



2009 GIRLS' WILDERNESS PROGRAM

WILD VOICES

July 17-22, 2009

Ages 13-16, or entering 8th-11th grades

Sing your tune!

Do you love expressing yourself through song and laughter? Do you enjoy sharing *your* story? Celebrate your voice and discover new ways to channel your creativity. On this six-day backpacking trip you can share your passion for music and use your voice in different ways while making new friends in Wyoming's gorgeous Snowy Mountain Range. You'll learn the basics of backpacking, navigation, and how to travel safely in the mountains while exploring song, rhythm, and self-expression. *No previous musical or backpacking experience necessary.*

Welcome to the Girls' Wilderness Program!

You can expect your course to be fun, challenging, and different than anything you've ever done. You'll learn the outdoor skills that will set you up for a lifetime of adventures. You'll also stretch yourself, try new things, and learn things about yourself and others that you can take home with you. You'll laugh so hard that you can't stop. You'll get to know a group of girls in the kind of "real" way that makes the deepest friendships. And, better yet, lots of our course graduates tell us that when they returned to home or school, they felt more confident "being themselves" – trying new things, voicing their thoughts and making solid friends.

Who Else is Going to Be On My Course?

All kinds of girls take Girls' Wilderness Program courses. Some girls who come are "outdoorsy," with previous experience camping and hiking, but most come just to do something adventurous and to meet new people. Everyone brings unique life experiences and perspectives to the course, and you'll leave the backcountry with a new group of friends.

What Will I Do on the Wild Voices Course?

This course is a great way to make good friends, learn a lot about backpacking, and explore your own authentic voice. You will hike, sing, play, explore, and sing some more. The wilderness is a wonderful place to "free" your voice, and explore the courage to sing out loud. You'll have an opportunity to climb Medicine Bow Peak, the highest peak in the Snowy Range at 12,013 feet. Some of your route will take you from lake to lake, off established trails, allowing you to develop good map and compass skills.

Where Are We Going?

The Snowy Range, named after the striking white granite that forms its high peaks, is a well-protected secret of the Rocky Mountains. Elevations range from 9,000 feet to 12,000 feet, with Medicine Bow Peak rising to 12,013 feet above steep rocky walls and dozens of high alpine lakes. Much of the area is above timberline, with rolling alpine tundra, silvery granite boulders and beautiful wildflowers. Summer is typically warm during the days and cool at night, with brief afternoon thunderstorms. The Snowy Range is located fifty miles west of Laramie in southern Wyoming, approximately a 3 ½ -hour drive from Boulder.

What about fitness?

Girls' Wilderness Program courses are meant to be challenging, but do-able. Regular exercise in the months before your course will be helpful, but a positive attitude and a willingness to try are just as important.

What Will I Eat?

Spending all day outside will work up your appetite, and we'll provide meals and snacks that taste good and give you the energy you'll need for five days of hiking and backpacking. Meals are simple and hearty with lots of variety. We'll also make sure to pack enough dessert for everyone! We can accommodate some common dietary restrictions; please let us know if you have specific dietary needs.

What Should I Bring?

You will receive a “What to Bring” list with your registration packet. Women’s Wilderness will provide all backpacking gear (tents, stoves, sleeping bags, sleeping pads and backpacks), and we have outdoor clothing and hiking boots to loan. Plan to bring everything you have from the “What to Bring” list to your pre-trip meeting (held the night before we depart) and we’ll help you with the rest. If you are borrowing a backpack, bring your items in any bag that is convenient for you.

How Will I Carry Everything?

One of the beauties of a backpacking trip is that you will be entirely self-sufficient during your course. This means that when you move from camp to camp, you’ll be hiking with a backpack that weighs about 30-40 pounds. Women’s Wilderness has a good selection of adjustable packs, and staff will fit your pack just for you so it’s comfortable. Since this course is an introduction to backpacking for most participants, we’ll hike at a pace that works for everyone and take frequent breaks.

Course Expectations

We expect that you will come to your course with a willingness to learn, an open mind, ready to make new friends and have tons of fun! You can expect that we will listen to your needs and interests, and those of your group, and adapt the itinerary and course content accordingly. Your rights and decisions will always be respected, and no girl is ever forced or “talked into” doing something she doesn’t want to do.

Itinerary

Each course is different, and the itinerary can easily change to accommodate the needs of each group. While weather sometimes influences our schedule, here’s a sample itinerary for Wild Voices:

Day One	Leave from our Office in Boulder at 8:00 am. Drive to the Snowy Range, about a 3 ½ - hour drive. Hike in a short way and start learning the camping basics: how to set up the tents, how to cook on backpacking stoves, and how to stay warm and comfortable.
Day Two- Day Five	For the next four days your group will travel through the mountains with enough food and gear on your backs to live in the wilderness. You’ll start learning how to read a map, how to work together as a group, how to select a backcountry campsite, and take care of the wilderness environment. And you will SING! You’ll learn new singing activities, and have the opportunity to bring out the creative singer in you. There will also be time for journal writing, art projects, games and hanging out.
Day Six	Hike out in the late morning and celebrate your accomplishments with a closing celebration. You’ll spend some time finishing up, and then drive back to Boulder. You’ll arrive back around 5 pm.

Pre-Trip Meeting

At The Women's Wilderness Institute Office:

For Girls: 4:00 to 6:00 pm, on the afternoon before your course starts.

For Parents: 5:30-6:00 pm, on the same day as the girls’ pre-trip meeting.

You’ll get a chance to meet the other girls on the course, make sure you have what you need, and borrow clothing and hiking boots if you need them. Your parents will have a chance to meet the staff and to get questions answered about the course.

Slideshow and Pizza Party

A celebration slideshow and pizza party will be scheduled in late August for all participants, their families and friends.

Cost

The cost of the Wild Voices course is \$720. Full and partial financial aid is available for participants from low- and middle-income families, and scholarships are determined on a case-by-case basis. Please request a financial aid form if you would like to apply.