

# UDC NEWS

Thanksgiving | UDC Summit | Outdoor Activities

## Life Outdoors

REI has an interesting slogan "Life Outdoors is a Life Well Lived". This slogan brings up a thought provoking question which is what is "life outdoors"?

If you've ever accidentally walked off a trail in the woods you'll know this feeling. You think you're following a clearly marked path, only to come to a grove of trees, plants, thick shrubbery, or dense forest where the "path" clearly ends. You pause for a moment to find the trail; you look around thoughtfully; you're not sure when you left the well-worn path, but you're definitely not on it now. So you start trying to retrace your steps. You thought you knew the way so you weren't using your GPS and you don't have a compass and map. How long have you been walking off-trail? How far back? Which way? As you first try one route back, then another... they all look the same. You're lost!

I grew up hiking, camping, hunting, scuba diving and generally spending time in the outdoors; but over time those interests took a back seat to other pursuits. First work; college; then family; then work again, and dealing the maladies of the modern world.

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## Happy Thanksgiving!

2024 has been an amazing year for Utah Deaf Campers and friends. A lot has happened in 2024:

- Utah Deaf Campers was incorporated - became 501 c3 non-profit organization - board of directors grew to 9 members - gathered \$5k in donations from benevolent vendors - memberships grew to 80+ members and is still growing - went into partnership with Utah Association for the Deaf via memorandum of understanding
- 2025 schedule was created - popular April 2024 cornhole tournament and plus many more.

As you can see we have a lot to be grateful for! It is because of your support and participation UDC received and accomplished so much! **From the bottom of the UDC Board Of Directors hearts, they are very grateful for your support and participation during 2024.** May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday!!!



## Life Outdoors (cont.)

Before I knew it, things that shouldn't matter were all that mattered. I was lost: no compass, no map. I've lost more than a few things that should have mattered to me. And while I wouldn't yet say I'm found, I would say that I think I've found a way, the trail back home.

Nature is the doorway back to mental and physical health. The natural world is the remedy for the malady of the modern. That's the philosophy of this editorial; that's the heart of living life outdoors. It starts with just getting out there. Hike your own hike; ride your own ride; but do it outside. Going outside leads us in, into our truest selves and to those things that truly matter.

Now put down your phone and get out there!

## UDC 2024 Summit

Well, guess what? It's UDC Summit Time! The air is thick with anticipation on who is gonna be the next UDC board of directors for 2025-2026. I'm sure you feel a little anxiety, a little excitement, and/or maybe even a little bit of trepidation about who is going to be the next board of directors, right? I know I'm feeling it myself too. This board of directors put their heart and soul into making UDC what it is today.

The next board of directors have big shoes to fill and a lot of work ahead in 2025-2026. It will be decided on November 16, 2024 who the next directors will be. What does that mean? It means that in a few days, we will have newly elected board of directors working with the former board of directors (2023-2024) learning their new duties and procedures on how to run or operate UDC for the next two years. Isn't that exciting?

The new UDC board of directors (2025-2026) will need your support and participation. The board of directors names will be announced during the UDC summit November 16 are the deaf center. The members will vote and decide who will be the ones to take the current board of directors' seats. All UDC members, please come and watch the exciting UDC election and vote!

