

** Following your application submission there are supplemental questions that your camper will need to complete on their own. They can be found in “forms” once an application has been submitted. Campers should answer questions honestly and thoughtfully. Deposit would be required only when accepted. This applies to all our Trekker Programs.**

TREKKER RUINS

ADVENTURE, CULTURE, CHALLENGE.

Welcome to Trekker Ruins at CCO! This program is designed for campers ages 15–17 who are ready to dive into the rich cultural history and wild beauty of the American Southwest. This multi-state adventure includes exploration of ancient Puebloan cliff dwellings, high desert plateaus, volcanic fields, and alpine dunes. Along the way, campers will visit Mesa Verde National Park, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, El Malpais National Monument, and Great Sand Dunes National Park. The journey’s centerpiece is a four-night backpacking trip in the remote and rugged Gila Wilderness of New Mexico.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

Campers in Trekker Ruins will have daily opportunities to strengthen outdoor skills, grow in self-confidence, and take on leadership roles within the group. Participants will learn and practice Leave No Trace ethics, route-finding, campcraft, and team-based decision-making. Through both cultural immersion and time in the backcountry, campers will build a stronger connection to the land and its layered human histories, from ancient Indigenous civilizations to modern conservation efforts.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

Throughout the program, campers will engage in a mix of base camping and backpacking. While visiting cultural sites, the group will set up base camps to allow for lighter day hikes and educational exploration. During the Gila Wilderness backpacking segment, campers will carry everything they need—including food, tents, and group gear—and sleep under the stars in remote, scenic locations. Participants will cook meals on backpacking stoves and filter their own water, learning the fundamentals of sustainable and low-impact travel.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

- Sunday: Campers arrive, icebreakers, ROWDIE campfire, campout
- Monday: Depart CCO, travel to Mesa Verde National Park, campout
- Tuesday: Explore Mesa Verde, campout
- Wednesday: Travel to Chaco Canyon, campout
- Thursday: Explore Chaco Canyon, campout
- Friday: Travel to Gila Wilderness, campout at trailhead
- Saturday–Wednesday: Backpacking in the Gila Wilderness (4 nights)
- Wednesday (PM): Finish backpacking, drive to El Malpais National Monument, campout
- Thursday: Explore Great Sand Dunes National Park, campout
- Friday: Return to CCO, debrief, clean gear, camp dance, campout
- Saturday: Campers depart—see you next summer!

Interested? Have more questions? Contact the office at chiefouray@ymcarockies.org or call 970-887-2648.

Trekker Surf N' Turf

EXPLORATION. ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA.

Welcome to Trekker Surf and Turf at CCO! We are excited to offer this program to campers between 14- 15 years of age. Campers will get the opportunity to explore natural areas in the Southwest United States and spend the weekend at YMCA Camp Surf in California. This is a CCO camper family favorite and usually fills up quickly. There is no level of experience required to participate. However, your camper should be able to hold their breath underwater, swim basic strokes, able to tread water and float, and be comfortable in the ocean. YMCA Camp Surf staff will guide water-based activities with CCO staff present. USLA certified Ocean Lifeguards will be on site in towers during times when campers are in the water.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

Campers will learn about new places and environments through activities and exploration. Surfing and bodyboarding are offered by Camp Surf. Participants will have opportunities to listen to one another, resolve conflict, and value each other's contributions. CCO staff will encourage campers to take on roles and responsibilities aimed toward common group goals. Topics like Leave No Trace related to desert ecosystems, group travel and camping etiquette will be covered as well.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

During the drive to and from YMCA Camp Surf the group will be base camping at established campsites and preparing all their meals on a two-burner camp stove. While at YMCA Camp Surf meals will be provided. CCO will communicate any camper dietary restrictions and food allergies to the Camp Surf team prior to their arrival in CA. This trekker group will bring tents and camp directly on the beach at Camp Surf.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

Sunday: Campers arrive at CCO, icebreakers, pack for trip, ROWDIE campfire, campout

Monday: Depart CCO, drive to first campsite, campout

Tuesday – Wednesday: Camping and driving through CO, UT, AZ, CA

Thursday - Saturday: Arrive at Camp Surf, fun in the ocean, camp on the beach

Sunday: Leave Camp Surf by lunchtime; drive to campsite for evening, base camp

Monday - Thursday: Camping and driving through CA, AZ, UT, CO

Friday: Return to CCO, debrief, clean gear and shower, camp dance, campout

Saturday: Campers Leave. See you next year!

***There may be changes in the specific parks visited depending on campsite availability, daily driving distance, and other factors.**

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Trekker Teton

EXPERIENCE. EXPLORE. LEARN. GROW.

Welcome to Trekker Teton at CCO! We are excited to offer this program to campers between 16-17 years of age. This multi-state excursion will travel through National Parks and recreation areas within the Teton Range of the Rocky Mountains.

Participants in this program will backpack for multiple days in Yellowstone National Park and complete day hikes in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Backpacking locations are determined by permit availability (March each year). Participants will only participate in day hikes in Grand Teton National Park. YMCA of the Rockies - Camp Chief Ouray is an authorized permittee of Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

Along the way of travel, campers in Trekker Teton will have opportunities to build skills and confidence, learn and practice group hiking etiquette, and Leave No Trace principles each day. Short day hiking locations in previous summers have included Dinosaur National Monument, Firehole Canyon, and Craters of the Moon National Monument to name a few options. Backpacking locations have included Lone Stare campground and Wrangler Lake in Yellowstone National Park.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

All Trekker groups will either be base camping or backcountry camping during the duration of their program. Base camping allows the group to set up tents and kitchen in one area that they can then use as a "home base" for majority of their gear. Each day the group will only carry with them what is needed for that specific day and return to that campsite. Backcountry camping allows the group to bring on their backs everything that they will need - clothes, gear, food, tents and sleeping bags. This means that the group can move further into the wilderness to new campsites each day. They will be cooking on backcountry stoves and filtering their water.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

- **Sunday:** Campers arrive, icebreakers, ROWDIE campfire, campout
- **Monday:** Teambuilding, trip preparation and logistics, Leave No Trace, campout
- **Tuesday-Wednesday:** Begin driving, stop along the way, campout
- **Thursday:** Explore Yellowstone National Park visitor centers, pickup permits, campout
- **Friday-Sunday:** Backpacking in Yellowstone National Park (location TBD)
- **Monday:** Travel day, resupply, campout
- **Tuesday-Wednesday:** Day hiking and camping in Grand Teton National Park
- **Thursday:** Start drive back to Colorado, camping along the way
- **Friday:** Drive back to CCO, debrief trip, clean gear and shower, camp dance, campout
- **Saturday:** Campers leave. See you next year!

Trekker Camp Marrowbone

DISCOVERY. SERVICE.

Welcome to Trekker Camp Marrowbone at CCO! We are excited to offer enrollment to campers between 14-15 years of age. Formally known as the Sioux YMCA, the YMCA of the Seven Council Fires will host this group as they experience an enriching program learning about the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation. Participants will spend five days fully immersed in the camp culture, take part in service learning projects, and enjoy camp activities with local youth and community members. Following summer, a letter of service hours will be provided from CCO, upon request only.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

This program is best suited for campers who have an interest in service-learning work and building community relationships. Campers will learn about the organization's mission, vision, history, and impact across the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation – their day camp and overnight YMCA programs. During this cultural exchange experience the group will spend between 8-10 total hours assisting with hands-on work projects. Summer 2025 participants helped dig holes for new cabin construction, maintenance of the archery range, and general cleaning and trash disposal around Camp Marrowbone.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

During the drive to and from YMCA of the Seven Council Fires the group will be base camping at established campsites and preparing all their meals on a two-burner camp stove. Upon arrival in South Dakota meals will be provided until the group departs. At Camp Marrowbone the group will experience rustic camp living. CCO will communicate any camper dietary restrictions and food allergies prior to their arrival in South Dakota. This Trekker group will be traveling with tents for sleeping.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

Sunday: Campers arrive, ice breakers, ROWIDE campfire, campout

Monday: Low ropes, team building, Leave No Trace, pre-trip orientation with YMCA, campout

Tuesday: Depart CCO, drive to Grayrocks Reservoir WY, campout

Wednesday: Drive to Dupree, SD, attend presentation at Eagle Butte Cultural Center (TBD), stay in YMCA Community Center lodging

Thursday-Monday: Time in Dupree (day camp programs) and at Camp Marrowbone (overnight camp programs) work projects, cultural learning, and activities (swimming, archery, etc.) Tuesday: Depart in morning, visit Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Monument, drive to French Creek Camping Area, campout

Wednesday-Thursday: Visit Badlands National Park, Visit Wind Cave National Park, campout

Friday: Drive back to CCO, debrief trip, clean gear and shower, camp dance, campout

Saturday: Campers leave Interested?

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