



Covid-19 Statement from Journeys

Dear Journeys Community,

The times are definitely changing. . . Lots of uncertainty, upheaval and tragedy in the world right now.

Rite of Passage Journeys is dedicated to revitalizing and renewing the health and well-being of our communities, through the recovery and restoration of rites of passage and community ritual and ceremony. We do this by bringing people together, in all kinds of ways, most of them physically. Sadly, bringing people together is a difficult, if not impossible, prospect under the current conditions brought on by the rapid spread of Covid-19, the novel coronavirus.

We, too, must navigate these currents of uncertainty, learning how to respond and adapt as things quickly change and develop. The Staff and Board of Rite of Passage Journeys are in an ongoing conversation about what actions and responses we need to take, regarding our programs, policies and procedures. This is our first of what surely will be several updates to let you know what we are doing in response to this unprecedented situation.

All of our upcoming **Spring Community Workshops and Events** will either be modified to an online webinar format, or be postponed until we can again gather together safely. For information on specific classes, and to see the updates we have made to our cancellation policy in light of this health crisis, please see those updates posted to our [Community Program Cancellation Policy](#).

Summer Rite of Passage journeys are still a possibility — and given what we are hearing from parents, needed to support our kids as they grapple with our changing world. We are going ahead with our planning and preparations to ensure that guide teams are set, vans and gear are in great working order, and all is ready. As the core leadership team, it's a scary thing to take this bold path forward, since such a large portion of our activity (and hence operating income) is centered around these summer trips. This uncertainty also affects all the families who want to participate, yet are worried about the possibility of cancellations or closures. We have updated (and will continue updating) our [Cancellation and Refund policy](#) to better accommodate the realities that families are facing, and hope that by making the considerations clear, the choice to commit to a summer with Journeys will be easier. Soon, we will also post a comprehensive explanation (continuously updated, as health information is released) of the enhanced trip

procedures we will be taking to address the Covid-19 challenge and keep all our participants and staff safe.

Rite of Passage Journeys is committed, first and foremost, to the safety and well-being of our communities, and especially our youth. We will continue to monitor developments, and will only run our trips if we are confident that we can do so safely. We rely on the guidance of public health authorities in assessing these issues of safety and risk, and we are also committed to following the consensus of organizations who similarly serve youth in this wilderness exploration format. We will continue to work with consultants and partner organizations to combine our experience, perspectives and resources to find the best way forward through this crisis.

Peace and wild blessings
Journeys Board and Staff

Official Sources for latest updates:

Center for Disease Control ([CDC](#))
World Health Organization ([WHO](#))
State and local health authorities ([WA State](#))