



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Ice Age National Scenic Trail
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711



7.B. (IATR)

March 18, 2020

Dear Volunteers:

I know that the Ice Age Trail Alliance has recently updated you with recommended actions regarding gatherings and events during this period of public health and safety concern during the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Please use those resources for the best updated information available from professionals at the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

I also want to offer my thanks and encouragement to each of you. While the National Park Service and the Ice Age Trail Alliance are assisting our staff members and you in making informed decisions about workplace precautions, postponements, and cancellations, please remember to apply these guidelines in your personal lives as well.

In all we do, at work and at home, we must always come to decisions regarding Risk Management—now more so than ever. There are proven tools that help us to assess risk, mitigate hazards, and ultimately decide if any particular action has risks that outweigh the gains. If you haven't had the opportunity to do so yet, I strongly encourage each of you to spend some of your down time from scheduled Trail activities to view our *Trail Safe!* video series.

Trail Safe! was developed to explore the “human factor” of safety. As you watch the video series, think of how the learning objectives can be applied directly to the Coronavirus situation. Examine the risks versus the gains of whatever your daily routines involve, and develop some simple mitigation decisions to lower your risks as low as reasonably practical. It may be as complicated as canceling flight reservations and rescheduling a long-awaited trip overseas, or as simple as grocery shopping on a day, or time of day, that allows for greater “social distancing.” No task is too large or too small to apply some risk management decision-making, and often that is what makes the ultimate difference in the outcomes we experience.

Trail Safe! can be found on our NPS website at: <https://www.nps.gov/iatr/trail-safe.htm>

Again, thank you for your passion and commitment to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Please know that you and your families are in our thoughts as we all navigate the days and weeks ahead. From all of us at the National Park Service, stay safe and stay well.

Sincerely,

Eric Gabriel
Superintendent, Ice Age National Scenic Trail

