

# River Deep Alliance Outing Report



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The programs in River Deep Alliance all focus on healing and support from physical, psychological or emotional injuries and trauma sustained during military or civilian life. This is accomplished through activities and services that enable an individual to re-acclimate and re-engage in life. A positive outlook is crucial in the healing process and these activities and services have proven effective for improving outlook and day-to-day quality of life.

Group outings are funded, planned and organized by River Deep with assistance from the SCI Humanitarian Outreach Program (SCI HOP) who handles much of the logistics.



**July 26th - 27th, 2019**

**Location:** Eleven Mile State Park, Lake George, CO.

**Hosted By:** River Deep Alliance and SCI HOP

**Participants:** Operation TBI Freedom & Ft. Carson Warrior Transition Battalion

## **Camping, Boating, Fishing and Hot Air Ballooning**

We had one hundred Veterans, family members, and volunteers gathered at Eleven Mile State Park, with nearly 40 campsites overlooking the lake. We had the Kast King pro staff and their bass boats ready to take people on the lake in search of trout. Kast King is also the group that supplies us with the Anglers of Honor fly rods and River Deep spinning rods. They always go the extra distance to help us. We also had a pontoon boat skippered by Mark Yevoli, who took groups out on the lake for sight seeing and fishing. Chris Dundas did the same with a skiff. The afternoon was spent setting up campsites, getting acquainted, some game playing for the kids, and enjoying the lake and mountains.

Later on in the day everyone gathered at the main campsite for some fantastic barbecue from Roosters Competition BBQ. After dinner we gathered around the campfire for storytelling, fish stories, and marshmallow roasting. It was a great day and we had another fun day planned Sunday, so it was time for everyone to return to their campsites for a good night of sleep.

We woke up with the sun on Sunday morning and had a short drive to the meadow where the Ballooning Society of Pikes Peak had breakfast waiting for us, along with fifteen balloons that took everyone for a ride. It's quite a sight to see the balloons launch, all different sizes, colors, and shapes. You can tell by the smiles after everyone's flight, what an awesome time we all had, not to mention the incredible views of South Park.

With everyone back on the ground, the pilots had another treat planned. It's the 'first-time-in-a-balloon' ritual that involves drinking champagne (or water), out of a cup without using your hands. We were treated to a brief talk on the history of hot air balloons. After that we were treated to barbecue by the Ballooning Society of Pikes Peak, who presented hand made quilts to all of the Veterans. They have been hosting the Celebration of Honor flight for years, and we can't thank them enough for the fantastic job they do honoring our Veterans.

It's been a fantastic weekend, and a big thanks to the many volunteers, organizations and people that made this weekend possible.

Bob Adwar  
River Deep Alliance, President  
SCI HOP, VP/Humanitarian Chairman











