



Trip Expectations & Community Standards

Every Great Adventure Begins with Shared Expectations

A Wilderness Adventures trip is more than an itinerary. It is a community.

Every summer, students from across the country—and around the world—come together to hike, paddle, climb, explore, laugh, struggle, grow, and discover what they're capable of. Our goal is to create an environment where every student feels safe, challenged, respected, and supported.

To make that possible, every participant agrees to contribute to the experience by embracing the following expectations.

Community

At Wilderness Adventures, we believe the strongest groups aren't made up of the strongest individuals—they're built by students who care for one another.

Students are expected to:

- Treat fellow participants, leaders, guides, and community members with kindness and respect.
- Welcome others and contribute to an inclusive group culture.
- Communicate honestly and respectfully, even when conversations are difficult.
- Support teammates through challenges and celebrate one another's successes.
- Help create a positive, encouraging environment where everyone belongs.

Bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or behavior that undermines another person's safety or sense of belonging is not consistent with our community values and may result in dismissal from the program.

Participation

Growth happens when students participate.

We ask every participant to approach each day with curiosity, effort, and a willingness to try.

Students are expected to:

- Participate in scheduled activities with a willingness to engage and contribute to the group.
- Follow instructions from Wilderness Adventures staff and subcontractors.
- Stay with the group unless directed otherwise by a leader.
- Contribute to daily camp responsibilities such as cooking, cleaning, packing, and group chores.
- Care for personal equipment and shared group gear.
- Communicate honestly if they are struggling physically or emotionally.

Every student has difficult moments. We expect challenges. What we ask is that students remain willing to engage with the support of their leaders. Students are not expected to be experts—they are expected to bring a positive attitude, a willingness to learn, and an openness to new experiences.

Leadership & Responsibility

Leadership at Wilderness Adventures isn't about being the loudest voice—it's about taking responsibility for yourself and supporting those around you.

Students are expected to:

- Accept coaching and constructive feedback.
- Take responsibility for their actions.
- Practice good judgment.
- Respect the natural world and the communities we visit.
- Help solve problems rather than create them.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority.

Students are expected to:

- Follow all safety instructions.
- Report injuries, illness, or concerns to leaders promptly.
- Take medications only as directed.
- Remain with the group at all times unless given permission by staff.
- Respect all local laws and program rules.

Possession or use of illegal drugs, tobacco, nicotine products, alcohol, weapons, or misuse of prescription medications is prohibited.

Behavior that places the student or others at risk may result in dismissal from the program.

Technology & Communication

One of the greatest gifts of a Wilderness Adventures experience is the opportunity to be fully present.

To encourage independence, meaningful friendships, and engagement with the places we visit, personal electronic devices—including phones, smartwatches, tablets, gaming devices, and similar electronics—are not used during programs.

Students traveling independently may bring a cell phone for travel to and from the program. Leaders will securely store phones during the trip and return them at the conclusion of the program.

Digital cameras and GoPros are welcome.

Parents can always reach the Wilderness Adventures office if an urgent need arises. Our staff remain in regular communication with the office throughout the summer.

Respect for Property

Students are expected to care for:

- Personal belongings
- Shared group equipment
- Campsites
- Lodging
- Vehicles
- Natural areas we visit

Students may be financially responsible for damage resulting from intentional misuse or negligence.

As outlined in the Parent Enrollment Agreement, Wilderness Adventures is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.

Food & Dietary Needs

Wilderness Adventures works hard to accommodate most dietary needs and food allergies. Because many of our programs operate in remote locations and backcountry environments, food options may occasionally be limited. Families should communicate all dietary needs during the enrollment process so our team can determine whether we can safely accommodate them.

When Expectations Aren't Met

Our goal is always to help students learn, grow, and succeed.

When challenges arise, our leaders respond with coaching, encouragement, clear expectations, and problem-solving whenever appropriate. Homesickness, frustration, conflict, and moments of self-doubt are a normal part of many students' growth, and our staff are experienced in helping students work through these challenges.

While we work hard to support students through these normal challenges, there are times when a student is no longer willing or able to participate meaningfully in the program. In those situations, Wilderness Adventures may determine, in partnership with the family, that returning home is the best outcome for both the student and the group.

Behavior that significantly disrupts the group, places the student or others at risk, or violates major program expectations may also result in dismissal from the program.

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated refusal to follow leader directions
- Bullying, harassment, or threatening behavior
- Possession or use of drugs, alcohol, nicotine, or weapons
- Leaving the group without permission
- Theft or intentional damage to property
- Conduct that creates a significant safety concern

If a student is dismissed, families are responsible for transportation arrangements and any associated costs, as outlined in the Parent Enrollment Agreement.

Our Commitment to Families

Just as we ask students to contribute positively to the group, we commit to providing:

- Caring, well-trained leaders
- Thoughtful risk management
- Meaningful challenge
- Open communication with families when significant concerns arise
- An environment where every student is encouraged to grow, explore, and belong

We believe that the most meaningful adventures happen when students feel supported, challenged, and connected to the people around them. These shared expectations help make that possible.