

Wilderness Trek™ Christian Camp, Inc.
2008 Participant Handbook for Pack & Paddle Treks

Wilderness Trek™ Christian Camp

Wilderness Trek ("Trek") is a rugged six-day adventure conducted in the mountain ranges of Southern Colorado. Trek includes backpacking, hiking, rappelling, devotionals, Bible study, spiritual growth activities, and a climb to the summit of a 13,000 - 14,000-ft. mountain. Pack & Paddle Treks add the extra dimension of a 3-4 hour white water adventure. It is specifically designed to challenge young people and adults to discover self-confidence, self-esteem, personal faith, and to realize their awesome potential for powerful Christian living.

Wilderness Trek is a Christ-centered ministry and has been since its beginning. Wilderness Trek programs began in 1975. In 1986 Wilderness Trek Christian Camp, Inc. became a non-profit corporation administered by a Board of Directors. The goal of the week is to create an environment in which people can learn more about the everyday reality of God in their lives. By pursuing a selected spiritual theme, Wilderness Trek uses the events of a wilderness journey to teach spiritual applications.

Youth participation in Wilderness Trek is limited to young people between the ages of 14 and 19. Teens must be no younger than 14 (or entering the ninth grade) and no older than 20 on or before September 1, 2008 to participate. Wilderness Trek also has programs for adults of all ages and families (children must be at least 8 years of age and accompanied by at least one parent). Wilderness Trek is not limited to any race, sex, or religious affiliation.

The Fee* for Wilderness Trek Pack & Paddle Trek

The 2008 fee options for Pack & Paddle Treks are: (Note: Fees do not include the extra amounts added by the group coordinator for travel to and from Colorado. If you are coming with a group, check with your coordinator for the exact amount you need to pay.)

- **Teen Pack & Paddle – Discount Fee - \$ 390 per person, if final balance is submitted on or before May 5, 2008. Regular Fee - \$ 415 per person, if final balance is submitted after May 5, 2008.**
- **College/Young Adult Pack & Paddle – Discount fee - \$435 per person, if final balance is submitted on or before May 5, 2008. Regular Fee - \$ \$ 460 per person, if final balance is submitted after May 5, 2008.**
- **Adult Pack & Paddle – Discount Fee - \$ 475 per person, if final balance is submitted on or before May 5, 2008. Regular Fee - \$ 500 per person, if final balance is submitted after May 5, 2008.**

A **non-refundable deposit of \$100 per participant will be due postmarked by February 4, 2008.** After the February 4, 2008 deposit deadline, participants may be added to your group only by permission from the Wilderness Trek office. The balance of the fee will be due postmarked by May 5, 2008.

Wilderness Trek Christian Camp has a "no refund" policy on all payments.

The fee for **Teen Pack & Paddle Treks** covers all expenses for your participation in the planned program of Wilderness Trek™, which includes the services of the staff, equipment, Forest Service permits, food for the trail and banquet, base camp use, program administration costs, journal, T-shirt and ½ day of white water rafting. Participating groups will have expenses in addition to the Wilderness Trek fee, particularly for travel and lodging. The fee for **College/Young Adult Treks** includes everything listed above, plus enhanced trail food and one night's stay in a motel or lodge. The fee for **Adult Pack & Paddle Treks** includes everything listed in the Teen Pack & Paddle package, plus enhanced trail food and one night's stay in a bed and breakfast. **Any medical expenses are the responsibility of the individual.**

What Are The Key Elements Of Wilderness Trek?

- ◆ **Wilderness** - Time in the wilderness away from man-made surroundings and eating basic foods create an atmosphere for growth. A "sense of wilderness" is conveyed to every trekker by spending a week in the backcountry.
- ◆ **Unity** - The group goal of accomplishing a successful Trek encourages the dependency of the individual on the group. The dynamics of working together to accomplish a goal go a long way toward building a sense of community within the group.
- ◆ **Serving** - Real opportunities to practice service to others allow trekkers to be more like Jesus. By seeing others serve, Trek motivates teens to serve. Instead of talking about service, trekkers experience serving.
- ◆ **Application Of Biblical Principles** - The serious application of Biblical principles during devotional times is a high priority, making Trek a spiritual experience that draws young people to God. There is a new theme each year, which applies the Trek experience to everyday Christian living. In addition to planned devotionals there is an extended "solo" time provided when trekkers are encouraged to enhance their relationship with God.
- ◆ **Youth Leadership** - Through the crew leader concept, teens are actually in charge of their crews, allowing these young people to develop real servant-leadership skills. Since adults are not in control, teens get to experience the lessons of leadership. On College/Young Adult Treks and other Adult Treks this leadership role is shared equally.
- ◆ **Confession** - After the barriers have been broken down and the shared experiences of stress and service have occurred, teens are more comfortable in sharing their struggles, thus providing the potential for healing and growth.
- ◆ **Relationship Development** - Social and economic equality occurs when each of the trekkers hikes the trail together without the barriers of possessions and other superficial barriers. New perspectives of others are realized.

* Fees are set on October 1 of each year and are subject to change.

- ◆ **God's Creation** - The beauty of God's creation is one of the obvious elements of Trek. We do, however, enhance the awareness of His creation by pointing out God as Creator and using nature to apply real lessons to life.
- ◆ **Affirming** - One of the goals of Trek is to affirm each person in the group. The staff through recognition and relationship development of the trekkers facilitates this affirmation.
- ◆ **Personal Achievement** - It takes sweat, effort, and determination to reach a peak. But those who stand on top and look down on God's creation know a sense of achievement that justifies the strain.
- ◆ **Attentiveness And Obedience** - "Wilderness" means that the rules have changed. Failure to heed the wisdom and training of the guide and staff puts one at risk. The principles of attentiveness and obedience are good habits to demonstrate on the trail -- and in our walk with God.

Safety- Our #1 Concern

Wilderness Trek and its designated outfitter make every effort to ensure the safety of each individual. But, Trek is a mountain climbing activity with a certain element of risk. The staff is current in Standard First Aid and CPR. They are trained in the procedures for getting injured people to medical facilities as quickly as possible. Wilderness Trek has a safety policy. Wilderness Trek and its designated outfitter have an excellent safety record. You may read and/or download a copy of our Safety Policy at www.wildernesstrek.org.

Do I Have To Be In Shape For Trek? ... YES!!

The experience of Wilderness Trek is completely different than the typical summer camp. Trek uses the physical challenges of the Colorado Rocky Mountains to encourage spiritual growth. One of the biggest challenges is the actual physical activity of backpacking at high altitude. This means carrying a 40-60 pound pack up and down mountain trails at altitudes of 10,000 to 13,000 feet above sea level. This requires that you be "in shape." You should be able run 2 miles in 20 minutes or less or walk 2 miles in 40 minutes or less. By the nature of its activities, Wilderness Trek is not for everyone. People who ignore these guidelines may place themselves at risk for a medical emergency.

A conditioning program for Wilderness Trek must begin at least 3 months before your trek and include:

1. Build up the ability of the lungs to use available oxygen (aerobic exercise).
2. Build strength and stamina (weight bearing exercise).

Four suggestions about your conditioning:

1. Get a medical check up before starting any physical conditioning program.
2. Don't try too much, too soon. Begin gradually and work up to the desired distance or weight.
3. Don't take it too fast. It is better to develop stamina than speed.
4. Consistency is the key. Get into a program and stick with it.

What Is A Typical Pack & Paddle Trek Like?

Day One: The Beginning - Your group should arrive at the base camp at 2:00 p.m. The remainder of this first day is spent checking Registration Forms, dividing into crews, checking out equipment, packing packs, distributing food and other Trek preparation activities.

Day Two: Rappelling - You'll rise early, prepare and load your equipment, and eat breakfast. Your group will then travel to their rappel site. Weather permitting, everyone in your group will get to experience the thrill of rappelling. After the rappel your group will travel to their first camp. This is usually a short hike at low altitude (less than 10,000 feet).

Day Three: Backpacking - This day is typically the longest hiking day (3-6 miles). Camp is broken early and all the equipment and food is carried to high camp. It is a challenging day and you will be thankful to get to high camp.

Day Four: The Climb - This day begins with an early wake up call and a quick breakfast. Your group will start on the summit trail before dawn. High camp is left behind and only water, food, and warm clothes are carried in your day pack on the summit attempt.

Day Five: Solo and Hike Out - On this day your group will get up a little later than usual, enjoy a good breakfast, and break camp. Before hiking back to your vehicles everyone will spend 2-3 hours mediating on God's Word, writing in your journal, and enjoying a time of prayer and reflection (Solo Time). After a brief drive your group will make their camp along the river to enjoy a delicious meal.

Day Six: Back Down - Today, you will rise early, break camp, and report to the rafting company. Your group will load rafts and experience the thrill of a 3-4 hour whitewater rafting adventure down one of Colorado's wildest rivers. After a short drive you will arrive back at base camp. Showers and the banquet are the high points of this day.

About Insurance and Emergency Medical Facilities

Wilderness Trek Christian Camp does not carry medical insurance for its participants. **Each participant is individually and financially responsible for medical costs.** You must complete all medical information on the Wilderness Trek Christian Camp Registration Form, as this information is critical in the event you would need medical attention. Nearby towns have emergency facilities. The staff is trained in emergency evacuation procedures and in the rare case of a life-threatening situation, our guides can arrange for emergency helicopter rescue via radio. In the event that someone from your group must return to the base campground because of illness, an adult from your group will be required to accompany and care for that person until your group returns from their Trek. **Logging is available and all costs incurred will be the responsibility of the participant.**

About The Staff

Wilderness Trek Christian Camp contracts for guide/outfitting services to operate its program. Wilderness Trek's designated outfitter hires, trains and supervises the staff. The Outfitter and all staff members are Christians and have a strong relationship with God. Their dedication to the excellence of Wilderness Trek is demonstrated by their:

- ◆ Personal interest in young people.
- ◆ Participation in staff training activities.
- ◆ Consistent attention to safety.
- ◆ High quality, well-maintained equipment.
- ◆ Commitment to the program of WTCC.

Each Trek will have at least two staff members on it. Staff members are hired by the Outfitter based on their leadership experience, their ability and desire to work with people, and their spiritual maturity.

Gear Supplied By the Outfitter for Your Trek

Sleeping bag, sleeping pad and backpack (external frame) are provided for each person. The gear supplied to each crew includes: 4 person tents, stoves, fuel, cooking pots, cooking utensils, dining/rain fly, and food for crew meals from supper on the first day through the banquet meal on your final night. Wet suits for white water rafting are available for small additional fees: Wet suit only: \$ 6.00, Booties only: \$ 3.00, Combo: \$ 8.00

Each person is responsible for the care of the equipment that is issued. If equipment is damaged or lost through neglect, abuse, or negligence, the individual trekker will be responsible for repair or replacement of the item(s).

Food on the Trail

Do not bring individually wrapped items such as candy (Starburst, Jolly Ranchers) or gum, unless you remove the wrappers and place the items in a plastic bag before you come. The wrappers from these items are a litter problem. Do not bring packaged food that will not be eaten at one time. Opened but uneaten food attracts bugs, animals and soils equipment.

Items Not To Bring On The Trail (These items are either illegal or detract from the Trek purpose.)

Knives, Firearms, Fireworks, Electronic entertainment devices (radios, cassette, CD or mp3 players, games, cellular phones, etc.), Alcohol, Tobacco Products, or Illegal Drugs

End of Trek Articles

1 set of clean clothes for final evening's activities (warm clothing needed for the outdoor devotional), 1 set of clean clothes for the trip home, clean towel, and swimsuit.

About Crews and Crew Leaders

One of the basic principles under which Wilderness Trek operates is the value of the crew experience. Each Trek group is divided into "crews" of up to 10 people. The crew prepares and eats meals together. Before going on Teen Trek, the Adult Coordinator will select Crew Leaders for each crew. This teen has the responsibility of managing the crew. Although there will be a staff person in each crew, it is still the Crew Leader's responsibility to challenge, manage and provide spiritual leadership for the crew. The staff person is not there to run the crew, but works with the Crew Leader to see that all the needs of the crew are met. On Adult Treks and Family Treks crew leadership is shared equally.

Because of the importance placed on the crew concept, the training of Crew Leaders is foundational to the Trek experience. The Crew Leader must understand the qualities of crew leading and fulfill a set of requirements to qualify for this important responsibility.

The Crew Member Covenant

1. I will participate in **all** activities. I agree to follow the schedule at all times.
2. I will have no knives, firearms, alcohol, fireworks, tobacco products, or illegal drugs in my possession.
3. I will respect other's property. I am financially responsible to repair or replace all items I lose, abuse or neglect.
4. I will not hinder anyone else from growing closer to God.
5. I will obey all instructions communicated by the staff.
6. I will accept responsibility for my actions.

Your signature on the registration form will confirm that you have read this covenant and agree to follow it.

Adults on Teen Trek

Teen Treks are designed for teens. A week on Teen Trek provides a great opportunity for adults to minister to teens by developing relationships. Teen Trek is not designed for adults to supervise, make decisions, or keep teens from making mistakes. Adults who must control of every situation are not encouraged to participate in Teen Trek.

Adult participants are defined as those who are 20 years of age or older. Wilderness Trek Christian Camp, Inc. has set a ratio of no more than 3 adults for every 10 teens, not to exceed a total of 6 adults on any Trek. Too many adults will diminish the opportunity of the teens to experience the full potential of Wilderness Trek.

What Mountain Are We Climbing?

A typical Wilderness Trek™ trip may attempt to climb one of 25 different peaks, ranging in elevation from 13,000 to 14,433 feet. By law, Wilderness Trek's designated outfitter is required to secure permission for each trip within National Forest Service boundaries. Trail access requests are submitted long before your group arrives in Colorado. Weather and trail conditions may dictate which routes are used each week. Although consideration is given to what mountains your group has climbed in the past, the variables described above make it impossible to guarantee your group a certain mountain or summit attempt.

What Do You Need To Bring?

A list of recommended clothing and personal gear is supplied below to assist each person in determining what to bring. The mountains of Colorado have unpredictable variations in temperature and weather. You may encounter rain, hail, snow, cloudy days, or bright sunshine - all in one week (sometimes all in one day). Plan for WARM days (70-80 degrees) and COLD nights (30-40 degrees)! The key to proper clothing selection is "layer on for cold and wet" then "layer off for heat and exertion". Pack your clothing in plastic bags in your pack to protect them from the elements. Treat your outerwear with water repellent -- hat, gloves, jacket, parka, etc. -- regardless of the material (even Gore-Tex).

Necessary Clothing

- 4 T-shirts (You will be given the option of renting a wet suit for whitewater rafting) Wet suit: \$ 6.00, Booties: \$ 3.00
- 3 pair of shorts Combo: \$ 8.00
- 2 pair long pants- a combination of wind pants, sweatpants, or jeans (for warmth and protection from wind)
- 2 pair lightweight socks (wool blend - keep your feet dry and clean around camp)
- 2 pair heavyweight socks (wool blend - for warmth / blister protection while hiking)
- underwear (this is plural)
- hiking boots or shoes (suggest high tops with aggressive tread)
- second pair of shoes (for around camp / in the event your other shoes are wet)
- jacket, or parka with hood (for warmth)
- poncho or rain suit (quality with hood, **not** an emergency poncho)
- 1 pair thermal underwear (top and bottom) – June Treks only
- winter hat (for sun protection /for warmth)
- cap (for sun protection)
- gloves (for warmth)
- 1 sweater or sweatshirt
- Needed for June Treks:** gaiters (snow guards, for walking in snow)

Necessary Personal Gear

- 2 one quart water bottles (wide mouth plastic - for drinking water)
- cup and small plate (plastic or metal)
- spoon / fork
- toothbrush / toothpaste
- biodegradable soap – Not to be used in or near streams
- hairbrush or comb
- hand towel and wash cloth
- daypack (large enough to carry food, water, gear, and extra clothing on the summit climb)
- lip balm with sunblock
- sunblock (high SPF rating)
- 1 roll of toilet paper (in ziplock bag)
- small flashlight with extra batteries
- 2 or more large trash bags (suggest 55 gallon - used to cover pack to keep it dry / carrying trash)
- insect repellent
- deodorant
- small Bible - preferably with Old and New Testament
- pen or pencil
- whistle (plastic - used for emergency only)
- mirror (used for emergency only)
- sunglasses
- personal medicines (place in a zip lock bag by themselves)
- camera and film (optional)
- ziplock bags (to sort and carry the above personal gear)

Note: The staff will not administer any type of medications, including aspirin, Tums, Tylenol, etc. If you need any over the counter medication, you must bring them with you. Be sure to let your staff members know which medications you are taking.