

Prepare for Camp

Departure / Arrival: We will be leaving Tyler late evening on Friday, June 30th. The Tyler YL posse will be caravanning to meet and be picked up by the Regional Wilderness Ranch bus that will be heading north from Austin. Arrival time back in Tyler will be sometime in the late afternoon or thereabouts on Saturday, July 8th.

Electronics: Including but not limited to: iPod, DVD, Laptop, Gameboys, Cell Phones, Tape Decks, 8 Track: Feel free to use these things on your way to and from camp, but please know that they are NOT allowed on the trail. They will be labeled, collected, and stored safely when we arrive at Wilderness Ranch. You'll get them back when you climb on the bus to come back home (which means that you won't have a chance to charge up beforehand).

Spending Money: The \$699 camp fee covers everything except meals on the road along with any souvenirs or snacks you might want while you're at Base Camp. An Extra \$50-\$75 would be plenty...but bring as much as you'd like. There is a Wilderness Ranch Store at Base Camp that carries shirts, hoodies, water bottles, stickers and the such if you so desire to purchase any of these items.

No firearms, grenades, bows, crossbows or any other sort of weapons allowed on this trip. Wildlife will be for your viewing pleasure, not for consumption!

What Clothes to Bring: See Packing List below

If you're uncertain about anything regarding this trip, please call us at (903) 526-0550. It's going to be a great week!

Sincerely,

David Kissell
Area Director

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 the 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. Each guide team is equipped with a radio which allows them to maintain daily communication with base camp. Guides are fully certified through the Wilderness Medicine Institute. At Wilderness Ranch, the guides are with their group from the minute they arrive at camp until they drive away.

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's Wilderness Ranch
 Summer address (May – August)
 2000 Forest Service Rd. 521
 Creede, CO 81130
 Ph. 719-658-2288

Young Life's Wilderness Ranch
 Winter address (September – April)
 PO Box 1274
 Buena Vista, CO 81211
 Ph. 719-395-6602

Email: wilderness@wilderness.younglife.org

Web Site: www.wilderness.younglife.org

Wilderness Ranch Clothing and Equipment List for Campers and Leaders

The following list of clothing and equipment is **essential** for your safety. You will be traveling in rugged and spectacular country where your lives are literally dependent upon you gear. All items except those listed as optional are **mandatory**. We ask you to trust this list; despite the weather at home or the advice from others. Don't deviate: severe cold weather is possible all summer long in these mountains. If you want to save money, consider borrowing or buying used gear.

Mandatory

Clothing

- Hiking Boots (see note below)
- Old Tennis Shoes or Sport Sandals (Teva Style)
- Smart wool Socks (or wool) (3 pr)
- Liner Socks (2 pr) optional if using smartwool
- Fleece Pants
- Shorts – not cotton (2 pr)
- Cap or Visor
- Underwear (2 pr)
- Long Underwear – not cotton (Top/Bottom)
- T-Shirts (2)
- Fleece Pullover
- Wool or Fleece Stocking Hat
- Wool or Fleece Gloves/Mittens
- Bandannas (2-3)

Equipment

- Sunglasses (Darkest you have)
- Small Bible (Old/New Testament)
- Small Notepad & Pen
- Small Flashlight and extra batteries

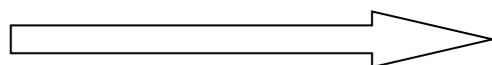
Personal

- Glasses & Contacts
- Chapstick with SPF
- Sunscreen (at least 15 SPF)
- Toothbrush & Paste
- Any Personal Medication
- Insect Repellant
- Towel and Clothes for Trip Home

Optional

- Moleskin/Second Skin (blister preventer)
- Parka or Vest (Down or Synthetic)
- Wind, Rain or Snow Pants
- Rain Parka (Nylon or Gore-Tex)
- Small Bottle Antibacterial Hand Cleaner
- Camera
- Your Own Backpack (4000-5000 cu.in)
- Your Own Sleeping Bag (0-20 range)
- Ziplock Baggies
- Disposable Towelettes (you will be responsible for carrying them out)

****Please do not bring a knife or biodegradable soap**



We will provide all other necessary mountain gear (i.e. backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, stoves, food, first aid, eating utensils, climbing equipment, rain jackets).

On Boots: You will travel on rugged terrain both on and off the trail which requires a good quality hiking boot. Be sure your boot is above the ankle. Medium weight leather upper boots with vibram soles are best. The fabric/leather upper boots are also good and break in easily. Whichever type you have, be sure they are thoroughly waterproofed (Nikwax, Sno Seal or Gore-Tex) and thoroughly broken in before you come.

On Cotton: Let's just say this: It's a bad idea, don't bring any cotton clothes. If cotton gets wet it will take forever to dry in the mountains and you will get hyperthermia.

Rentals: We rent Crazy Creek Chairs (strongly recommended) for \$10/each. (Please bring cash for this).

If you choose to bring your own equipment, please be sure it is adequate for a six day experience in the mountain environment. In order to insure your safety, your guides will have the final say about what goes out on the trail.

If you are interested in fly fishing please do so before or after your trip with Wilderness Ranch. We are not allowed to fish in the backcountry per our forest service permits.

Be sure to bring a towel and clothes for the trip home.

