Colorado Mountain Club Gatherings Postponed Until Further Notice Updated Sunday, March 15, 2020

My fellow travelers in the CMC Community,

With a focus on the safety of our members, volunteer leaders, staff, and the larger outdoor community, the Colorado Mountain Club has made the difficult decision to postpone all official CMC gatherings, including events, trips, and schools for the time being effective Monday, March 16, 2020.

We did not come to this decision lightly. As outdoor folk, we know how to assess a situation, weigh the risks, and make the decision that is in the best interest of everyone involved – even if that means turning around when the summit is enticingly within reach, or calling off an objective because the conditions have deteriorated. It is not the easy decision, but it is the responsible one. And we know that the mountains, and that summit, await our return on another day. The responsible decision now is to encourage social distancing so we can help <u>"flatten the curve"</u> and protect the larger Colorado community.

CMC expects to reschedule our events and schools when the greatest threat of the COVID-19 pandemic has passed. Many of our instructors are already working on solutions for online instruction for future courses; we'll keep you updated as these become available. For those enrolled in postponed CMC schools and events, we will credit your registration toward a future session, when it is rescheduled. For those wishing to receive a refund instead, please contact the office at <u>office@cmc.org</u>.

We hope this decision does not stop you from being active outdoors. The benefits of getting outside are undeniable – it reduces stress and anxiety, boosts the immune system, lowers the heart rate, and reduces inflammation. During these unprecedented times, a good dose of sunshine, fresh air, and a break from the daily news may be the just the thing. You can also practice some social distancing in Colorado's vast open spaces.

As you can imagine, the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak are significant. Your generosity is more critical than ever, so we thank you in advance for any support you can provide to the CMC as we continue striving toward our mission. If you are in a position to do so, please visit our <u>donation page</u> and support our efforts in this time of uncertainty.

Like Colorado's mountain weather, the situation around the COVID-19 pandemic is changing rapidly. We will continue to diligently monitor expert sources, like the <u>Center for Disease</u> <u>Control and Prevention (CDC)</u> and the <u>Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment</u> (<u>CDPHE</u>), to help us navigate this unchartered territory. We will also keep you updated on any other changes to CMC policy. Thank you for your support, your understanding, and your membership. I firmly believe in the strength of our community to get us through this, and that, to me, is the most reassuring thing of all.

With gratitude,

Keegan Young Executive Director