

Hello! As a YMCA Blue Ridge group leader, we wanted to update you on our current situation, and ask for your assistance during this difficult time. You can help by passing this message along to all group participants, and anyone you know who values the mountain experience we provide.

Here's what's going on:

- YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly lost about three months of groups, so far, due to COVID-19, from mid-March through mid-June - a quarter of our year.
- Under North Carolina's stay at home ordinance, only essential staff are working on the mountain, which include mostly maintenance personnel to keep our grounds and buildings in good shape for our return.
- Our core leadership team is working remotely to navigate this rapidly progressing situation, and communicating regularly with staff, groups, and our board.
- We are in contact with our local health care organizations to explore a variety of ways that we can assist with needed resources in our community, such as working with our local food bank, and using our facilities to potentially serve as a quarantine site for first responders and medical staff.
- We are exploring all possible funding sources under the recently-passed stimulus plan, in an effort to continue to pay as many staff as possible (and our bills) during this difficult time.

As a non-profit conference center, YMCA Blue Ridge is sustained solely by our groups, and by donations. At this time, while we cannot host any groups, we ask for your support.

Your generosity will allow us to keep our staff whole, maintain our property, serve our community, and to remain strong through these extraordinary circumstances.

For those who can help, we have set up an emergency relief fund at this link:
blueridgeassembly.org/emergency-relief-fund

We sincerely appreciate you, and any amount of assistance you can provide. All of us at YMCA Blue Ridge miss seeing you on the Mountain, and we look forward to having our groups back to joyfully gather again.

Most of all we hope that you and yours are staying safe and well.

Thank you!