

Go Wild SUMMER AdVENTURE

Program Information

THE PROGRAM:

Wildsight has been offering innovative, award-winning environmental education programs to elementary students for the past 8 years. This program has developed out of a growing need to provide wilderness experience, environmental education and leadership opportunities for secondary school students. The program idea was developed through the support of several secondary school students, community members, teachers, and school administration to strengthen our youths' connection to the natural world. The Go Wild Program has been offered in secondary schools in the Kootenays for the past three years. We are pleased to be offering a Go Wild summer program for the first time in 2009.

The program is offered to young people between 14 and 19 years old who are motivated to participate in a potentially life changing wilderness expedition. Participants will learn skills to travel and camp comfortably in the backcountry and develop their leadership skills through making decisions, leading their peers, living in a group, facing challenges and accomplishing goals. Participants will also learn about the issues surrounding the mountains we travel in, develop a stronger connection with the wilderness, and look at how to transfer wilderness ethics into daily life.

Go Wild SUMMER ADVENTURE DATES FOR 2010:

August 20th -25th, 2010 - 6 day adventure - \$375

PROGRAM OUTLINE:

Preparation Day:

The first day of the trip involves an orientation to the program, checking gear, pack packing, food packing, route planning and group building. Participants will also be invited to share their goals for the expedition. The group camps at the trailhead that evening.

Out-Trip:

Participants will hike 6 days in the backcountry. Some days will involve hiking with a fully loaded pack. Some days will involve day hiking with smaller packs. There will be opportunities for climbing peaks, quiet reflection time, group activities and lots and lots of learning. Participants will sleep in 4 person tents in single gender groups. Participants will learn how to cook in the backcountry and be responsible for cooking their own meals in small groups.

Course Location:

The trip will begin in Kimberley. Some transportation might be available for participants traveling from the West Kootenay, otherwise participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Kimberley. Carpooling options will be made available.

Transportation to and from the trailhead will be provided by the program.

Instructors:

The instructors for Go Wild are local professional wilderness educators with years of experience working in the guiding industry and leading trips through Outward Bound, NOLS and high school Outdoor Ed programs. All Go Wild instructors are certified Wilderness First Responders.

Equipment:

Please carefully read the equipment list which is a separate document. Begin preparing early, as a lot of the necessary gear can be borrowed or found at Thrift Stores. Planning ahead reduces the need for last minute expensive purchases. Go Wild can loan much of the necessary personal equipment. Please fill out the personal equipment request form and return it to the Wildsight office no later than 2 weeks prior to the trip start date. The program provides tents, stoves, pots and all the necessary group gear.

Food:

Go Wild provides healthy nutritious food suitable for the backcountry. Participants will be involved in meal planning and food packing on the first day, and responsible for cooking their own food throughout the trip. Please inform the Wildsight office of any special dietary needs or restrictions.

Weather and Other Challenges:

Mountain weather can be variable. Even in the summer temperatures may range from below freezing with snow to warm and sunny and above 30 degrees C. There could be rain and thundershowers. You may encounter mosquitoes. We will be hanging our food to keep it away from bears, and practicing bear camping precautions at all times.

Emergency and Evacuation Procedures:

Instructors are trained to deal with emergency situations and manage medical emergencies in the field. All leaders carry a first aid kit, and all trips have a satellite phone to use in emergency. A comprehensive evacuation plan is in place for all trips in the case of an emergency. For non-emergency evacuations parents may be asked to come and pick participants up at the trailhead.

Expectations of Participants:

Part of the Go Wild Risk Management plan involves teaching participants safety skills in the mountains. The participants are expected to follow instructions and avoid hazards. Participants are also expected to maintain a safe learning environment for other participants and refrain from discrimination or harassment of other participants. Participants are required to refrain from using drugs and alcohol while participating on a Go Wild trip. Failure to follow these expectations will result in the participant being asked to leave the trip.

COST of THE PROGRAM:

August 20th -25th, 2010 - 6 day adventure - \$375

Subsidies are available for any participant in financial need. Please contact the office or the program coordinator for more information. A \$50 deposit is required within 2 weeks of your application. The remainder of the tuition is due 2 weeks prior to the trip start date. Cheques can be made payable to Wildsight, and mailed to the Wildsight office.

Who is Wildsight?

Wildsight is a leading organization in grassroots conservation in Canada's Columbia and southern Rocky Mountain region, achieving our vision through research, education, and strategic partnerships since 1987. In 2005, we received the Canadian Environmental Award for Conservation in recognition of our successful work to protect the region's wildlife and wild land values. Please visit our website at www.wildsight.ca

Thank you for your interest in the Go Wild Program! Please fill out the following forms:

✓ Medical Information Form

✓ Waiver

✓ Photo Release Form

✓ Equipment Request Form

Forms can be mailed with the \$50 deposit to: Wildsight - Go Wild

2 - 495 Wallinger Avenue

Kimberley BC V1A 1Z6 or FAXED to: 888-408-0385, mail cheque separately.

If you have any questions please contact daveq@wildsight.ca, or call the Wildsight office: 250-427-9325, or the Program

Coordinator, Dave: 250-427-5666

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dave Quinn Go Wild Program Coordinator