For over 90 years, Eagle’s Nest’s mission has been to create a community where people of all ages work together to care for and support each other through times of joy and times of challenge. Today we are in a time of challenge as we collectively respond to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and the far reaching implications for communities everywhere. Because we are all facing this together, I am sending this message to all members of our Eagle’s Nest Foundation community far and wide.

I ask now for your support and understanding as we respond. We are focused on keeping our community healthy and safe now and into the future.

In particular, public health officials are calling on all of us to help “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 cases so that we do not overwhelm the healthcare system in the next several months. This can be done through protective measures such as “social distancing,” which requires changes in our behavior and in the ways we gather.

In this last week, we adjusted internal practices, protocols, and procedures to better align operations with public health recommendations. That work will continue.

With this message, I am sharing additional decisions about our programming. The Directors and I will continue to offer regular updates as the situation evolves and we have more information.

After carefully reviewing the existing and emerging guidance from federal and state officials, we have made the decision to adjust programming and office staffing.

Our offices will be staffed by a single individual for the foreseeable future while the remainder of our colleagues work remotely. If your call is not answered during regular business hours, please leave a message. We will be back in touch with you as soon as we are able. Email is a great way to reach individual staff members. Additionally, our campus is closed to visitors for the time being.

The Outdoor Academy students were on spring break last week. We have delayed their planned return to campus until later in April. The faculty have moved to remote learning with classes, community and advisor meetings, and even crafting together.

Outdoor Academy 25th Anniversary Celebration on April 25th has been postponed until the fall. Be on the lookout for a new date soon.

Eagle’s Nest Camp and Domestic Hantes are continuing to plan for a great summer. If a cancelation of any or all programming becomes necessary, tuition will be refunded or may be applied to 2021.

International Hante Adventures (Hante Darwin and Hante Spain) are canceled for this summer. Given their location, these European Hantes are distinctly different from our domestic programs. Participants
of the international Hantes may join other Eagle’s Nest Camp & Hante programs or may choose to receive a refund.

These program adjustments are subject to change as we receive new information. Status updates can be found on our webpage here:

In the meantime, we will wait for the State of North Carolina, CDC, WHO, local Health Departments, and other agencies to offer more guidance for decision-making about the health and well-being of our learning communities.

Families and students in each program area will be receiving specific information about program changes and what to expect in the weeks ahead.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility while we chart these new waters. Our foundation, trustees, staff, faculty, families, and alumni are resilient. Supporting each other and working together, we will navigate this new territory and emerge with expanded knowledge, strength, and an even deeper appreciation for being together in a close community again.

I am heartened to know of the resilience you all carry with you during this challenge. Please stay safe and take good care. With gratitude for your support,

Noni Waite-Kucera
Executive Director