

Wilderness Trek™ Christian Camp, Inc.
2009 Participant Handbook for Teen 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 studies, spiritual growth activities, and a climb to the summit of a 13,000 or 14,000-foot mountain. It is specifically designed to challenge young people to discover self-confidence, self-esteem, personal faith, and to learn their awesome potential for powerful Christian living.

Wilderness Trek™ is a Christ-centered ministry and has been since its beginning. The Wilderness Trek™ program 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 not older than 20 on or before September 1, 2009 to participate. Wilderness Trek™ is not limited to any race, sex, or religious affiliation. Adult sponsors must accompany their teens on Trek. Scholarships are available to assist deserving young people. Please contact us at 800-833-4218.

The Fee* for Teen Treks

The 2009 fee options for Teen Trek are:

- **Basic Package – Discount Fee - \$ 340 per participant**, if final balance is submitted **on or before May 4, 2009**, plus the amount added by your group coordinator for travel to and from Colorado. If you are coming with a group, check with your coordinator for the exact amount you will need to pay.
- **Basic Package – Regular Fee - \$ 365 per participant**, if final balance is submitted **after May 4, 2009**, plus the amount added by your group coordinator for travel to and from Colorado. If you are coming with a group, check with your coordinator for the exact amount you will need to pay.

A non refundable deposit of \$ 100 per participant will be due postmarked by February 2, 2009. After the February 2, 2009 deposit deadline, participants may send their deposits, but only if space is available. **The balance of the fee is due postmarked by May 4, 2009.**

Wilderness Trek™ Christian Camp has a “no refund” policy on all payments.

The fee for Teen Treks covers all expenses for your participation in the planned program of Wilderness Trek, which includes the services of the guide/outfitter (equipment, Forest Service permit, staff leadership, food for the trail and banquet, and base camp use), program administration costs, journal, and T-shirt. Participating groups will have expenses in addition to the Wilderness Trek™ fee, particularly for travel and lodging. **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 difficult 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 intentional 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. During the solo time 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.
- ◆ **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 concerns. New perspectives of others are realized.
- ◆ **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.

* All fees are set October 1 of each year and are subject to change.

- ◆ **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 summit. Those who stand on top and look down on God's creation realize 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 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™ Christian Camp, Inc. makes 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 and 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 to run 2 miles in 20 minutes 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™ should 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 Teen Trek Like?

Day One: The Beginning - Your group should arrive at the base campground 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 will rise early, eat a simple breakfast, load your pack and travel to a rappel site. Weather permitting; everyone in your group will get to experience the thrill of rappelling. After rappelling your group will travel to their first camp.

Day Three: Backpacking - This day is typically the longest hiking day. 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: Solo - The fourth day is a special day on Trek. You will spend about three hours on "Solo". This is a time of prayer and meditation between you and God. The afternoon is spent relaxing, getting acclimatized to the altitude, bathing, and playing games with the group.

Day Five: 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. Only water, food, and warm clothes are carried in your day pack on the summit attempt.

Day Six: Back Down - Today you will break camp and leave the mountain. After a short drive you will arrive back at base camp. Showers, a banquet meal and a final devotional are the high points of this day.

About Insurance and Emergency Medical Facilities

Wilderness Trek™ 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, the staff can arrange for emergency helicopter rescue via radio. In the event someone from your group must return to the base camp because of illness or injury, an adult from your group will be required to accompany and care for that person until your group returns from their Trek. **Lodging 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 achieve its program. The Wilderness Trek 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 training.
- ◆ 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 Teen 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

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 unwrap the items and put them 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.

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 8 - 10 people. The crew prepares and eats meals together. Before going on Trek, the group 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 and to manage 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.

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 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 Wilderness Treks are designed for teens. The Trek week is a great opportunity to minister to teens by developing relationships. It is not designed for the adult to supervise, make decisions, or keep teens from making mistakes. Adults who must control 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 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 over 14,000 feet. By law, the Wilderness Trek 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 and staff availability 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. 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 moisture. Treat your outerwear with water repellent -- hat, gloves, jacket, parka, etc. -- regardless of the material (even Gore-Tex).

Clothing

4 pair socks – 2 lightweight and 2 heavy weight (wool or synthetic blend, non-cotton)

Underwear

Long underwear – top and bottom

Swimsuit

2 t-shirts (non-cotton preferred)

Long sleeve shirt (non-cotton preferred)

Fleece pullover or wool blend sweater

2 shorts – or 1 pair shorts and 1 pair pants that zip off to shorts

2 long pants – a combination of a fleece, wind pant, or sweat pant, and a non-jean pant

Rain pants (quality)

Rain jacket or poncho (quality with hood, not an emergency poncho)

Jacket or parka with hood (ski jacket, etc. for warmth)

2 hats - 1 for sun protection and 1 for warmth

Pair of warm gloves

Hiking boots or shoes (recommended waterproof)

Second pair of shoes (for around camp or in the event your other shoes get wet)

For early June trips bring a ski jacket and pants, warmer gear, and gaiters (gaiters can be purchased or rented at base camp).

Personal Gear

Daypack (large enough for food, water, gear and extra clothes)

2 one quart water bottles and/or a water bladder

Sunglasses

Sunscreen with high SPF rating

Lip balm with sunscreen

Medicines (labeled and placed in a Ziplock bag) **Note:** The staff will not administer any type of medication, including aspirin, Tums, Tylenol, etc. If you need any over-the-counter medications, you must bring them with you. Be sure to tell your staff which medications you are taking.

Insect repellent (travel size)

Deodorant (travel size)

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Toilet paper (1 roll in Ziplock bag)

Spoon/Fork or camping “spork”

Large camping cup for food and drink, or small cup and plate

Small flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries

Whistle (used for emergency only)

Small Bible (preferably with old and new testament)

Writing utensil

Ziplock bags (to sort and carry personal gear)

2 or more 55 gallon plastic trash bags (used to cover and keep packs dry and carry trash)

Camera (optional)

End of Program Articles

Clean clothes for the final evening’s activities and your trip home.

Clean towel and swimsuit for the showers and/or hot springs.

Note: Plan to leave your luggage and all extra articles in the care of the outfitter. They will be kept secure and available when you return at the end of your trip.

Items Not to Bring

Knives, firearms, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs, and electronic devices (music devices, games, cellular phones, etc.). These things may be prohibited by the Forest Service. **If found, these items may be confiscated.**

**Wilderness Trek™ Christian Camp Emergency Phone Number:
719-539-4888**

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