

TREK LEADERS



DES MOINES COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFF

DMCC Environmental Education Coordinator Kent Rector and Naturalist Jessica Johnson will lead the trip. Both Kent and Jessica have years of experience leading youth outdoors and are Wilderness First Responder or Wilderness First Aid certified. Kent has been leading outdoor recreation programs for DMCC for the last five years and has spent countless hours in Colorado's backcountry and wilderness areas hunting and backpacking.

**WHEN ONE TUGS AT
A SINGLE THING IN
NATURE, HE FINDS
IT ATTACHED TO
THE REST OF THE
WORLD.**

John Muir

SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION



SJMA was created in 1988 to assist the San Juan National Forest in providing education and interpretation of public lands in Southwest Colorado. SJMA has a participating agreement with the San Juan National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management. SJMA lead educator MK Gunn will join our group in the wilderness and will be Wilderness First Responder certified, trained in radio communication, and have extensive wilderness experience in the area. MK has been with SJMA since 2009. She has taught led youth hikes in Estes Park and throughout the San Juan National Forest.



USDA FOREST SERVICE

A Wilderness Ranger with the U.S. Forest Service will join our group to advise and guide any service learning projects.

Wilderness Rangers have intimate knowledge of the Wilderness Area, and extensive backpacking experience. The ranger will guide any stewardship projects, teach safe tool use to students, and serve as primary contact with the Pagosa Ranger District office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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DES MOINES COUNTY CONSERVATION

COLORADO SOUTH SAN JUAN WILDERNESS TREK



A TWO-WEEK HIGH SCHOOL BACKPACKING TREK



TREK OVERVIEW

The South San Juan Wilderness Trek is a two week backpacking trip for high school students to one of the most pristine wilderness areas in Colorado. Through a partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) and the U.S. Forest Service, Des Moines County Conservation (DMCC) is able to offer this opportunity.

Who Can Attend?

Lowia high school students above freshman year who meet application guidelines. No camping or backpacking experience needed.

When Is The Trip?

July 9th-19th 2019

Where Is It?

The South San Juan Wilderness is located near Pagosa Springs along the Continental Divide in southwest Colorado.

Is It Safe?

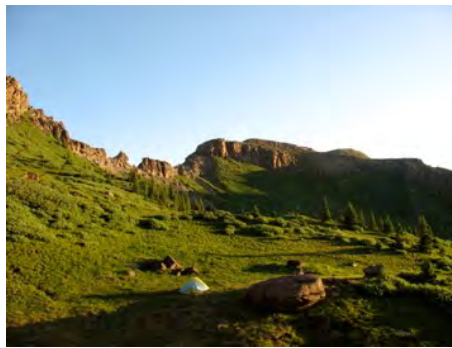
Trip leaders are highly experienced and trained in advanced wilderness first aid. Radios will be used for daily communication with Forest Service officials.

What Is The Cost?

\$300, which includes supplies (such as sleeping bags, tents, backpacks), transportation, and camp food. Scholarship applications are available for students with financial need.

How Do I Apply?

Students must complete application process by April 19. Demonstrated effort spent on application highly valued. For details, email rectork@dmcounty or call 319-753-5808.



FOUR PILLARS OF THE TREK

Stewardship:

Participants will work on a stewardship project designated by the Forest Service and SJMA. Projects may include trail maintenance, campsite rehabilitation, ecosystem monitoring and restoration.

Study Of Wilderness:

Through this trek, participants will form a personal definition for wilderness. After reading about the idea of wilderness, trek leaders will facilitate discussion on the philosophy, importance, and ideas of wilderness.

Environmental Science:

Trek leaders will stop for trail-side lessons whenever the opportunity comes up. These mini-lessons may cover aquatic biology, tree/flower identification, fire ecology, and more.

Outdoor Skills:

Leave No Trace, campsite set-up, backcountry cooking, water filtration, and sustainable camping skills will be gained.

TREK TIMELINE

Thursday, March 28, 6:30 PM:

Parent and Student informational session at Starr's Cave Nature Center. This will include a trek presentation followed by time for questions.

Friday, April 19:

Application and letter of support due. To request an application, email rectork@dmcounty or call SCNC at 319-753-5808.

April 26:

DMCC will make its final selection of applicants.

June 5, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM:

Mandatory orientation session including team building, gear fitting, and backpacking skills training.

June 27 - 28:

Overnight group pre-hike to test backpacks and boots. Chance to get one night out camping before the big trip.

July 8, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM:

Mandatory gear shakedown. Trek leaders will go through packs as a group, distribute DMCC gear such as tents, sleeping pads, sleeping bags, etc., and teach students how to properly pack up and distribute their gear. A short hike with fully loaded packs will follow. Loaded packs will be left with trek leaders at the end for loading.

July 9 - 19:

Two-week trip into the South San Juan Wilderness!