



# TRAIL TALES

## FRESH FROM THE TRAIL



<<First Name>>,

Welcome to our new *Trail Tales*, newsletter format. We want to always improve the way we communicate to you and that is what we hope to achieve going forward. This edition of Trail Tales features our #GivingTuesday update, winter outdoor opportunities, and a quick note from our Lead Adventurer Jonathan Slider.

## #GIVINGTUESDAY

Tuesday, December 1st was our first time participating in #GivingTuesday, a

global movement to bring awareness to nonprofits doing good in their communities. Trailblazing Hope Outdoors wanted to give back, and to do so our Executive Director, Jonathan Slider, did a tour of 6 different parks located in the 4 area park districts. While at each park he shared about #givingtuesday, the Outdoor Adventure Program, and also highlighted different features and activities at the various parks.

The goal was set to raise \$1,000, and we hit it and more! Through the Facebook fundraiser, we had some incredible individuals donate a total of \$1,145. Through our main giving campaign we received an additional \$1,000, for a single day total of \$2,145. Wow! Thank you so much.

If you were not able to donate, you still have the opportunity. Your financial support will help provide the gift of the outdoors as we plan on providing our participants with outdoor adventures such as ice skating, kayaking, rock climbing, and more in the coming year.

[DONATE](#)

## UPCOMING ADVENTURES

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### WINTER HIKING

One of the favorite things of the recent Outdoor Adventure Program was the hiking. The hikers couldn't get enough. So we want to provide an opportunity to do so. Starting next week, Wednesday the 16th, we will be hosting six Winter Pop Up hiking events on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings till the end of the year. This will be an opportunity to explore the surrounding parks and park districts as we will visit Sweet Arrow Reserve, Bill Yeck Park, and Sugarcreek Metropark.

So join us over the next three weeks on Wednesdays, 4-6pm and Saturdays, 10am-12pm to explore the beautiful trails and features of our incredible parks.

We may even hike in a winter wonderland; weather permitting.

Space is limited so register below.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

## NOTE FROM THE LEAD ADVENTURER **JONATHAN SLIDER**

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Last week I had the opportunity to backpack one of my favorite locations, Red River Gorge. It was a great way to kick off the winter hiking season. Unfortunately my first night was a little colder than I expected. It wasn't because the weather changed but rather the gear I had was not rated properly. I thought that I had a 0 degree sleeping bag, when it was more like a 32 degree sleeping bag and temps were in the low to mid 20s. If you've ever camped out with the wrong temperature bag you know how miserable it can be. Cold spots and

frigid toes praying for the morning to come. Thankfully the next day was warmer and I changed up what I wore the next night.

Outdoor recreation in the winter may seem like an oxymoron, but I am here to tell you that it can be done and it can be very enjoyable. The outdoors does not close down when it gets cold out, but rather there is a new world to explore. Your local parks are a great place to start or find you can find adventure sledding, ice skating, or taking a stroll in your neighborhood. You may be surprised at the beauty you will discover. Just make sure you are dressed warm enough.

We want to be an organization that provides outdoor opportunities year round and that is why we are offering the upcoming **Winter Pop Up Hikes**. We are excited for 2021 and the new adventures that we will have. We know that we cannot do it without the support and encouragement of people like you. If you have not done so already, please consider donating to our organization as well as sharing who we are and what we are aiming to accomplish: *To provide a modality of healing through outdoor recreation.*

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at  
[jonathan@trailblazinghope.com](mailto:jonathan@trailblazinghope.com).

Sincerely,

Jonathan Slider  
Trailblazing Hope Outdoors



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