems to Analyze Accidents Jeff Jackson, <i>Pikes Peak III</i>
Fundamentals of River Rescue: Not a Discipline Unto Itself Cody Harris, <i>Salon G</i>	Navigating Between Safety and Liability Frances Mock and Bill Frederick, <i>Salon E</i>	Core Workshop Crisis Management: A Preplan in Action Drew Leemon, <i>Pikes Peak I</i>
Managing Urban Adolescents in the Field: Front and Backcountry Considerations Alexander Chu, <i>Pikes Peak III</i>	Core Workshop Fundamental Legal Issues Cathy Hansen-Stamp, <i>Pikes Peak I</i>	Core Workshop Internal and External Critical Incident Reviews Jed Williamson and Jay Satz, <i>Salon G</i>
Betting the Farm: Risk Propensity and Field Applications Alan Ewert and Jay Whitacre, <i>Salon D</i>	Standards in Recreation: What That Means and How It Effects Your Operation Tracey Knutson, <i>Pikes Peak III</i>	
Utilizing Pre-Program and Dynamic Hazard Identification Mark Vermeal, <i>Salon E</i>	What to Expect If Your Program Gets Sued: An Overview of a Lawsuit Tony Clapp, <i>Salon G</i>	Core Workshop Accidents in Outdoor Pursuits: Their Causes and Cures Jed Williamson and Aram Attarian, <i>Pikes Peak I</i>
Understanding and Managing Negative Adolescent Behavior in the Wilderness Setting Doug Mahon, <i>Pikes Peak III</i>	Core Workshop Your Participant Agreement: What's Going on Here? Reb Gregg, <i>Pikes Peak I</i>	Promoting Risk for its Rewards: Transforming the Argument Christopher Barnes, <i>Salon E</i>
Proactive Policies That Assist in Reducing Medical Issues in Wilderness Programs Kirk Shimeall, Edwin Weih, and Rob Koning, <i>Salon D</i>	Haubner & Miller vs. Abercrombie & Kent: Case Study of an Ongoing Lawsuit Ross Cloutier, <i>Pikes Peak III</i>	That Would Never Happen In My Program! Rhonda Mickelson, <i>Salon G</i>
Backcountry Lightning "Safety?" John Gookin, <i>Salon G</i>	Ask the Lawyers Panel Reb Gregg, Catherine Hansen-Stamp, Wilma Gray, Tony Clapp, Frances Mock, and Tracey Knutson, <i>Salon E</i>	Risk Management: The Traumatic Aftermath Will Marling, <i>Salon D</i>



Presentation Descriptions

Pre-Conference Workshops

Our selection of preconference workshops allows participants to explore specific topics in greater detail with smaller groups. Participants can choose from half-day sessions to three-day courses.

New Topic! New Speaker!

AMGA Top Rope Site “Tools of the Trade” and Other Tricks Ed Crothers

Thursday, October 14, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

This presentation will not focus on improvised self-rescue. The assumption will be that participants are working a frontcountry top rope site with ample equipment available, although many skills can be adapted for use in the backcountry. Participants should have a basic understanding of knots and building simple top rope systems. Equipment will be available, but participants are welcome to bring a few locking carabiners, sewn runners, and cordelette material.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Effective Outdoor Program Design & Management Paul Nicolazzo

Wednesday and Thursday, October 13–14, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

This course will examine the complex relationships surrounding outdoor program design and management from both the field instructor and program administration perspectives using Power-Point, interactive whiteboard lecture, video, and small group activities. The workshop is guaranteed to have a positive impact on how participants administer and deliver their programs and courses. Tuition includes Effective Outdoor Program Design & Management (textbook), the water-proof, tear-proof Site Management Handbook (field handbook), and a workshop small group exercise book (sent as pdf file prior to conference).

New Speaker!

Managing Risk With Volunteer Leaders

Alex Kosseff, Brenda Porter, and Leigh Jackson-Magennis

Thursday, October 14, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Volunteer outdoor leaders are invaluable to many outdoor organizations, yet implementing an effective risk management system for volunteers can be challenging. Models of leader training, supervision, and established safety practices that function with professionals are not always an easy fit for volunteers. This session will explore successful strategies to help your organization’s volunteers become better risk managers. We will include interactive activities, theories, and opportunities to network with others working with volunteer outdoor leaders.

NOLS Risk Management Training

Liz Tuohy and Jim Hutchison

Wednesday and Thursday, October 13–14, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Using lecture, discussion, exercises, and hands-on scenarios, we will provide a structured approach and the tools to build a risk management plan appropriate for your organization.

Sharing in Safety: Risk Management for Corps

Jill Baum, David Critton, Lee Gault, Dave McEvoy, Mark Vermeal, and Jay Satz

Thursday, October 14, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Join other corps programs in discussing how to do what we know we need to do. Continue to build a culture of safety within your programs. Examine industry standards and risk management trends that are specific to team-based programming. Build a stronger sense of corps community by sharing your own experience, questions, and best practices. Includes lunch.

New Topic!

Urban Program Risk Management Intensive

Rebecca Bear, Frances Mock, Michael Lindsey, Matt Osgood, Nancy Oswald, and Vanessa Mendillo

Thursday, October 14, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

With growing urbanization and demographic changes in the United States, many outdoor programs are recognizing the importance of not just serving urban participants but also operating in an urban context. Join this half-day workshop as we look at a variety of angles of urban programs and urban participants. Leaders from Outward Bound, SCA, REI Outdoor School, and Summer Search will engage you with topics such as changes in program structure, policies and protocols, staff hiring and training, and emergency response. You will get a chance to look deeply into your own programs and engage with others through hands-on exercises and discussions.

Using Case Studies as a Risk Management Teaching Methodology

Deb Ajango

Thursday, October 14, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

This presentation will help participants learn how to effectively find, edit, and use case studies to improve risk management planning and safety education. Audience members will be given a variety of real cases, and through small group discussions and guided review, participants will modify them so that they can be used most effectively within their given organizations.

What the Courts Want Us to Know: Hot Issues, Hot Cases

Catherine Hansen-Stamp and Reb Gregg
Thursday, October 14, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

In this interactive seminar we will analyze the most significant and emerging legal issues in the industry, along with recent and persuasive court opinions addressing those issues. Participants will consider—and attack or defend—conflicting arguments pertaining to timely issues such as the duty of care owed to minors, negligence as an inherent risk of an activity, who can release whom for what, denial of admission to a program on the basis of a disability, a service provider's liability for gear failure (or misuse), and responding to a medical emergency.

Wilderness First Responder Recertification with WMI of NOLS

Gates Richards and Shana Tarter
Tuesday–Thursday, October 12–14, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

This three-day scenario-based course is designed as review and practice of evacuation and decision-making guidelines. It also provides wilderness medicine practitioners with current updates in the wilderness medicine field. This course may be used to recertify Wilderness First Responder and Wilderness EMT (wilderness portion only) certifications. You must possess a valid WFR certification of at least 72 hours in order to recertify through this course.

Plenary and Keynote Speakers

Plenary Speaker

Mike Gauthier, National Park Service

Thursday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Mike Gauthier is the former chief climbing and rescue ranger for Mount Rainier National Park. He conducts workshops on mountain and rope rescue techniques. He now works for the Department of the Interior as a liaison to the National Park Service. In 1998, he was designated a Wilderness Rescue Hero by the American Red Cross.

Keynote Speaker

Maggie Fox, Alliance for Climate Protection

Saturday, October 16, 8:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Maggie Fox is the president and CEO of Alliance for Climate Protection. Al Gore, as the Alliance board president, supports their mission to educate the public about the harmful effects of climate change. Previously, Maggie served as the deputy executive director of the Sierra Club. In addition, she has an extensive outdoor education background, having worked for the Colorado, North Carolina, and Northwest Outward Bound Schools for over a decade. Maggie has climbed throughout the United States and internationally. She lives in Eldorado Canyon, Colorado, with her husband, Senator Mark Udall, and their two children.

Staff Training & Decision-Making Track

This track focuses on staff, our on-the-ground risk managers who make numerous critical decisions every day. These workshops are designed to offer practical advice to program managers responsible for hiring, training, and supervising outdoor leaders.

Ambushed By Myself: Growing Beyond Several Unexpected Leadership Pitfalls

Lester Zook

Friday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

The human element as a causative factor in adventure incidents is well documented. In this workshop, we will turn the spotlight on the interior of the leader. Factors such as routine, competence, and social anxiety can nudge leaders toward mindlessness and eventually disaster. Together, we will examine case studies and explore current research about mindful leadership. Then we will participate in both story-telling and introspection to deepen personal leadership awareness and effectiveness.

Evacuation Decision-Making

Deb Ajango

Friday, October 15, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

This presentation will provide audience members with tools to improve their evacuation decision-making above and beyond what they might have learned in other medical classes. Participants will learn to assess patient injuries and prioritize the urgency of each, as well as be given information on how to effectively activate field evacuations from remote locations.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Is Your Outdoor Adventure Program Safe? Balancing Staff Competency With Program Design

Paul Nicolazzo

Saturday, October 16, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Effective risk management and accident prevention strategies focus on balancing the actual risk present in the program or activity with the competency of the trip's leaders. This presentation examines the relationship between staff competency, program or trip design, and overall safety. It briefly introduces site management theory and relates it to the three essential instructor skill sets and instructor competency levels.

Core Workshop

Medical Topics: New, Controversial, and Old

David Johnson

Saturday, October 16, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

This session will endeavor to make some practical sense out of the medicine that many of us are called upon to deliver in unconventional settings far from organized help. The focus will be on: 1) new and old technologies and procedures that can have an impact on wilderness medical care, 2) common problems that continue to pose difficult diagnostic and management dilemmas, and 3) new and emerging topics.

“By attending this conference, I feel as if I have already been able to impact my current and future students, school district, and community with the knowledge gained.”

*Ben Gasper, Outdoor Education Teacher
Northern High School, Durham Public Schools*

New Topic! New Speaker!

Risk Management Lessons from the Aviation Industry

Clark Glenn

Saturday, October 16, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

The aviation industry has put more time and energy into the study of risk management than any other. While not all of it is applicable to the field of wilderness risk management, there are plenty of parallels from which we can learn. This presentation will be an overview of the Aeronautical Decision-Making structure that is taught to all pilots on the path to FAA certification. Come and see what lessons can be learned when looking at risk management through a different lens.

New Topic! New Speaker!

The Phone Interview: Evaluating Candidates from a Distance

Gates Richards

Friday, October 15, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

This presentation will draw from WMI’s 13 years of phone interviewing experience to provide insight into what can be a daunting process: selecting candidates for employment remotely. You can hire people for jobs requiring technical skills without meeting them in person! During this presentation, attendees will critique their existing interviews, craft new interview questions, and brainstorm with their peers to improve their interview process. Though this presentation will focus on phone interviews, lessons learned can be applied to any interview.

Core Workshop

Training Your Staff To Be Risk Managers

Liz Tuohy

Saturday, October 16, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

This workshop and small group discussion on how to engage your field staff as risk managers will discuss a structure that any program can use to create or improve staff training systems. We will consider three elements: formal training, hazard identification framework, and evaluations.

New Topic! New Speaker!

When Judgment Fails

Brendan Madden

Friday, October 15, 3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Sometimes good leaders make poor decisions. Research has shown distinct patterns in the decisions that lead to serious accidents. This presentation will take an in-depth look at these patterns, and will discuss methods of predicting staff decision-making traps, and adjusting training and supervision techniques accordingly.

Program Administration Track

The Program Administration track addresses a number of issues pertinent to program managers including technology, medical screening, international programming, and risk management in smaller programs.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Crossing the Border Matters: Practical Risk Management in International Settings

Mark Ritchie and Brendan Carroll

Saturday, October 16, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

International wilderness trips are growing in popularity, especially to non-traditional settings in developing countries. However, even experienced wilderness leaders and risk managers may be caught unprepared by differences in legal systems, cultural expectations, and a sometimes radically changed risk management terrain. This practical hands-on session will examine in detail key issues and concerns for working in developing countries appropriate for trip leaders, risk managers, and expedition members.

New Topic!

Essential Eligibility Criteria: A Risk Management Tool

Janet Zeller and Catherine Hansen-Stamp

Saturday, October 16, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

This interactive session will provide the legal background and steps involved in addressing ADA program access requirements and developing Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC) as a risk management tool. Following an overview of legal and practical considerations, the majority of the session will be conducted in small breakout groups, with each group developing a set of EEC in consultation with the presenters, followed by a full group discussion of resulting EECs. The Rocky Mountain ADA Resource Center will assist in providing participants with resources for ongoing assistance with accessibility.

New Topic!

Insurance Basics: What You Need To Know!

Rick Braschler

Saturday, October 16, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Understanding the key areas of your insurance plan can save you money in the search for affordable coverage that also adequately covers your operation. Trusting your plan design to your insurance broker is only as effective as your broker’s extent of knowledge. This presentation will make you a more knowledgeable, informed buyer of insurance, as well as making your insurance coverage more effective.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Land Management Panel: There's No Risk to Manage Without Connection to the Land

Moderators: Jennifer Lamb and Jay A. Satz

Speakers: Jim Bedwell, Rick Potts, and Robert Ratcliffe

Saturday, October 16, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Wilderness program managers are experts in educating clients, designing curriculum, training staff, and managing risk. But when it comes to accessing public lands, many of us do not understand fully the intent behind or how to navigate the bureaucratic systems designed to facilitate our access. Directors of recreation divisions within three key agencies will shed light on what can be a daunting process. How can we build relationships with land managers that will enhance program quality, improve risk management, and serve the wilderness?

New Topic! New Speaker!

Managing Risk from Behind the Desk: A Systems-Based Approach

Josh Cole, Steve Smith, and Mitsu Iwasaki

Friday, October 15, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Administrators of outdoor and adventure education programs may oversee safety and risk management on the program scale, but they rarely have the opportunity to directly manage risk in the field environment. This creates an inherent gap in the risk management system. Program managers, senior staff, and senior administrators must all balance conflicting program interests. In doing so, they tend to rely upon formulaic management strategies that create discord within their organizational culture and risk management systems. To help bridge that gap we will present an integrated approach focusing on managing organizational culture, training, and policy for effective risk management.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Medical and Psychological Screening for Outdoor Programs

David Johnson, Billy Roos, and Amberleigh Hammond

Friday, October 15, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

This workshop will provide participants with tools to determine what level of medical and psychological screening is appropriate for their organization and how to “set the bar” for applicants based on ADA requirements and organizations’ program design. Discussion topics will include medical forms, screening guidelines, screeners’ qualifications, and managing undisclosed issues. The session will also include examples and practice in screening procedures and decisions, followed by a question and answer session.

New Topic! New Speakers!

Risk Management and Technology

Peter DeRego and Hannah Burgard

Friday, October 15, 3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

This presentation will introduce participants to current and upcoming technology used to further the cause of risk management both in the field and in the office. Technology issues will be identified, and current and future solutions will be presented.

Core Workshop

Small Program Risk Management

Justin Talbot

Friday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Wilderness risk management in the smaller program setting offers a special set of opportunities and challenges. For this session, an initial overview will be followed by a group discussion of specific strategies that have proved useful to other smaller programs.

Field Practices Track

The workshops in this track cover a broad range information from teaching technical skills to understanding student behaviors.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Backcountry Lightning “Safety?”

John Gookin

Saturday, October 16, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Providing basic information and heuristics for non-experts to make judgment calls regarding backcountry lightning safety, this presentation discusses the phenomenon of lightning as it typically happens, how to coordinate time and space in lightning prone areas, how to seek relative safety when caught in a backcountry lightning storm, typical lightning injuries, some tips on teaching lightning risk management in the backcountry, an overview of lightning first aid, and incident reporting guidelines. We will close with a lab exercise to experience ground current, but limited to 10,000 volts at 0.1 joules/pulse, which is less than a billionth of your average lightning bolt.

New Topic!

Behavioral Risk Management: Preventing Critical Incidents in the Field

Sky Gray and Kevin Moeller

Friday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

It is natural to worry about the physical and technical aspects of risk management when in the field with clients. But often, we ignore the behavioral aspects of our clients that can lead to critical incidents. This presentation will present a framework for understanding how behavioral risk factors can mirror technical aspects on programs and provide some tools for field staff to prevent and deal with these risk factors on a day to day basis while in the field.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Betting the Farm: Risk Propensity and Field Applications

Alan Ewert and Jay Whitacre

Friday, October 15, 3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

This presentation examines the concept of risk propensity or the willingness to engage in risk-taking behavior. Within this framework, risk is considered within the adventure setting and students’ and instructors’ other everyday life. For example, does risk-taking in the adventure setting transfer to the rest of a person’s life? Knowing this has implications both for field staff and curriculum planning efforts. If students successfully manage adventure risks, can they successfully manage risks associated with everyday living?

New Topic! New Speaker!

Fundamentals of River Rescue: Not a Discipline Unto Itself

Cody Harris

Friday, October 15, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Too often river rescue is viewed as a set of tools to use when things go wrong. The integration of river rescue techniques into paddling and rafting instruction is critical for a safe travel on the river. Join Cody Harris of the Whitewater Rescue Institute and get hands-on practice with basic river rescue techniques and learn how to integrate these basics for a safer and more comprehensive river program.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Managing Urban Adolescents in the Field: Frontcountry and Backcountry Considerations

Alexander Chu

Friday, October 15, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

While student management has long been a cornerstone in field practice, these management techniques are far from universal when dealing with students of different cultures. This presentation will attempt to merge the trends and statistics facing urban students, and more importantly, how those experiences translate into behaviors in the field. Through lecture and case study, we will examine urban trends, consider the impact on our students, and discuss appropriate programmatic solutions.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Proactive Policies that Assist in Reducing Medical Issues in Wilderness Programs

Kirk Shimeall, Rob Koning, and Edwin Weih

Saturday, October 16, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Client safety and medical risk management are critical parts of ANY program. Come and participate in a discussion about how one company has chosen to provide the best patient care and limit unnecessary medical evacuations through effective screening procedures, the use of stock prescription medications, useful technology, and a qualified on-call medical advisor. The presentation will consist of a mixture of lecture and small breakout group format. Alternative ideas will be shared throughout the presentation.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Understanding and Managing Negative Adolescent Behavior in the Wilderness Setting

Doug Mahon

Saturday, October 16, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Utilizing numerous sources of material, such as Choice Theory, this workshop focuses on working with adolescents and the serious behavioral issues they sometimes present on wilderness courses. We will explore “why adolescents do what they do” and why they make some poor decisions regarding their behavior. We will examine the process, and the fine line of how adolescent boys and young men move from being a “Band of Brothers” to “Lord of the Flies.”

New Topic!

Utilizing Pre-Program and Dynamic Hazard Identification

Mark Vermeal

Saturday, October 16, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

This workshop will present tools to identify hazards, assess and mitigate risks, and assist staff and participants in making decisions about program activities. It will highlight tools to calculate risks of possible negative outcomes. A group breakout session will give participants the opportunity to use a pre-program assessment tool and show them a dynamic hazard identification and risk assessment tool. This session is a must for program staff, school groups, field leaders, and guides.

Legal Considerations Track

Our Legal Considerations track presenters worked hard to develop a series of focused offerings to address current legal issues in wilderness risk management.

Ask the Lawyers Panel

Charles (Reb) Gregg, Catherine Hansen-Stamp, Frances Mock, Wilma Gray, Tony Clapp, and Tracey Knutson

Saturday, October 16, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

This moderated session will allow audience members to ask questions of the panelists regarding legal issues that may have arisen during the course of the conference or otherwise. Time permitting, the panelists will enlarge on earlier discussions of legal issues and raise others that may not have been addressed.

New Topic!

Choose Words Carefully...What You Say Matters!

Wilma J. Gray

Friday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

This presentation will provide participants with an overall view of what they say verbally to the general public or staff. What they put in written material, which is either published in hard copy or on the internet to the general public or written in internal documents, can all have an impact later on if there is ever a lawsuit. Lawyers will take and scrutinize every word of written materials; they will cross-examine program directors and staff meticulously. Plan ahead and ask yourself what this will sound like if you have to testify to it in deposition or trial.

Core Workshop

Fundamental Legal Issues

Catherine Hansen-Stamp

Friday, October 15, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

In this interactive session, Cathy will cover basic legal principles that are critical to understand as you endeavor to run a quality program. What are common areas of legal exposure, legal claims, and defenses to claims in today's legal cases? How can you and your staff utilize this information to better manage and minimize the risk of loss to your clients and to your organization? Among other things, you will learn about your duty of care, negligence, inherent and assumed risks, release/indemnity, issues with minors, and how your actions and other factors impact your liability.

New Topic!

Haubner & Miller vs. Abercrombie & Kent: Case Study of an Ongoing Lawsuit

Ross Cloutier

Saturday, October 16, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, located in southwestern Uganda, is a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site and the home to half the world's population of the critically endangered mountain gorillas. On March 1, 1999, a number of tourists were kidnapped by Rwandan Interahamwe rebels from an Abercrombie & Kent gorilla watching camp; eight were murdered. The case is now before the courts in the state of Illinois. This presentation will discuss the public record of this case, its significance to trip operators, the unsuccessful trial of three of the rebels, and attempts of the claimants to apply a hotel standard of care to adventure tour operators.

New Topic!

Navigating Between Safety and Liability

Frances Mock and Bill Frederick

Friday, October 15, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Effective safety practices are usually the best method for avoiding legal liability. However, there are instances where a safety strategy could increase an organization's liability exposure and instances where an effort to minimize liability exposure could compromise safety. This session will explore the zone where safety and liability potentially conflict—safety reviews, post-incident investigations, medical screening, incident data collection, and industry standards. Participants will discuss scenarios in small groups to assess safety and legal objectives and approaches for resolving or minimizing conflicts.

New Topic! New Speaker!

Standards in the Recreation Industry: What Does That Mean and How Does It Effect Your Operation?

Tracey Knutson

Friday, October 15, 3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

In this session we want to understand the meaning and scope of the oft-used phrase “standards in the industry.” We know that “standards of care” are used in judging liabilities and that standards of care are often derived from “standards of practice,” but do you understand these phrases and how they affect your business? Operators and administrators are constantly making decisions on perceived or so-called “standards” in the recreation industry, but how supportable are these standards and the decisions that derive from them?

New Topic!

What to Expect If Your Program Gets Sued: An Overview of a Lawsuit

Tony Clapp

Saturday, October 16, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

The goal of this presentation is to discuss and demystify what occurs in the discussions between the insurer and the injured party and to provide factual data regarding each step of the litigation process. While it is the goal of each of the program pro-

viders to not be involved in litigation, in the event that they find themselves faced with being a defendant in a lawsuit, this will provide them knowledge so that they can understand what is happening each step of the way.

Core Workshop

Your Participant Agreement: What's Going on Here?

Reb Gregg

Saturday, October 16, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

We will discuss the purpose and elements of an effective Participant Agreement, including the protection it provides by means of assumption of risks, release, and indemnity. Courts have ruled on many significant issues pertaining to these agreements in the past year and we will discuss them all, including releases as a violation of public policy, parents signing for minors, forgery and other unauthorized signatures, electronic signing and maintenance, duration, consideration, duress, and unconscionability. Be prepared for some surprises and for active participation in the discussion.

Emergency Planning & Crisis Response Track

The very experienced group of presenters in the Emergency Planning and Crisis Response track will address crisis plans, post incident response, and a review of incident data.

Core Workshop

Accidents in Outdoor Pursuits: Their Causes and Cures

Jed Williamson and Aram Attarian

Saturday, October 16, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Accidents happen in outdoor pursuits and always will because risk is always involved. Learning how to prevent life-threatening or disabling injuries is a skill we all seek to hone. Through this workshop, participants will learn how to use a prevention matrix to examine case studies and to design staff and participant training to reduce serious field incidents.

Core Workshop

Crisis Management: A Preplan in Action

Drew Leemon

Friday, October 15, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

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. We will 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 your own crisis management plan.

New Topic!

Getting Beyond Operator Error: Using Systems to Analyze Accidents

Jeff Jackson

Friday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

The emerging systems-based approach to risk management planning has altered the way we conceive, organize, and implement risk systems. Many high-risk industries have incorporated systems-based risk management to analyze and understand accidents beyond the default causes of inherent risk and operator error. This workshop provides a systems approach to looking beyond operator error and understanding the latent and organizational causes of accidents. This analysis framework can be applied to critical and non-critical events, and to different program or organizational structures.

Core Workshop

Internal and External Critical Incident Reviews

Jed Williamson and Jay Satz

Friday, October 15, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

After a significant accident or near miss occurs, conducting an internal incident review is critical to enhancing your organization's risk management program and assuring you are taking all reasonable steps to evaluate if risks (where appropriate) are being effectively recognized and mitigated. In addition, when a program experiences a fatality or life threatening or disabling injury, the "industry standard" or common practice is to conduct an external review. This session will examine a process for conducting internal incident investigations, the decision to launch an external review, the role and make-up of the external review team, and finally, the "ground rules" for the external review team.

New Topic!

Promoting Risk for Its Rewards: Transforming the Argument

Christopher Barnes

Saturday, October 16, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Now more than ever the world needs us; risk-taking can provide invaluable and unique learning opportunities. Risk managers assume the merits of risk to be self-evident. Yet, this isn't a commonly shared value with our students, parents, or supervisors; they neither understand nor advocate for risk, seeking only "safe opportunities." This session will provide tools for advocating for risk at your institution, including a series of scenarios to hone your risk advocacy skills.

Risk Management: The Traumatic Aftermath

Will Marling

Saturday, October 16, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

This workshop is an introduction to processes and protocols for addressing the traumatic impact on clients, staff, and responders in the aftermath of a critical incident.

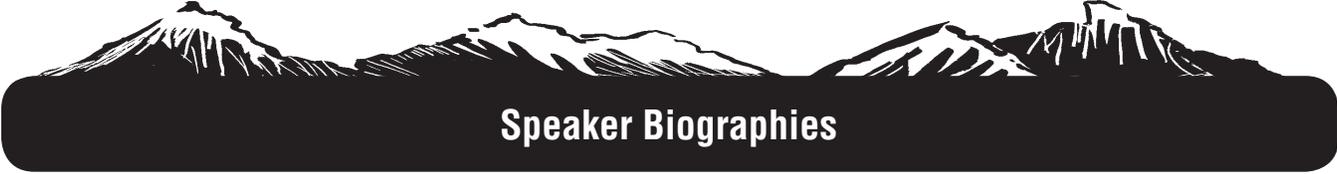
New Topic! New Speaker!

That Would Never Happen In My Program!

Rhonda Mickelson

Saturday, October 16, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

When a crisis occurs, how will your staff respond? This session will share lessons learned from an analysis of the American Camp Association Hotline reports and provide suggested steps and resources to assist in crisis management, staff training, and preparation for the unexpected. Through discussions of case studies, this session will share valuable information about health/medical issues, personnel issues, allegations of abuse, camper behavior issues, parent behavior, death, and special situations.



Speaker Biographies

Deb Ajango has taught wilderness medicine for Wilderness Medical Associates for 15 years. She has an extensive background working as a practitioner and administrator in the profession and has logged more than 2,000 field days of experience.

Aram Attarian, Ph.D., has been working in the adventure industry for over 30 years. He is currently an associate professor at North Carolina State University, specializing in adventure recreation, outdoor leadership, and park and protected area management. He has over 20 seasons as a course director and instructor at the North Carolina Outward Bound School (NCOBS). He is a member of the NCOBS board of directors where he chairs the safety committee and participates in safety and program reviews for various organizations and the Association for Experiential Education.

Christopher Barnes is the co-founder and executive director of the High Mountain Institute (HMI) in Leadville, Colorado. HMI's defining program is the Rocky Mountain Semester, a semester-long academic and wilderness program for high school juniors. HMI also offers leadership development, wilderness medicine, avalanche, and other custom courses.

Jill Baum has worked full-time with SCA corps programming for over eight years, including living on site at multiple northeast residential AmeriCorps programs, leading the Mount Rainier Recovery Corps, and serving in her current capacity as Assistant National Director overseeing western corps operations. She additionally worked seasonally for seven summers as an SCA high school crew leader.

Rebecca Bear currently manages the REI Outdoor School, which serves over 11,000 people annually in 12 major metropolitan areas. The programs are urban one-day courses that focus on beginner level skills. She supports REI's Risk Management Committee and has developed a site management training program for the 150+ instructors at REI. Prior to working at REI, Rebecca served as the chair of the risk management committee for Passages Northwest and worked with Outward Bound International in establishing international safety standards.

Jim Bedwell was named Director of Recreation and Heritage Resources for the Forest Service in June 2006. In June 2007, volunteer and youth services programs were added to his portfolio. As director, Jim leads the programs that make national forests and grasslands the country's top provider of quality recreation opportunities, from primitive backcountry to highly developed activities like alpine skiing.

Rick Braschler is the Director of Risk Management for Kanakuk Kamps, one of the nation's largest youth camping organizations. Rick is also the Senior Risk Consultant for CircuitTree Solutions, providing risk consulting services for camp and outdoor organizations throughout the world. Rick has 18 years of experience in the insurance and risk management industry, specializing in camping and outdoor recreation. Rick is an avid outdoorsman, speaker, author, and father of four.

Hannah Burgard coordinates technology use by western corps programs, including use of satellite phones, SPOT messengers, GIS acquisition devices, and other field technology.

Brendan Carroll is the Director of Field Operations for the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute. He graduated from Kalamazoo College and is interested in non-traditional education and academics. He also spends his time rock climbing and riding his motorcycle around Southeast Asia.

Alexander Chu is the Associate Program Director for Thompson Island Outward Bound. With 10 years of outdoor experience ranging from urban summer camps to wilderness expeditions, his passion has consistently led to exposing underserved populations to experience the power of programs in the natural environment. While responsible for the management and delivery of environmental education and wilderness expeditions, he is concurrently working on a master's degree at Harvard University in clinical psychology.

Tony Clapp is a partner in the law firm of Harris, Karstaedt, Jamison & Powers, P.C. in Colorado. As a trial lawyer, Tony specializes in defending civil claims, including those claims brought against outdoor recreation programmers and providers. Tony is a former fly-fishing and whitewater rafting guide. He also is a volunteer ski instructor at the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colorado. He is a PSIA certified ski instructor.

Ross Cloutier is an assistant professor at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia, Canada. He is a well-known expert in the area of adventure and outdoor education insurance, risk management, and litigation defense. He has conducted numerous accident investigations, written outdoor education policy and procedures for over 800 schools, and sits on coroner death review panels. He was the climbing leader for the Everest Canada 1991 expedition.

Joshua Cole is Program Director for Outward Bound in Washington. The Washington Program operates in some of the most technical terrain in the U.S. and runs sea kayaking, mountain-

earing, backpacking, and canoeing courses in the San Juan Islands and North Cascades. Josh has been a field instructor, course director, and trainer for Outward Bound. In addition, Josh has an MSc in geological sciences, with several publications and presentations at national conferences.

David Critton is Vice President for Site Leadership for the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC). In this position he provides support and oversight to each of SCC's regional operations across the southwest. Previously he spent more than a dozen years with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) where he held many positions, from crew leader to national director of the Conservation Corps Program. During this time, David helped develop and manage several corps programs based on various models with different emphases. At various times he has also spent extended periods overseas, living for several years in both Africa and the South Pacific. Although his first degree was in engineering, he later received graduate degrees in both education and forestry.

Ed Crothers has been a professional mountain guide, climbing instructor, and wilderness based experiential educator for over 22 years. He worked for the Colorado Outward Bound School (COBS) from 1989 to 1998, including a stint as field staff representative to the COBS Risk Management Committee. In 1998 he worked for a season at the American Alpine Institute in Bellingham, Washington, before becoming a co-owner of the Colorado Mountain School (CMS) in Estes Park, Colorado, from 1999 to 2004. From 2004 to 2009 he continued on at CMS as a guide and served as the Avalanche Education Director for two years. He is currently employed by the American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) as the Accreditation Director and Climbing Instructor Program Director. He is an AMGA Certified Rock Instructor and AMGA Single Pitch Instructor Provider.

Peter DeRego is the Assistant Director of Risk Management for the Student Conservation Association (SCA). He is responsible for managing the risk management systems and processes associated with fielding nearly 4,500 conservation volunteers nationwide each year. Peter is also an attorney in the State of Vermont where he served as a general practitioner prior to working with SCA.

Dr. Alan Ewert's development and active involvement in outdoor leadership training is of invaluable worth to his students at Outward Bound, the National Outdoor Leadership School, Wilderness Inquiry, and many other outdoor education, adventure education, and outdoor therapeutic education programs. The Conservation, Outdoor Recreation, and Education (CORE) program at Indiana University remains a highly sought-after semester-long program for undergraduates, as well as for students pursuing master's and doctoral degrees in a range of disciplines.

Bill Fredrick has been the Director of Safety at The School for Field Studies (SFS) since 2002 and instituted SFS Risk Management Education in 2006. He has served as project leader for the Forum on Education Abroad's pilot incident database and co-chair of the inaugural Standards Institute. He has led numerous international safety reviews and served for 16 years with Outward Bound. As a senior instructor and faculty committee member for Wilderness Medical Associates (WMA), he has taught emergency medicine to educators, rescue teams, and international service organizations in over a dozen countries and designed WMA's Travel Medicine First Aid course. He holds a B.A. in psychology from the University of Colorado and an M.Ed from Harvard University.

Lee Gault has been with the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) since 1995, the last 12 as program director. Prior to joining the MCC, Lee spent 10 years with the Colorado and North Carolina Outward Bound Schools as an instructor, course director, and director of the Health Services Programs. He has also been a wilderness therapist, classroom teacher, and counselor. He holds master's degrees in experiential education and counseling.

Clark Glenn is president of the board of directors for the Independent Schools Experiential Education Network (ISEEN) and was one of the organizations cofounders. He has worked in the field of outdoor education for 10 years and was most recently the Director of Outdoor Programs for The Lawrenceville School. Clark has led wilderness leadership trips on five continents. He now consults in the fields of wilderness risk management, leadership development, and international programming.

“The WRMC created an environment for inquisition; it is the essential backdrop for every professional to investigate how someone becomes truly qualified to develop confidence, leadership, and technical skills in our students and clients.”

*Sarah Smith, Director
Alpine Summer Term, Lenk, Switzerland*

John Gookin has been teaching and leading with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) since 1981. Prior to that he taught high school sciences. He is author and editor of the NOLS Instructor Notebook series and is working towards a PhD in education. John became interested in backcountry lightning safety when he was the 1999 WRMC conference organizer and the prevailing lightning scientists said that there was no body of information available on this topic.

Sky Gray, M.S., has 25 years of experience in the field, was the former Director of AEE Accreditation, is a consultant with Roberts, Gray and Associates, and has served as executive director at a culturally diverse adventure based organization, the Santa Fe Mountain Center for the last 11 years. She has been an active member of AEE since the mid 1980s. She served on the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee for eight years and served as AEE Accreditation Council Chair for six years. The Santa Fe Mountain Center received the AEE Organization of the Year award in 2008.

Wilma J. Gray is a civil trial attorney in California and specializes in recreation law. She is a partner in a mid-size defense law firm in the San Francisco Bay Area. After receiving a B.A. from Queen's University, she worked for the Canadian government in Ottawa before moving to California. When not in trial or deposition, Wilma loves to get outdoors. Born in rural Ontario, Canada, much of her youth was spent canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and as a counselor for outdoor youth programs.

Charles (Reb) Gregg is a practicing attorney in Houston, Texas, specializing in outdoor adventure and education law. He serves on the board of directors of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and the Friends of Big Bend National Park, the Wilderness Risk Management Conference Steering Committee, and the Accreditation Council of the Association for Experiential Education. Reb is legal counsel to a number of organizations, including summer camps, secondary and college outdoor programs, challenge courses, and outfitters.

Amberleigh Hammond has been with Outward Bound for six years as a Medical Screener, Senior Screener, and currently the National Senior Screener for OBUSA. She has worked over the years with Dr. David Johnson to edit and update the Wilderness Medical Associates screening guidelines and recently worked with Billy Roos in a major update of Outward Bound policies and guidelines.

Catherine Hansen-Stamp is an attorney in Golden, Colorado. She advises recreation and adventure providers on law, liability, and risk management issues. She speaks and writes on these issues both regionally and nationally, and has presented at the WRMC since its inception in 1994. Cathy provides legal counsel to a variety of organizations, including recreation, adventure and sport program providers, camps, schools, outfitters, and guides. She is a member of the Wyoming and Colorado Bar Associations, and co-authors the Outdoor Ed Adventure and Recreation Law Center with Reb Gregg.

Cody Harris began kayaking at the age of 11. He is a past member of the U.S. Kayak Olympic Development Team and has spent the past two decades working and playing on as many rivers as possible. As director of the Whitewater Rescue Institute, Cody is responsible for program and curriculum development, and still gets out in the water as an instructor. In the off-season, Cody works as an EMT, a ski patroller, and a wilderness medicine instructor.

Jim Hutchison has worked in outdoor education for more than 15 years, instructing in multiple environments for skills such as canoeing, canyoneering, climbing, skiing, and hiking. Jim has been a Wilderness EMT for 15 years and an instructor for WMI since 1996. He has years of experience working for search and rescue as well as many years as an EMT. Originally from New Mexico, Jim now lives in Lander, Wyoming, where he teaches wilderness medicine and risk management courses.

Mitsu Iwasaki joined Big City Mountaineers (BCM) with 15 years of experience in the outdoor programming industry in multiple capacities as an instructor and program manager. With degrees in environmental engineering and non-profit management, he feels he has been exceptionally fortunate to have had opportunities to combine his studies, passions, values, and beliefs into roles that he sees as doing good and affecting real and useful change.

Jeff Jackson is an award-winning educator who brings a business management perspective that spans adventure tourism, economic development, health care, and education. Jeff is a professor and coordinator of Algonquin College's Outdoor Adventure professional guide training diploma, where he oversees 18,000 student field days per year and teaches courses in leadership, ethics, marketing, risk management, and business planning. He has worked as a guide, educator, and project manager since 1988.

Leigh Jackson-Magennis has a master's degree in Outdoor Education Administration. She currently heads Georgia Tech's ORGT program as the Assistant Director of Campus Recreation—Outdoor Recreation. ORGT is a college outdoor program that includes outdoor instructional programs, recreational programs, outdoor rental operation, a climbing wall, a challenge course, Tech Treks freshman outdoor experience, and international programs. Leigh supervises 80 volunteer staff and 10 to 20 paid staff. She has a passion for introducing beginners to outdoor adventure.

Dr. David Johnson is uniquely qualified to discuss a wide range of topics. He brings years of experience as a backcountry traveler and patient caregiver. To make his sessions as valuable as possible, please come prepared to challenge him with the questions whose answers have eluded you for years.

Tracey L. Knutson is a licensed attorney in Anchorage, Alaska, whose primary practice involves working with recreation and adventure sports commercial operators, public land administrators, and recreation-oriented educational groups. An experienced trial lawyer, Tracey defends recreation companies and sports groups

from liability claims, often negotiating pretrial conclusions that minimize time and expense. In addition, she provides risk management and training services.

Rob Koning is the Wilderness Department Manager for the Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Program in Albany, Oregon. With nine years in therapeutic wilderness expeditionary pursuits, Rob's current focus is in staff development and risk management.

Alex Kosseff is the director of the Outdoor Safety Institute and author of the AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership. As the former Leadership and Volunteer Relations Director for the Appalachian Mountain Club, Alex developed risk management systems for 9,000 annual professional and volunteer outdoor programs. When not focused on risk management consulting, Alex climbs, skis, and instructs outdoor programs in Montana.

Jen Lamb is the Director of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability at NOLS. In this role, she supports the school's conservation and access efforts at a local, regional, and national level, and represents NOLS with federal land managers, recreation organizations, and congressional representatives to promote policies that protect wild land classrooms and access to them. She also drives the school's environmental sustainability initiative, with the goal of decreasing NOLS' global environmental footprint, and oversees the development of place-based curriculum that facilitates student learning about stewardship and sustainability.

Drew Leemon, the Director of Risk Management for the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), began his career in outdoor education in 1979 and 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-authored Risk Management for Outdoor Leaders.

Michael Lindsey is Vice President of Safety at Outward Bound Inc. He began his career in outdoor education in 1979 as an Outward Bound instructor. He worked as an instructor in the United States and abroad before becoming program director for Colorado Outward Bound School in 1984. He was the NOLS

Rocky Mountain director at the National Outdoor Leadership School in the early 1990s and served as operations director for six years until 2002.

Brendan Madden is the director of Hulbert Outdoor Center in Vermont, overseeing both residential and expedition-based outdoor education programs. He spent 11 years at the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) as a senior instructor, NOLS Rocky Mountain program director, NOLS Yukon program supervisor, and assistant director of NOLS Professional Training. Prior to NOLS he was a senior instructor at Outward Bound Canada. Brendan occasionally works as a risk management trainer and presenter for NOLS.

Doug Mahon has been working in the experiential, wilderness, and character education field for 30 years. With Rob Chatfield, Doug was a co-presenter at the WRMC Emergency Action Response Workshop in 2004 and 2005. Additionally, Doug has delivered trainings to for-profit and not-for-profit organizations on topics such as Leading Change and Transition, Effectively Managing the Conflict of Change, The Heroic Journey, Effective Communication, The Wonder of Adolescents, Servant Leadership, and Site Management.

Will Marling has earned undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate degrees in a variety of disciplines. In 2000 he was trained by the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), which added to his skill set for responding people in crisis. His praxis has been informed as a responder to national and international events from violent crimes to natural disasters.

David McEvoy is the co-founder of Aerie. David has 20 years professional experience as a paramedic and has lead backcountry conservation corps crews for the SCA, the Green Mountain Club, and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps since 1989. Yet to be mauled by anything other than a hungry chicken, David spends as much time as possible with his family in Montana's backcountry.

Vanessa Mendillo Riegler is the Director of New Center Development and former project manager/interim executive director at Outward Bound.

Rhonda Mickelson has worked in the camping profession for over 30 years, starting as a summer camp counselor, moving into

People I meet, or whose friendship I renew, each year at the WRMC have regularly been part of my professional development and my organization's success in preventing or, when necessary, responding to critical incidents in the field.

*Jay A. Satz, Vice President for Western Initiatives,
Student Conservation Association (SCA)*

the role of program director for a large private camp, and finally becoming a camp director. After having been a longtime volunteer with the American Camp Association, Rhonda has served as the Director of Standards for over three years. She has served as a member of the ACA Hotline Team during this time as well.

Frances Mock is an attorney specializing in advising wilderness and experiential education programs. She is counsel to Outward Bound, NOLS, and other clients and advises on responding to serious incidents, claims, and lawsuits, as well as other matters such as ADA compliance, liability release forms, contracts, and general risk management. Frances worked as a Class V whitewater rafting guide, cross country skiing instructor for special needs populations, and in other adventure-based industries for 10 years before becoming an attorney.

Kevin Moeller is the Wilderness Program Manager at the Santa Fe Mountain Center where he develops programs for adjudicated and referred youth that involve extended wilderness contact. These programs include rock climbing, rappelling, and hiking components. He has been at the Mountain Center since 1999. In addition to working with youth he is the Mountain Center's risk manager and technical trainer and is currently at work helping to re-define many of the Mountain Center's program curriculums.

Paul Nicolazzo has worked in the outdoor industry since 1978 as a professional outdoor guide, field instructor, staff trainer, program manager, outdoor program designer, and consultant (including 22 years with Outward Bound). He is the director of the Wilderness Medicine Training Center, a leader in innovative and practical instruction in wilderness medicine outdoor program risk management. His risk management models (Site Management, Outcome Model, etc.) are used effectively by colleges, universities, camps, and outfitters nationwide.

Matt Osgood is the Summer Program Coordinator at Summer Search, a leadership and youth development program for low-income high school students that provides year-round mentoring, college support, and scholarships for experiential education trips during the summer. They currently serve 1,200 students in seven cities across the U.S., connecting them to wilderness programs like Outward Bound, NOLS, and SCA. Matt holds a BA from Hanover College.

Nancy Oswald is the Assistant Director of Field Operations for SCA's Community Programs. SCA engages over 2,000 youth annually in year-round programming in 20 metropolitan areas throughout the country. The program provides one-day ongoing and progressive opportunities for youth to develop conservation and outdoor leadership skills while building an ethic of community and environmental stewardship.

Brenda Porter is the Education Director for the Colorado Mountain Club, a volunteer-based outdoor organization with more than 900 volunteer trip leaders. She is currently revamping their volunteer leadership and risk management training program, including design of supplementary web-based training materials.

Rick Potts is the Chief of Conservation and Outdoor Recreation for the National Park Service. He has more than 30 years experience managing landscapes and their use by people, and he has been with NPS since 1984. He holds academic degrees in Animal Science (B.S., Pre-Veterinary) and a Master of Science degree in Animal Nutrition/Wildlife Management from Penn State University. He is a wildlife biologist and a graduate of the National Park Service Natural Resource Specialist Training Program and the Penn State Executive Development Program.

Robert Ratcliffe is currently the Division Chief for the Bureau of Land Management's National Recreation and Visitor Services Program. He previously served as the program's deputy for five years. Bob led the effort to develop and implement the BLM's new Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services, one of the Bureau's key strategic efforts to better serve the public, engage partners, and protect and conserve natural resources.

Gates Richards is a senior instructor for the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS (WMI). Gates has been involved in outdoor education and emergency medical services (EMS) since the early 1990s. Over the years he has worked in outdoor programming throughout the Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest, and Alaska. He has worked urban EMS in Washington, DC, Seattle, WA, and Gunnison County, CO, and is currently an Intermediate EMT in Lander, WY. Gates began teaching for WMI in 1998 and now bears the title of WMI Special Programs Manager. He oversees WMI's WEMT and Instructor Training programs and is a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine.

Mark Ritchie has lived most of the last 20+ years in Thailand as a researcher, consultant, trainer, project evaluator, and teacher. He founded the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute, a recognized leader in experiential education and international risk management. When not on an expedition or dealing with a crisis, he plays Irish music in a band in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Billy Roos has been actively involved in outdoor education since 1973 as an instructor, course director, medical screener, and facilities manager. He has worked in the Outward Bound safety department since 2004 and is presently the Director of Safety, based in Golden, CO.

Jay A. Satz is Vice President for Western Initiatives for SCA, located in Seattle. He has served on the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee since 1995 and regularly writes and presents on risk management issues, as well as performs safety audits and incident reviews within the industry. Jay also serves as a risk management instructor and board member of Aerie Backcountry Medicine and works collaboratively at the most senior levels of the National Park Service on safety and risk management issues.

Kirk Shimeall, after working as a wilderness guide, was demoted to management at Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Programs twelve years ago and currently works as the Wilderness Program

Manager. He enjoys many outdoor activities with his wife and two young sons, surfing, dark chocolate, playing Ultimate, natural building with cob and straw bale, and reading irreverent satire such as *The Onion*. He is currently pursuing an MBA with an emphasis on sustainability from one of the nation's leading "green" business schools, Bainbridge Graduate Institute.

Steve Smith has over 15 years of experience working as an educator, both outdoors and in university settings. He has hired and trained hundreds of outdoor instructors while serving as Staffing Manager for Outward Bound, and wrote sections of Outward Bound's Trainer's Manual. He now owns and runs Experiential Consulting, a Seattle-based company that serves the outdoor education industry in the (inter-related) areas of risk management, staff training, and human resources. He has learned that the best adventures involve strong coffee, great food, and tenacious people.

Justin Talbot is the Wilderness Programs Manager for the High Mountain Institute (HMI) in Leadville, Colorado. HMI's defining program is the Rocky Mountain Semester, a semester-long academic and wilderness program for high school juniors. HMI also offers leadership development, wilderness medicine, avalanche, and other custom courses.

Shana Tarter is the assistant director of and a senior instructor for the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS. She is the current chair of the Wilderness Risk Management Conference Steering Committee and has been involved with the WRMC for many years. Her background includes varied work in outdoor education, risk management, college program administration, and emergency medical services.

Liz Tuohy was the program director for NOLS Rocky Mountain for five years where she oversaw (directly and indirectly) 250 field staff each year and up to 45,000 student days annually. She was responsible for supervising instructors in risk management, student outcomes, and curriculum. She is experienced in instilling new curriculum on courses, addressing performance issues in staff, coaching staff to address student performance concerns, managing evacuations, and developing staff qualifications.

Mark Vermeal is National Director of Risk Management and Safety for the Student Conservation Association (SCA). He is responsible for developing and implementing risk management strategies for nearly 4,200 staff and volunteers nationwide. Mark has over 15 years of director-level outdoor programs experience. As an EMT, he has been a wilderness medicine instructor, an

AMGA-certified rock instructor, an ACA-certified whitewater open canoe instructor, and member of the board of directors for the Pemi Valley Search and Rescue Team.

Edwin Weih is a Physician Assistant and graduated from Emory University School of Medicine. He has been a professional raft guide in the southeast and has also taught climbing programs. He helped establish and develop comprehensive wilderness medical programs and kits for Georgia Tech's outdoor recreation program. He is currently the medical director for Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Programs. He has a strong interest in preprogram medical evaluation of clients and management of medical emergencies in the field.

Jed Williamson, M.Ed. is the immediate past president of Sterling College in Vermont. He is co-author of the AEE Accreditation Standards for Adventure Programs, editor of *Accidents in North American Mountaineering*, and co-designer of the "Live, Learn, and Teach" graduate program in experiential education at UNH. He has conducted many risk management reviews and accident investigations for adventure programs.

Jay Whitacre has had the opportunity to facilitate and guide in the outdoors for over 15 years. His experience includes guiding in the mountains and on the rivers of the West, creating an adventure program at a therapeutic boarding school in Montana, working with the Adaptive Sports Program in Colorado, and traveling internationally. Currently, he is pursuing his master's degree in outdoor recreation at Indiana University.

Janet Zeller is the National Accessibility Program Manager for the U.S. Forest Service in the agency's Washington, DC, headquarters. She has been involved in the development and implementation of the Forest Service accessibility programs and policies since joining the agency in 1991. Janet also works with other federal agencies and organizations on a full range of recreation and accessibility issues. Janet, a lifelong recreationist herself, also instructs accessibility and universal design of programs and facilities at training sessions nationally.

Lester R. Zook is the director of the Outdoor Ministry and Adventure Leadership Program at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. His doctorate is from the University of Virginia (1995). In 2004, he started WILD GUYde Adventures, providing adventure guiding and staff training for summer camps, groups, and families in the various backcountry areas of Virginia and West Virginia.

Exhibitors and Supporters

Join us Thursday, October 14 from 5:30 p.m.–6:45 p.m. for this year's Exhibitor Reception!

While you network with great companies who support our industry, enjoy light refreshments and drinks from the bar. We will also be raffling some exciting giveaways, so show up to win! Below are this year's exhibitors...stop by and let them introduce themselves!

Exhibitors



Adventure Egg Nutrition is the maker of "Anywhere Scrambles," a natural whole egg powder. Our eggs has been gently dried to prevent the denaturing of proteins. This gives you a great tasting egg that can be used for scrambling and baking.



Aerie Backcountry Medicine inspires our students to become compassionate, skilled care providers. Risk management and crisis response form the core of all Aerie programs, and we are proud to be attending our thirteenth WRMC with other leaders in the field.



The **American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA)** is the premier source for training credentials and services for professional mountain guides and climbing instructors in the United States. Since 1979, the AMGA has been dedicated to supporting the profession through excellence in education to enhance the quality of outdoor services provided to the public.



The **Association for Experiential Education (AEE)** is a nonprofit, professional membership association dedicated to experiential education and the students, educators, and practitioners who utilize its philosophy.



International Sustainable Development Studies Institute (ISDSI) is based in Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand, in the heart of mainland Southeast Asia. ISDSI runs innovative study-abroad programs for American college students in Thailand.



MERCHANTS Short Term Solutions provides fleets to adventure groups and companies nationwide, for rental or lease, by the month or longer. MERCHANTS specializes in passenger vans, trucks, and SUV rentals.



For over 45 years, students with the **National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)** have learned and mastered outdoor skills, developed leadership, and studied environmental ethics in some of the most wild classrooms in the world!



Outdoor Educators Insurance (OEI) has been a leader in creating custom insurance and risk management programs to outdoor industry for over ten years. Their lines of insurance include property, loss of income, general liability, auto, directors and officers, employment practices, sexual misconduct, professional, umbrella, accident, and workers compensation.



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.



Outdoor Prolink is your one stop pro-deal website. If you're looking for new program packs, rental climbing shoes, Hardwear, or that ever elusive lightweight yet comfortable sleeping pad, it will all be there.



Outdoor Safety Institute (OSI) provides outdoor education and recreation providers with safety, liability, and program management solutions. OSI provides global safety management support to organizations of all types operating in remote environments.



Outward Bound delivers challenging learning expeditions that inspire character development, leadership and service. Outward Bound helps its students realize their full potential, for themselves, and for a better world.



"The Natural Choice for Insurance," **Pachner & Associates Insurance Brokers and Consultants** specializes in the non-motorized outdoor recreation industry, trail associations and outdoor clubs, nature education, environmental conservation, and environmental research organizations.



Rescue Essentials offers more than 700 emergency medical, rescue, and survival products, and are an online stocking distributor of SAM Medical Products, as well as a select reseller of North American Rescue Products.



Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries (SROM), the premier Christ-centered wilderness ministry in the world, uses the wilderness to teach our values of spiritual transformation, leadership development, character formation, deep community, and skill acquisition.



The **Student Conservation Association (SCA)** provides college and high school-aged members with hands-on conservation service opportunities in virtually every field imaginable, from tracking grizzlies through the Tetons to restoring desert ecosystems and teaching environmental education at Washington D.C.'s Urban Tree House.



Thompson Rivers University's Adventure Studies Department offers some of the finest most comprehensive adventure studies training available. Ideally located in Central British Columbia, the department offers certificates, di-

plomas, and degree studies, and operates the training and certification program for the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides.



The **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.



For two decades and with over 100,000 graduates, the **Wilderness Medicine Institute** of NOLS (WMI) provides the highest quality education and information for the recognition, treatment, and prevention of wilderness emergencies.

Sponsors and Donors



The **Biffy Bag** is a pocket-sized personal disposable toilet. Its unique comfort-fit design offers you a sanitary and discrete relief experience any time nature calls. It is odor free, has three layers of leak protection, and is landfill approved.



Bridge Outdoors is a Lander, Wyoming, company specializing in providing outdoor products to small and mid-size outdoor retailers, businesses, and organizations under their own brand or company name for retail sale and promotion.



Direct Bearing Incorporated (DBI) has been specializing in safety and risk management consulting since 1997, as a small publishing house and a full-service consulting firm dedicated to providing the outdoor adventure industry with integrated risk management solutions.



Elemental Herbs' vision is that people are inspired to live in balance with nature. The small California company offers organic, herbal-based healing formulas: healing balm, lip balms, pain relief spray, and zinc sunscreens.



ExpeNews is a communication platform that allows explorers of all levels and disciplines to maintain a simple, affordable, and interactive website to share their expedition progress and location in real time.



FULCRUM PUBLISHING **Fulcrum Publishing** is a resounding voice for independent publishing from the heart of the American West. Our titles explore and engage the areas of nature, history, public policy, and culture.



Design. Quality. Authenticity. **Mountain Khakis** are the best-fitting, best-looking, best damn "hips-down" apparel on the planet. Casual comfort meets rugged mountain style—offered in colors and textures found in nature's palette, Mountain Khakis are "Built for the Mountain Life."



Point6 Socks are guaranteed to be the most comfortable and durable wool socks you can own. Point6 uses state of the art knitting and spinning technologies to create a softer and more durable result, while the sport specific fit reinforces comfort for enhanced performance.



Stackpole Books publishes and distributes a variety of topics that include the NOLS library, hiking, climbing, fly-fishing, paddle sports, nature, birding, and more. Visit www.stackpole-books.com for their complete selection.



Women's Adventure is the only sports, travel, fitness, and lifestyle magazine published specifically for active women. Published quarterly, *Women's Adventure* is for women who choose to thrive in the wild. Every edition inspires, informs and invigorates.

History of the WRMC

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 Wilderness Risk Managers Committee has become a national consortium of 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, continued to enhance the professionalism of the conference and extend its reach within the industry.

As both the conference and committee grew, it became apparent that the current structure no longer best served the needs of either planning the conference or addressing key industry issues. In 2009, the committee disbanded itself and installed a small annual steering committee with responsibility for speaker selection and agenda development. In addition, a new interest group forum was created to follow the annual conference to allow for discussion of current industry related issues. 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.

2010 WRMC Steering Committee

Charles R. (Reb) Gregg, J.D.
Legal Issues in Outdoor Pursuits

Drew Leemon
National Outdoor Leadership School

Michael Lindsey
Outward Bound® USA

Sara Newman
National Park Service

Billy Roos
Outward Bound® USA

Jay A. Satz
Student Conservation Association

Shana Tarter
National Outdoor Leadership School

Mark T. Vermeal
Student Conservation Association

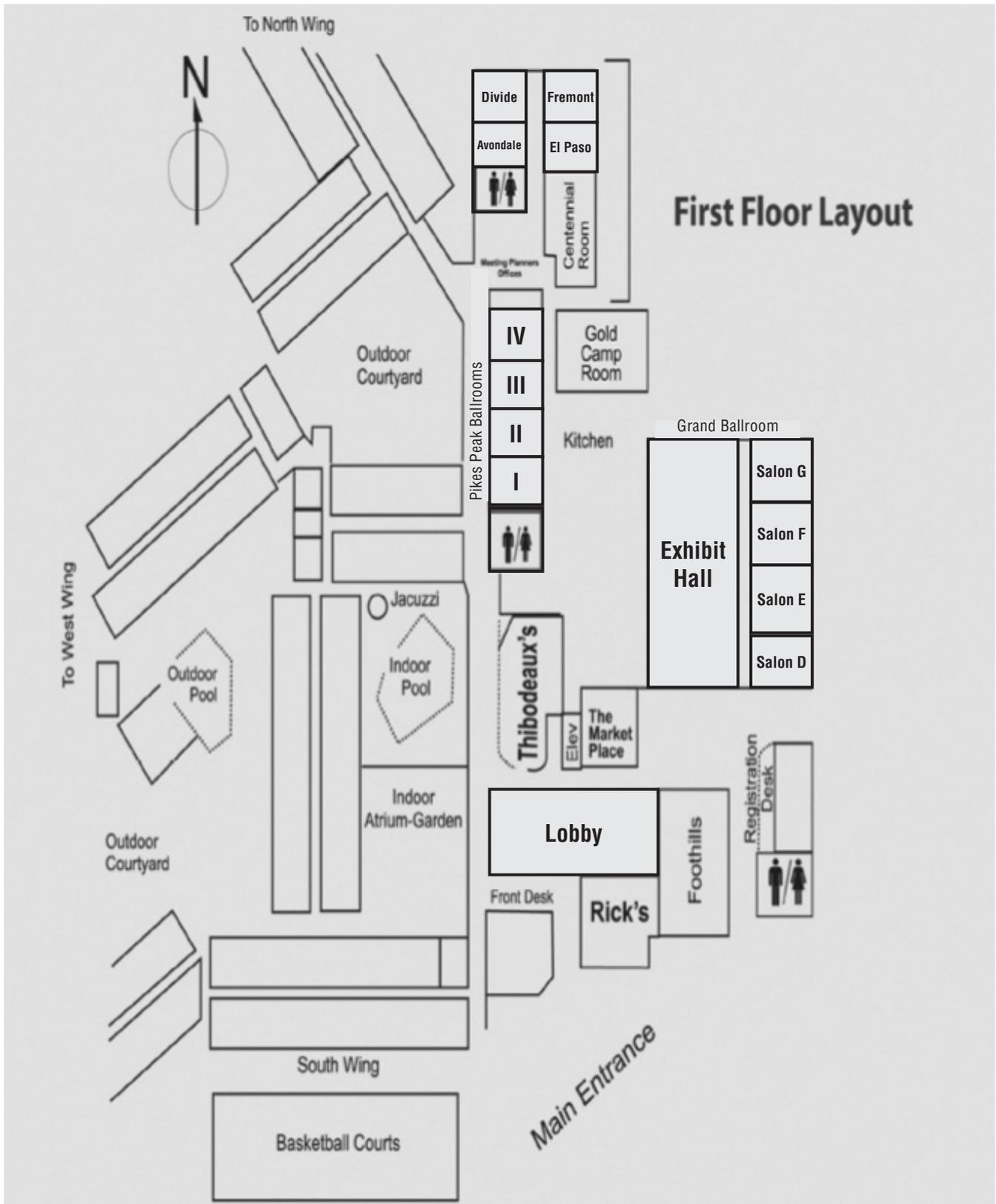
Jed Williamson
American Alpine Club

For more information on the WRMC
Steering Committee contact:

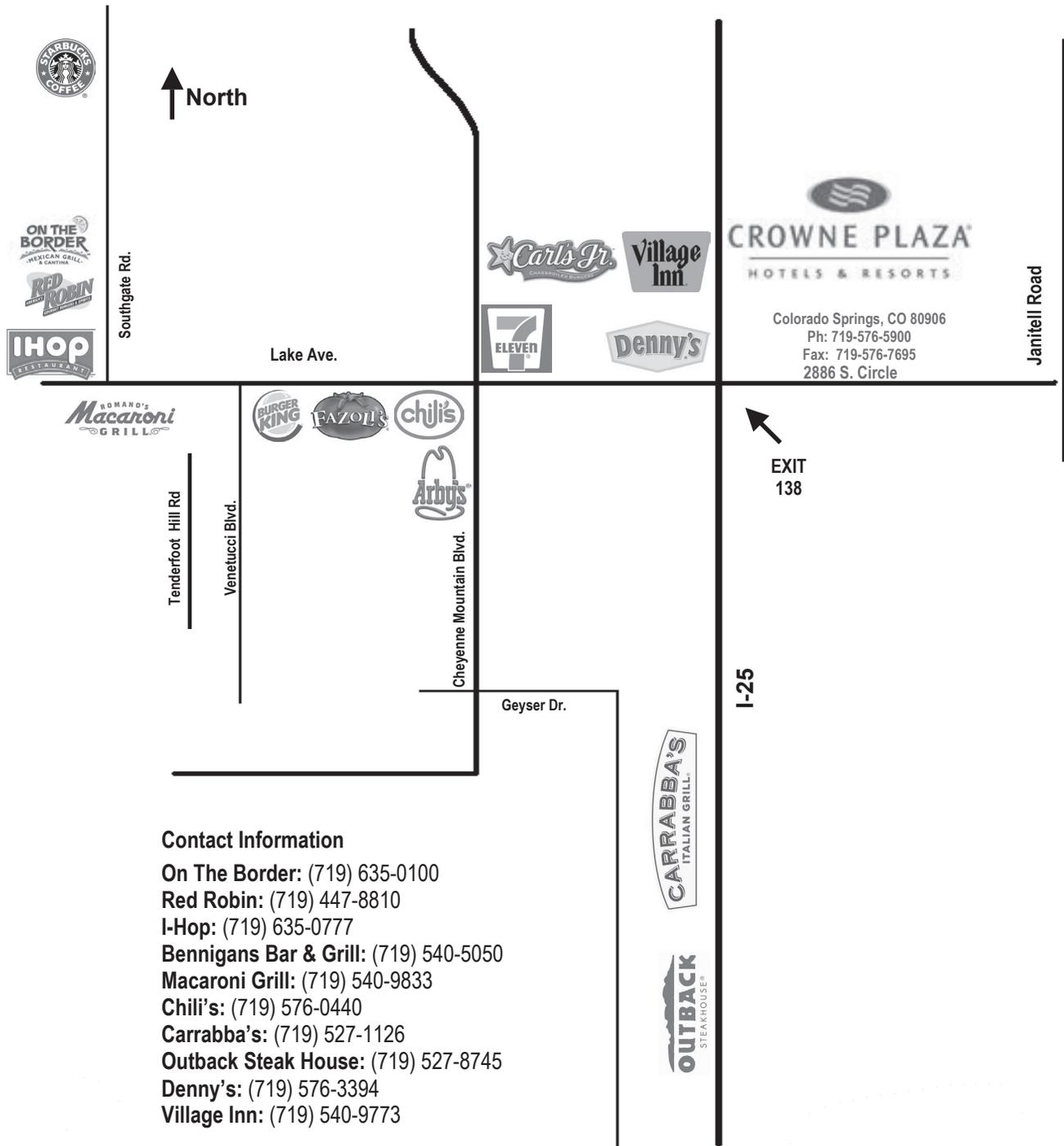
Shana Tarter, Outgoing Committee Chair
shana_tarter@nols.edu
307-335-2353

Liz Tuohy, Incoming Committee Chair
liz_tuohy@nols.edu

Hotel Floor Plan



Map of Local Area





2010 WRMC

Lead Conference Sponsor



Drew Leemon
Rick Rochelle
Shana L. Tarter

Conference Co-Sponsors



Michael Lindsey
Billy Roos



Jay A. Satz
Mark T. Vermeal