



***The Ragged Wilderness Experience*** with The Nature Connection

**Empowering Girls through Outdoor Education**

**July 9-12 2018**

**4 days / 3 nights:** The Nature Connection hub and the Raggeds Wilderness

**Group size:** 8-10 girls **Age Range:** 12-14 (middle school)

**Cost: \$300 per person** - tuition includes transportation, all food plus stove/dishes, tents

**Contact [jill@gotrwesterncolorado.org](mailto:jill@gotrwesterncolorado.org) for:**

**Registration, Gear Rental Sheet & Sliding Fee Scholarships - available for Heart & Sole Participants**

*Note: Certain gear (ie: backpacks, sleeping bags, pads) available for use on trip for a small rental fee - \$10/package*

The Raggeds Wilderness was designated in 1980 and is comprised of the Ruby Range in the Elk Mountains. The Raggeds are located approximately thirty miles east of Paonia, Colorado, within the 70,000 acres of the Gunnison and White River National Forests. Mt. Owen overlooks it's fellow peaks at over 13,000 feet in elevation, including Anthracite Peak, Dark Canyon, plus the Ruby Range Crest. The Raggeds are nothing short of spectacular, home to one of the world's largest single aspen stand, as well as elk, deer, black bear, marmots and the high alpine pika. Dark Canyon is a montane river canyon with endless opportunity for exploration and discovery in the wilderness.

Find yourself immersed in nature, learning leadership skills and building confidence in an unconfined place. **The Nature Connection** will help empower **Girls on the Run** to make decisions in the backcountry, problem solve through navigation and work together as a team in the woods. Join us for an unforgettable experience while forming connections with your crew and surroundings.

**Activity level:** Moderate level hiking of 13 total miles over the course of three days and two nights spent out in the wilderness. Begin at 10,000 feet in elevation and slowly descend into the Raggeds Wilderness from Horse Ranch Park Trailhead.

**Itinerary**

**Day 1:** Orientation at The Nature Connection; arrive by 3:00pm. Public lands and wilderness history lesson with a possible guest speaker. Lessons on the anatomy of your backpack, 'Tact for your Pack' - the ten essential items and gear specifics will be discussed and handed out accordingly. Learn to set up your tent and cook your first meal on a backpacking stove; dinner is provided. Sleep out at the gear hub under the stars.

**Day 2:** Wake up bright and early, pack your pack, travel to Horse Ranch Park Trailhead and venture out into the Raggeds with our trip leaders and interns. Introductory hike into wilderness approximately 3-4 miles near Gold

Creek. Leave No Trace ethics discussion along the way as well as 'What is Wilderness' talk. Find our first campsite by practicing what we learn with LNT Principle #2.

**Day 3:** Hike 3-4 miles traversing the Devils Staircase, peer into the gorge of Ruby Anthracite and plunge into the depths of Dark Canyon. Camp at the mighty Forks of the Anthracite. Possible service-learning project for the local U.S. Forest Service Paonia Ranger District.

**Day 4:** Travel down the iconic Dark Canyon Trail, taking time to let nature tell you a story. We will terminate at Erickson Springs; the hike out is about 4.5 miles on the last day. Travel back to Hotchkiss where we will debrief and discuss what each of us were inspired by and what we will take home to share with others.

**SUGGESTED LIST OF ITEMS TO PACK** (\*) indicates item is available for use from TNC Gear Library

**Clothing and more:**

4 Socks (synthetic or wool); 4 underwear

1 Synthetic or quick-drying pants (not jeans) for adventuring

Rain gear (1 pant and 1 jacket)

1 Ball cap (hat for sun cover)

*Warm Layers*

1 Wool or synthetic base layer - long sleeve

2 Short sleeve base layer

1 Long underwear (for nighttime)

1 Mid-layer (sweatshirt, vest, fleece - synthetic if possible - not cotton)

1 Winter coat (down jacket is ideal so it can fit into your pack)

1 Neck gaiter (optional) and gloves

*More items to pack:*

1 pair of sturdy hiking boots (preferably with tread and above the ankle)

Sunscreen and sunglasses, lip balm

1 Water bottle (16+ oz)

Hygiene items (toothbrush, toiletry kit, bandana)

\* Backpack (50+ liter-size) \* Sleeping bag \* Sleeping pad\* Tent \* Backpack stove/fuel \* Headlamp \* Cookware etc.  
\*

**Scholarships available through Girls on the Run of Western Colorado**

