

Spring is just around the corner!

1 message

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[ESWA HOME](#) [VOLUNTEER](#) [BECOME A MEMBER](#) [DONATE](#)**2023 VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS RANGER TRAINING – JUNE 3**

It may still be full-on winter, but the 2023 VWR season is only three months away! Here's some important information for current VWRs:

- This year's training for new VWRs will occur on Saturday June 3 at the Eagles Nest HOA Pavilion. YOU are our best recruiter! Please reach out to friends and neighbors. The link to the application form is on our [website](#).
- Existing VWRs must be recertified each year. A one-hour mandatory session will be held by Zoom, with a video replay option for those who can't attend the Zoom session. The date, agenda, and Zoom link will be send out in April.
- Mentors are a critical part of training and keeping new VWRs. If you are willing to be a Mentor, email Mike Browning at mfbrowning1952@gmail.com.
- Each year, returning VWRs must sign the USFS's JHA (Job Hazard Analysis) and the ESWA Release and Uniform Policy. Look to receive these by email in April via DocuSign.
- We will once again kick off the season with social events in Eagle and Summit County. Dates and venues will be announced in May.
- Consider doing one or more trailhead hosting sessions this summer. They are fun and rewarding, count as one of your four minimum patrols, and allow you to contact more people. Consider tag teaming with another VWR -- one patrols for two hours while the other stays at the trailhead, and then switch. Enjoy the best of both worlds!



So, get your boots greased up, look for more information on all the above, and start to anticipate another great season!

WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL – WOW!



OUR FIRST FILM FESTIVAL was a grand success! A resounding THANKS to all of our sponsors, donors, attendees, and volunteers! It was a team effort and team fun and inspiration! And a special thanks to our co-host A-Basin, without whom it all would not have been possible.

All proceeds will go to ESWA's mission to protect, educate, and advocate on behalf of our local federally protected Wilderness Areas.



Our dedicated pink-hat volunteers sold lots of tickets for great door prizes donated by our many generous Sponsors. Check out more fun photos [here](#).



NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KRISTA HUGHES



I have built my life around spending as much time as I can outside, and so it was an easy decision to join ESWA when I learned about the organization several years ago. I learned about ESWA by running into and striking up a conversation with an ESWA Volunteer Wilderness Ranger who was on patrol. Considering how much time I spend on trails in Summit and Eagle

Counties, becoming a VWR myself seemed like a great way to give back to my local wilderness areas. As someone who also loves backpacking, I found myself signing up for a llama trip to Lake Constantine in the Holy Cross Wilderness that first summer. The work we did that weekend was extremely rewarding. Fast-forward two years, I am now coordinating ESWA's summer llama trips and have joined the Advocacy and Trails Committees. I was elated when Karn asked me to join the board, and hope to continue to find new ways to contribute to protecting our local wilderness areas.

How did I get to where I am now? My love for being outside began when I was a child. Growing up on the East Coast, my family spent as much time as we could skiing, hiking, and fishing in the Catskill Mountains in New York. After college, I stayed on the East Coast working as an equity research analyst for a large investment management firm. A little over 5 years ago, I was finally able to make my way to Colorado and start working remotely for the same firm, which is what I am still doing today. With a high stress job, I find that the best place to clear my head is on the trail. I hope to continue to enjoy the beauty around my home in Summit County for many years to come and believe we all have a role in making sure the wilderness experience we have today is available to future generations.

STILL TIME TO RENEW YOUR ESWA MEMBERSHIP

It is not too late to renew your ESWA membership to help us protect and preserve our Wilderness Areas. Memberships are calendar-year based, so please consider [joining/renewing](#) now.

AND A REMINDER FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



Photo: Courtesy Richard Seeley Photography

While we've been enjoying the great snow this winter, many of our wildlife neighbors are very vulnerable. So, please remember the "thumb

trick," here from our friends at Leave No Trace:

The thumb trick is a good general guideline for when you find yourself in the presence of wildlife outside. Make sure your arm is fully outstretched, give a thumbs up, cover up one eye, and point your thumb in the direction of the animal. If your thumb fully covers the animal you are looking at, this means you are likely far enough away to observe them safely. If you encounter a family of animals, make sure your thumb covers the entire group. Not only is this a good way to respect wildlife in their natural habitat, it's also important to note that animals with their young can act more territorial and protective, hence the extra space that's often needed.

And please remember to leash your dog in Wilderness Areas, and also in the presence of wildlife. Check out our recent Get Wild column on [Sharing the Winter Wilderness with Our Pups](#).

PROVIDE ESWA MUCH-NEEDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FREE

Sign up for City Market & King Soopers Community Rewards – it's so easy! If you don't yet have the card, please [sign up for one here](#). Then go to your [Community Rewards](#), choose your local store as your preferred store, and set ESWA as the charity to which you want to donate (search for Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance or use ESWA's code VX077)

[Donate](#)

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