



The Cimarron Mountain Experience with The Nature Connection

Wilderness Leadership for High School Students

July 16-19 2018

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

Group size: 8-10 students **Age Range:** 14-18

Cost: \$300 per person (scholarships available upon request)

Tuition includes transportation, all food plus stove/dishes, tents

Contact priscilla.williams@deltaschools.com for Registration & Gear Rental Sheet

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

THE CIMARRONS

The Uncompahgre Wilderness is located in the San Juan Mountains of southwest Colorado, with two fourteeners and many above 13,000 feet. The wilderness area is close to 103,000 acres and was added to the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1980 with expansions in 1993. The topography is defined by towering rock, alpine tundra for miles and forested canyons below. The geologic history is unique - the volcanic and glacial activity formed the range over the course of millions of years. Gold and silver mining also took place in these mountains, where historic remains speckle the landscape.

Find yourself immersed in nature, learning leadership skills, challenging yourself and building confidence in an unconfined place. **The Nature Connection** will help empower **high school students** 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 to difficult hiking as elevation varies; beginning at 9,400 feet to 12,600 feet with a possible 14,000 Uncompahgre Peak summit attempt. 18 total miles over the course of four days and three nights spent out in the wilderness.

Itinerary

Day 1: Orientation at The Nature Connection; begin the day with a **Leave No Trace** (LNT) discussion, followed by a public lands talk. 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 how to use equipment properly before traveling towards the wilderness to sleep under the stars before the adventure truly begins.

Day 2: Wake up bright and early, repack your pack before venturing out in the Cimarrons with our trip leaders and interns. Hike into the Uncompahgre Wilderness where you will become a naturalist along the trail that parallels one of many forks of the Cimarron River. Find our first backcountry campsite by practicing what we learn with LNT Principle #2 and an evening discussion about 'What is Wilderness'.

Day 3 & 4: Continue to hike the loop around Pinnacle Ridge, traveling with all the necessities on your back, as Uncompahgre Peak towers above at 14,308 feet and other dominating peaks in the San Juans. Once we successfully complete the loop, head back to Hotchkiss where we will debrief and discuss what each of us were inspired by and how you benefited from experiential learning.

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.
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