

From: [Nathanael Bondi](#)
To: [Faculty Senate](#)
Cc: [Kevin Langlois](#)
Subject: Expression of Interest: Mines@150 Signature Experiences
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 4:28:27 PM

Hello Senate,

We are certainly interested in providing amazing Mines@150 Signature Experiences.

Here are the current three ideas that the Outdoor Rec Center would propose for Signature Experiences. These would have options to build over the next 3-5 years.

Avalanche Education Courses

With well over 700 students on campus involved in yearly ski resort season passes and the number of backcountry skiers increasing rapidly each season, the ORC regularly does avalanche awareness courses, AIARE Avalanche Rescue (1 day), Level 1 (3 days), and Level 2 (3 days) classes. Mines is one of the only universities in Colorado to offer all of these programs for our students. Mines has a robust Backcountry Ski/Ride Club, a Ski Club, and the ORC Trips and Events that all promote off-piste skiing. The challenge is that there is always a cost (\$50-\$350) per course, and spaces often run out. We would like to provide greater opportunities to our students for training, mentoring with professionals, and completion of all seven days of the AIARE Recreation training program and offer future continuing education. With all that is happening this year, the backcountry will be full of enthusiastic skiers, snowshoers, and snowboarders. Colorado historically has one of the highest backcountry accident and fatality rates, and we want to train our students well to have a lifetime of great recreational experiences.

Transfer Student – Rite of Passage Program

Transfer students often feel that they are not a “real student” or it takes them longer to consider themselves a Mines Student. The Outdoor Rec Center would like to build adventure-based programs for transfer students that would occur before the fall semester and early in the winter semester as a rite of passage for transfer students. The goals would include: connection to current Mines students, building a framework of Mines traditions, developing friendships with Mines Students and Faculty, exploring stigma around asking for helping and giving resources for transfers to be successful.

Alternative Spring Break Programming

Mines students work hard during the semester and sometimes play harder than is healthy on spring break. Offering opportunities for students to unwind, connect with peers, rejuvenate, and have healthy reinforcement is essential to their success at Mines and the patterns they are creating as adults. The ORC would like to greatly expand the offerings for alternative spring break programming for Mines students, and provide it for a fraction of the expense which these programs normally cost a student. In past years the ORC has successfully run trips to Kauai, Hawaii; Utah National Parks; Moab Utah, backcountry skiing and cabin trips, Iceland, and even filled a Costa Rica trip 9 months before COVID hit! Many of these programs have been filled to capacity very early each year/semester, and the cost inhibits other students. We would like to 1) expand offerings, and 2) decrease student barriers to these programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Nate Bondi

Director of the Outdoor Recreation Center

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[Outdoor Rec Center Website](#)

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