

It's already the end of August, and it's been a wonderful summer thanks to you. So many members, seasoned and new, have been gathering to learn, teach, and seek adventure together. What a change from last year and what a marvelous experience it is to see friends in person and in our wild places. It wouldn't have been possible without our amazing trip leaders and instructors -- the backbone of this community. The next time you interact with them, give them a smile, an elbow bump, or just say "Thanks!"

Your CMC is financially healthy, and our membership is strong. In fact, soon we'll publish our fiscal-year report celebrating a year of success despite many obstacles from COVID-19. We did it thanks to you, our membership and volunteer leadership. Of course, we're still navigating some rugged trails and unprecedented terrain.

As the Delta variant pokes its nasty little head out, we are determined to act responsibly and conservatively to protect our community. Out of an abundance of caution, masks are now required at the American Mountaineering Center at all times. We're also asking Trip Leaders and Instructors to manage their groups with personal responsibility. That means they have the discretion to require a vaccine status and/or mask for their trips and classes. Our volunteer leadership is comprised of experienced, trained, and competent individuals who seek to support you in your adventures. Please respect their decisions, and make your own individual decisions on how best to interact while we get through this, again, together. [Updated COVID-19 protocols](#) are always available on our website.

While we've been so excited about putting on a bigger and better Colorado Mountain Fest for you this year, bringing together 1,000 of our closest friends in a public setting doesn't seem like a responsible thing to do right now. We want to look out for the health and wellness of our members and the Golden community, so we've decided to cancel the festival.

But since the Club and this community is about you – our members – and we aim to stay true to our mission and support you getting into the outdoors, we will be offering a [Member Appreciation Weekend](#) with smaller clinics, trips, and workshop just for members. Space is limited, so [purchase your ticket today!](#) We thank you in advance for your understanding and look forward to a stellar Mountain Fest next year.

When I came to the CMC a little under three years ago, we worked together to imagine a future with an enhanced value proposition, a more stable financial foundation, and a larger, more welcoming community. We developed a new strategic plan, updated our code of conduct, and circulated our zero-tolerance policies for hate, bullying, and sexual harassment. All of this built upon a strong culture of mutual respect, gender diversity, and common values.

As we've managed a crisis related to the alleged criminal acts of Chun Chiang, we've sought to be transparent, proactive, and swift in the support and protection of the victims, our employees, and the entire community. We've worked diligently to [provide critical details to this case](#) without hindering the ongoing criminal prosecution. If you have any concerns regarding the investigation and/or the ongoing prosecution, please contact the Jefferson County District Attorneys' office at 303-271-6800 or the Golden Police Department at 303-384-8045.

We want you to feel safe and comfortable whenever you're out with the CMC, and if you don't feel that way, we want to know about it. To make it easier for our course and event attendees, volunteer leadership, and employees to report any incidents that do occur, we're introducing a new reporting system: EthicsPoint. EthicsPoint enables you to file a confidential, anonymous report via either the telephone or the Internet. This system will allow us to better track concerns and take action if needed, and we hope that it makes anyone interacting with the Club feel safe and supported. The online version will be available this fall, and the hotline is ready to use and can be reached at 1-844-929-4258.

The CMC is here to support getting Coloradans into wild places. We teach, we learn, we interact, we support, and we lead. We are here because you are here, and we're not going anywhere.

Thank you for your friendship and support. Now get outside!

Warmly,

Keegan Young
Executive Director