

TO: Kiwis and Training Partners
FROM: Coach Ron Gunn
DATE: February 5, 2019
574.215.4779

GOLD IN THE COLD!

NILES: Wow! We had a gold medal day to get the job done under pending adverse snow and cold conditions. We had 34 show up and enjoy a pristine course. We also had 15 punch their ticket for the Alpine Crossing. Great job everyone! Special thanks to Whitney, Cindy and the Niles Y.

TEST HIKE II NILES: We're going to do this again this **Saturday, February 9 meeting at the Niles YMCA at 9:00 AM.** The Test Hike course will be the same 21.0 mile course and other options such as 10.5 and 7.5 miles will be offered. I will be on the silver bird to New Zealand but I have a stellar crew of Jeanne Valencourt, Cindy Scharmach, Karen Yech, Thom Janssen and Gary Kachur orchestrating this event. The rehydration station will be at the Front Street Pizza Pub.

MEET AT: Niles-Buchanan YMCA lobby, 905 North Front St, Niles, MI 49120

REHYDRATE STATION: The Front Street Pub, 510 N. Front St., Niles, MI 49120 .

MAP LINKS: Handy map links for driving directions will be in the email for your smart phone.

UPDATED ITINERARY: An updated itinerary for the New Zealand trip is attached. Please review carefully and print to take with you. It is very important that all trips meet at the **SMC Niles campus parking lot at 2:00PM** on your Friday departure. SMC has been very kind to allow us to park in their Niles lot. Please park in the far southwest corner (last row furthest from buildings). Because of the overlap of the trips it would be greatly appreciated if some could carpool or have drop offs to avoid congestion.

LOMBARDI TIME: *Lombardi time* is my expression for being early. I get nervous when traveling with a big group and I plan to get to the airport with at least 3 hours to spare. Traffic, TSA and mechanical problems can be resolved and it would be a nightmare to get everyone to NZ if we missed that plane. It is much better, to spend an extra hour at O'Hare and be safe. We will not jeopardize our departure by waiting for anyone who is late. Late comers will be responsible for getting to the airport on their own and tickets will be left at the New Zealand Air counter in terminal 5. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

2019 TRAINING SCHEDULE: A tentative training schedule for the remainder of 2019 is attached. Those who have signed up for the Appalachian Trail trip or as 2019 Training Partner sign ups are eligible to hike and train with us. I am really fired up for 2019 and also our Appalachian Trail bus trip in the Fall.

FINAL NZ PAYMENTS: I appreciate everyone's cooperation in getting your final payment resolved. Also, I forgot to remind everyone to **call your credit card companies** and give them your travel alert. [Contact Thom@CairnStoneTours.com for your final balance]

