



A Parent's Guide to Backpacking at Young Life's

Wilderness Ranch

Young Life's Wilderness Ranch is a unique high mountain adventure specifically designed to captivate and enrich the lives of teenagers. Wilderness Ranch is located approximately six hours southwest of Denver, near Creede, CO. Nestled at an elevation of 9,600 feet, Wilderness Ranch sits within the beautiful San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado.

Why this guide for parents?

We believe communication with parents is important to the success of our ministry. We want you to be informed and familiar with our program. Our mission is to provide kids with a high-quality and safe mountain experience where they have opportunity to climb a 13,000-foot peak, rock climb, and hike through some of the most beautiful scenery in the country. Most importantly, we desire to facilitate their growth in Jesus Christ, to provide them time to examine their lives in relation to the God who created them ... we do this through teamwork, trust, vulnerability, caring and developing relationships.

Frequently asked questions regarding the Wilderness Ranch experience

Clothing: Due to the weather conditions in the mountains, the proper clothing is of utmost importance. Our years of experience have enabled us to provide you with a list of what your child will need. It is not necessary to spend hundreds of dollars on clothing - most items on the list (if not all) can be borrowed. The recommended clothing and boots are all your child needs to bring to Wilderness Ranch.

Guides: Each trip is led by two experienced guides who have extensive training in mountaineering, orienteering, relationship building, first-aid, and high altitude medicine. Guides are fully certified through the Wilderness Medicine Institute. At Wilderness Ranch, the guides are with their group from arrival on Sunday until departure on Friday night.

Food: No, we don't eat that lousy freeze-dried stuff! All trail food is prepared at the base camp prior to going out on the trail. We provide wholesome, healthy food specifically designed to properly nourish the body in relation to wilderness hiking. If there is a food allergy, please make sure Wilderness Ranch is aware of the food allergy at least 10 days before arriving at camp.

Equipment: High quality equipment is provided by Wilderness Ranch.

- **Backpacks:** Deuter internal frame packs that are specifically fitted by the guides to each camper.

- Sleeping bags: Rated to be warm even if it's zero outside.
- Ensolite pads: This is a pad placed under the sleeping bag to provide insulation and a little cushion.
- Raincoats: Coated nylon Columbia and Sierra Designs parkas.
- Rain flies: Weather-proof shelters to sleep under at night.
- Everything your child will need to be safe and to have the best experience possible.

Routes: Each group travels about 30 miles during their five and a half days on the trail. They travel at elevations ranging from 9,000 feet to 14,000 feet. All trips begin and end at base camp where there are group meals in our dining hall, and campers have club, access to hot showers, store, etc.

Health and conditioning: The Wilderness Ranch experience has been designed for success for any teenager in average health. If your child has any special condition, (allergies, etc.) please be sure to note all of that information on the Young Life Health Form that you should have received. It is Colorado law that we have that form on file, and it, of course, will help us provide the best care possible in the unlikely event of an emergency. If there are additional health needs or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

What is Young Life?

Young Life is a non-profit Christian outreach for youth. Young Life's purpose is to show adolescents the person of Jesus Christ and His relevance to modern life. We do this by building personal relationships with kids, sharing our lives and participating with them in a variety of experiences through which the Gospel can be heard and experienced. One of these ways is through wilderness camping.

Wilderness Ranch is one of 25 Young Life camps in the United States.

Young Life Wilderness Ranch
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