



For Immediate Release

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BOEC Launches New Virtual Summer Programs & Joins Forces with Building Hope

Summer activities include virtual games, lessons and programs, as well as youth adventures.

[Breckenridge, Colo., June 11, 2020] – With specific components of Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center’s (BOEC) summer programming canceled a month ago, the BOEC staff has been hard at work reimagining what this summer will look like and what populations it can safely serve. Through its new program, “Recreating OUR Recreation,” BOEC is offering a whole new lineup of free virtual programs to its special populations. Additionally, BOEC is partnering with Building Hope Summit County’s **The HYPE** youth connection program to fill a community need by providing healthy recreational, small group day activities for local young people and others in need. All programs are free of cost to all participants.

Virtual Programs

In an effort to continue serving those BOEC cares about so deeply we have launched a series of fun, interactive and engaging virtual games, lessons and programs. The following are some things that are already in the hopper for the next four weeks. New virtual programs will be added throughout the summer.

Adaptive Chair Yoga

Every Wednesday throughout the month of June, BOEC is collaborating with adaptive yoga instructor and long-time BOEC volunteer, Jane Barber, to offer free virtual adaptive chair yoga classes. These classes are for anyone who may benefit from doing yoga in a chair or seated position and are held virtually using Zoom. Register by [clicking here](#).

Educational Shorts

Every Thursday a new weekly educational short video is posted on BOEC’s [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages with categories ranging from “What is Cubic Feet Per Second” to “The Importance of Drinking Plenty of Water.” These short 1-minute videos are meant to be educational and entertaining.

Virtual Challenge by Choice

Modeled after BOEC’s popular “Challenge by Choice,” program for those living with a traumatic brain injury, these free virtual programs are offered every Friday for one hour starting at 10am. Each week participants will take part via Zoom to play games, share stories and try their hand at new virtual activities. Register by [clicking here](#).

Youth Programs

Summit County is facing a mental health crisis due to unprecedented social isolation from COVID-19, and the local youth population is no different. So, to combat this mental health crisis, BOEC has joined forces with Building Hope's **The HYPE** program to give youth opportunities to have fun and connect with others in person in a healthy environment. Participants will benefit from BOEC's expertise in health-improving outdoor adventure programming, beginning with a day of boating dubbed the "BOEC Lake Dillon Adventure" on June 18, 2020. On June 25th BOEC will offer a Ropes Course Challenge with other activities implemented weekly including paddle boarding, rafting, hiking, rock climbing, ropes course, and more with our certified instructors. Each activity will be youth motivated and will strive to increase self-confidence, a sense of adventure and strength.

"BOEC is excited to join forces with Building Hope Summit County to offer our local youth population fun, healthy, outdoor activities during a time when nothing feels quite like normal," says Sonya Norris, Executive Director, BOEC. "Our BOEC team is experienced in offering outdoor experiential education and adventure to many populations ensuring everyone feels a sense of confidence and joy from the experience."

"We are very excited to be collaborating with the BOEC and other community partners to support healthy connections and social activities for young people," says Jen McAtamney, Executive Director, Building Hope. "This has been a gap in our programming for years, and we are ready to meet that challenge with our new teen connection program **The HYPE**."

This collaboration is made possible thanks to the partnership with Building Hope, as well as generous funding from local government grants and The Summit Foundation. The following are examples of the first two BOEC and **The HYPE** youth programs.

BOEC Lake Dillon Adventure – Thursday, June 18
9:00am to 11:30am for 14-16-year-olds (Limit 7)
1:00pm to 3:30pm for 17-20-year-olds (Limit 7)

On Thursday, June 18th, each BOEC Lake Dillon Adventure will start with a quick orientation before heading out on the water for a relaxing, beautiful and fun paddle. All participants will have their own kayak equipped with outriggers to minimize the risk of flipping. Multi-seat kayaks will be available for friends that want to paddle together and, in addition to the boats, BOEC will provide PFD's, instruction and supervision, extra hand sanitizer, a mobile hand washing station, and additional masks to all participants.

BOEC Ropes Course Challenge – Thursday, June 25
11:00am to 2:00pm for 14-20-year-olds (Limit 6)

On Thursday, June 25th, BOEC's Teen Program returns with the BOEC Ropes Course Challenge where you can hang out in the trees and challenge yourself. After instruction from BOEC staff, you will go on our



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two-story multi-event ropes course located in the woods of BOEC's 39-acre Wilderness Site overlooking Breckenridge. Participants can try their hand at rappelling and zip lining as well. BOEC will provide harnesses, helmets, all ropes course equipment, instruction and supervision, extra hand sanitizer, a mobile hand washing station, and additional masks to all participants.

Advance registration and a waiver signed by an adult/legal guardian is required for all activities. Interested individuals must register through Building Hope by visiting <https://buildinghopesummit.org/events..>

More courses will be added weekly depending upon community interest.

About BOEC

BOEC is a non-profit 501(c)3 human service organization whose mission is to expand the potential of people with disabilities and special needs through meaningful, educational, and inspirational outdoor experiences. BOEC offers state-of-the-art programming and features a highly trained professional staff. The major programs include the Adaptive Ski and Ride Program, Wilderness Program and Internship Program that serves over 2,500 participants each year for over 10,000 programming days. Participants come from all over the world and include adults and children with physical, cognitive, and sensory disabilities, injured veterans, youth at risk, and many other interested parties.

About Building Hope

Building Hope Summit County is a community-wide initiative designed to create a more coordinate, effective and responsive mental health system that promotes emotional health, reduces stigma and improves access to care and support for everyone in Summit County. Building Hope was launched in 2016, after several well-known Summit County locals took their own lives. Among these individuals was Patti Casey, a long time and loved Breckenridge resident with deep roots in the community. Patti's family created the Patti Casey Memorial Fund to provide the initial support for the Building Hope Initiative to honor her life. With the support of the Casey Family, Gini Bradley, a skilled community organizer and The Summit Foundation, a series of large stakeholder meetings were convened to launch this important community effort. Almost two years later, the effort now includes support from over 25 local agencies and hundreds of local residents.

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