

TREK LEADERS



DES MOINES COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFF

DMCC Environmental Education Coordinator Kent Rector will lead the trip for DMCC. Kent has years of experience leading youth outdoors and is Wilderness First Responder certified. Kent has been leading outdoor recreation programs for DMCC including our South San Juan Trek for the last six 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:

Kent Rector, EE Coordinator
Des Moines County Conservation
O: 319-753-5808
C: 319-768-8057
E: rectork@dmcounty.com

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?

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

When Is The Trip?

July 21th-31th 2020

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. Inreach GPS units will be used for communication with DMCC and Forest Service officials.

What Is The Cost?

\$300, which includes supplies (such as sleeping bags, tents, backpacks), transportation, and camp food. Scholarships are available.

How Do I Apply?

Students must complete application process by April 22. 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

Saturday , March 28, 11:00 AM:

Informational session at Starr's Cave Nature Center for anyone intrested in the trek , both Parents and Students welcome. This program will include a trek presentation followed by time for questions.

Wednesday, April 22:

Trek applications due. To request an application, email rectork@dmcounty or call SCNC at 319-753-5808.

April 24:

DMCC will make its final selection of applicants.

May 30, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM:

Orientation session including team building, gear fitting, health challenge schedule, and backpacking skills training.

June 19 - 20:

Summer Solstice camp out. Group hike and sunrise paddle program. Chance to get a night out camping t before the big trip.

July 20, 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 review 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 21 - 31:

Two-week trip into the South San Juan Wilderness!