

Spring Forward

1. Current Positives in TRR!

A. Joe's Outta sight Key Largo – a new outta sight clinic this year! This clinic was a huge success and we will continue this program in the upcoming years.

B. Ben's Kvanli – San Antonio, TX Chapter held his regional clinic recently and took veterans and volunteers into Mexico to paddle!

C. VA grant – We are getting closer! We have the funds to purchase gear so sit tight as I'll be contacting you in the next few weeks for information regarding shipping, etc.

2. This week - Springing forward

*Get volunteers to look at inventory, gaskets, gear, etc. Take note of the gear you have and what you might need going forward. With the warmer weather approaching you don't want to learn that your gear is unusable when you go out for a paddle. Take some time to evaluate what you may need.

*Are you staffed the way you need to be right now? Are your volunteers happy? Do your volunteers know what their volunteer roles are? Make sure you are taking care of your volunteers by staying in-tune with them. You do not want to burn out your volunteers which happens all too often.

*ORS and Fundraising – TRR spends roughly \$160,000 a year on trips. Your fundraising will help augment those costs that are sometimes hard for us to cover. Remember that whatever funds you raise TRRN gets 10% of the total raised.

*Planning party? Would you like to? We'd love to fund a party so that you can plan for spring and summer. Remember to shake up your sessions! Try adding in SUP's or a night or nature paddle. Ever thought of incorporating an overnighter rafting trip for your chapter? Consider reaching out to another non-profit or local paddling group for ideas and to keep things moving forward. Help out a local children's organization for kids with disabilities. Reach out to places that help blind or visually impaired Veterans for a chance to introduce them to a new sport. The possibilities are endless!!!!

3. Housekeeping and Administrative

***Trailers and vans – check the overall maintenance and condition of these items. Don't neglect the vehicles and trailer that allow you to continue your programs. Please let Dave and Michelle know if you need help with maintenance of your trailer or vehicle. For chapters that need trailers and vans the deal is you have to fundraise to get these items and we will fill in for the difference. For chapters that currently have vans and trailers TRRN needs to know if you have either or both of these items. You are responsible for registering them, tagging them and keeping up the general maintenance.**

***Chapter balances – how does that work when you raise funds? You get 90% and TRR gets 10%. You send TRRN me the full amount of the check and it will sit in the general bank account until you need to use it. While we keep record of what chapters raise what funds you should also keep a running ledger in case there are discrepancies.**

4. Upcoming events

***Kayak Football March 21st chapters compete nationally playing kayak football. Water Reed will be hosting their Kayak Football Tournament on March 21st. We encourage you to get your teams prepared for competition!**

***Denver Biathlon is May 10th – Mother's Day**

***Women's trip – May 15-21st. We send 8 ladies on this trip and we still need more nominations. Please send nominations and questions to Jenn Kerr - jennk121@gmail.com**

***OuttaSight Clinic in Battle Creek, MI – May 15-21st. It is a class 2-3 clinic. Please send questions to Scott Fraser - Gigjumper@gmail.com**

National Leadership Conference in Deep Creek – June 6-13th. More details to come on the next call which will be Wednesday March 25th.

5. Something positive:

***Cincinnati Story – a trailer full of TRR gear and boats was stolen off of private property of another non-profit where we house our items. The community Nationally has rallied behind them. They already have all new boats, and gear and**

we TRRN will be getting them a new trailer with the donations that came rolling in since this incident. It goes to show how important our Veterans are to each community. TRRN does some pretty amazing things for our veterans and from the overwhelming response it seems that the community would agree! Way to go Cincinnati! We are all here for you!

6. Additional Notes:

***Bill Finger with our Johnson City, TN chapter has a S.E. regional spring event happening on May 1 and 2nd. IT will take place Nantahala Gorge. They have room for roughly 100 folks. There are enough different rivers that Bill can accommodate any skill level. This year participants will be staying in the same place which will encourage bonding. If you would like more information about this event please contact Bill at BillFinger@yahoo.com.**

***Costa Rica trip – While it may be a ways away (October 17-24th) please let Bill Finger know now if you are interested in nominating a veteran. This is a class 3-4 trip so planning is key. Plus with this trip needing passports it is important to start that process ASAP. This trip can accommodate 6 veterans so space is limited. Contact Bill so that you can start coordinating with him.**

***Salmon, ID – Happening September 13th – 18th will be a 5 day trip on class 3 whitewater. This trip can accommodate 8 – 12 veterans. As a side note this is a wilderness trip which means that you will be camping. This trip can utilize rafts, IK's, and hard shells. That being said you do NOT have to be a class 3 boater to join this trip. If you are interested in nominating a Veterans please let Dave know – Dave@TeamRiverRunner.org**

***SE PA – Memorial Day Weekend! Plans are to boat the Lower Youghiogheny River (pronounced Yock River for short) which is a class 3 in Ohio, Pennsylvania on Sunday and Monday. This trip can accommodate up to 30 veterans. You can start off easy (class 1-2) on the middle Yough. For paddlers who are a solid class 2 and ready for class 3 then this is your trip! If you are interested please let Jim Riley know – Jim.Riley@TeamRiverRunner.org.**