

EXPLORATIONS SUMMER LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE SCHEDULE 2016

PRE-SUMMER VENTURES*

June 8 - 11

Based out of our HomeBase facility, students will engage in a variety of individual pursuits at the top of the summer. Some students may complete summer school coursework, attend specialty camps, or participate in therapeutically-recommended visits. Daily recreation and contributions to HomeBase will be a part of the daily schedule. Outdoor activities such as hiking, swimming, bicycling, and canoeing are but some of the options that round out daily life before our expedition schedule begins. Students will also participate in the Color Me Rad 5K – whether walking or running or volunteering to throw color, participants will be covered in vivid colors from head to toe at the end of the race!

Wilderness First Aid training will be offered and participants will work toward certification through the Emergency Care & Safety Institute. Participants will also be trained in CPR through the American Heart Association. We have discovered that these certifications are not only significant life skills but have previously provided students with employment and volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

SUMMER PROGRAM ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION**

June 12 - 13

Summer-only students arrive, move in and participate in orientation. Current HomeBase residential students mentor new students during move-in and orientation. Student will register for high school courses, if applicable.

GREEN RIVER UTAH CANOEING

June 14 - 22

Explorations staff will partner with the talented outdoor professionals at Breakwater Expeditions <http://www.breakwaterexpeditions.com/> for a magical trip to one of Utah's most beautiful places. The Green River is considered by many to be the top calm water canoe destination in the USA. Our canoe expedition will take us through the meandering waters of the Stillwater and Labyrinth canyons where our paddle time and off-river exploration are limited only by our imagination. Students will view ancient Pueblo ruins and rock art sites while tracing the historic route of explorer Major John Wesley Powell. Expansive desert beauty, red cliffs and warm summer days on the water create this memorable experience. Prior to and following our time on the river, students may travel to various parks, monuments and historic sites.

HOMEBASE & BIKING

JUNE 23 – 26

Students return to HomeBase for day activities to include parent phone calls, laundry, day hikes and class time to work on summer courses. Students will learn mountain-biking basics and bike to a couple of our favorite swimming holes in the beautiful Montana wilderness.

BACKPACKING

JUNE 27 – JULY 2

Trekking through the woods, with everything needed packed inside their backpacks, students travel through the pristine mountains of northwestern Montana where they learn the basic skills of map-reading, navigation, and backcountry cooking. Students learn the local flora and fauna, land features, and river crossings.

HOMEBASE

JULY 3 – 5

Students return to HomeBase to rest up and prepare for the next expeditions. Students will make calls to home, do their laundry, pack up for the next trip and enjoy some time on our 80 acre property. Students will celebrate Independence Day at a small town festival by taking in the parade!

RIVER SCHOOL*

JULY 6 – 8

Students will learn the basics of whitewater instruction and paddling safety. Hands-on instruction with our experienced instructors will include river behavior and hazards, paddling and oaring techniques, safety instruction, communication skills and some great time on the river! Students will learn and demonstrate skills both individually and as a member of a team. Evenings will be spent around the fire exchanging stories about the journey of the day!

SWIFTWATER RESCUE TRAINING*

JULY 9-11

The swift water rescue course combines classroom instruction followed by skill development and practice on the water. We have collaborated with Whitewater Rescue Institute <http://www.whitewaterrescue.com/> for five years to offer this opportunity. Students will heighten confidence, learn to depend on the skills of each other, and work together in scenario-based assessments on the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers. Students who successfully complete the training earn a certification in swift water rescue. This course is practical instruction for anyone who spends time boating, swimming or involved in any water sport. The bonus is getting to go to class where some of Montana's most picturesque waterways are the classrooms!

SERVICE LEARNING**

July 12 - 15

Different than community service, true service learning provides our students the chance to balance formal educational instruction with the opportunity to serve in a community in direct contact ways. Students will learn the basic skills of any given service learning project and then have the chance to give back to a community in a progressive learning experience. We may lend a hand to Habitat for Humanity to assist in building a residence for a family or contribute time at a community garden helping teach food security, aspects of sustainable farming and the reasons to use locally grown food. Other service learning trips have occurred on the Blackfeet and Crow reservations, on the Kootenai National Forest and for many local groups who appreciate our helping hand.

HOMEBASE

July 16 – 17

Students will return to the HomeBase campus to switch out gear for the next expedition and make calls to home. There will be study time for those enrolled in summer school courses under the supervision of one of our tutors.

CHALLENGE COURSE & WHITEWATER KAYAK SCHOOL

July 18 - 22

We resume the expedition schedule on the scenic Clark Fork River where participants are challenged by a low element ropes course and whitewater kayaking school. Students will practice communication skills and heighten awareness for personal growth through ropes course elements and by mastering basic kayaking techniques. Evenings will be spent around the fire and camping under the stars. The week will conclude with a day of whitewater rafting down Montana's famous Alibon Gorge.

ROCK-CLIMBING/PEAK ASCENT & DAY VENTURES

July 23 - 26

Students will merge together the myriad of skills learned thus far and will work together while rock climbing and during a peak ascent. Our professional climbing guides will support students to achieve a goal of reaching the top of a mountain and will teach the skills of rock-climbing at one of Montana's outstanding climbing areas along the banks of Lake Kootenai near the Canadian border. Students will also spend time at HomeBase, working toward completion of any coursework and preparing for the final summer expedition. Day ventures may include blueberry picking, sea-kayaking school, and swimming.

ALASKA SEA-KAYAKING

July 27 – August 4

Explorations will again partner with Breakwater Expeditions' professional outdoor staff for an extraordinary expedition to arguably one of the most spectacular and pristine sea-kayaking destinations in the world. Students will explore breathtaking coastal scenery and glacial tributaries by paddling the wild and scenic waters of the Prince William Sound in Alaska! The marvels of the natural environment combine with the rigors and fun of paddling through glaciated passageways and fjords. Snow-capped peaks surround the sound and protect it from outside influences, thus protecting its natural state and offering our students a view of our world few may ever see. Students will travel by air with our staff team members from Spokane to Anchorage. From Anchorage, we shuttle to Whittier, the gateway to the sound, for trip preparation and final instruction. This expedition not only provides a nearly magical interface with our planet but allows our students the opportunity to reflect on their skills, talents and abilities in a most inspiring place. This trip is the crown jewel of this year's expeditions!

PROGRAM CONCLUSION

August 5 - 6

Students return to HomeBase to finalize all summer school courses and then share in a formal conclusion of the Summer Adventure Leadership experience. Parents are invited to join us and celebrate in their child's accomplishments and participate in end-of-program activities and therapeutic family sessions during the final day of the course.

*Denotes opportunities to receive certification and/or documented hours in any or all of the following: Wilderness First Aid, Swift Water Rescue, or documents of whitewater skills instruction hours.

**Denotes opportunities to earn high school credit in any/all of the following: Lifetime Adventure Sports (PE), Outdoor Leadership, and Service Learning. All academic opportunities are based upon the desire and commitment of the participant.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Explorations reserves the right to make schedule changes and will communicate any changes.
- All home visits and family visits to Explorations are based upon therapeutic recommendation.
- Explorations students may be joined by other participants for a portion or all of the summer.
- Sibling and/or Family trips are billed additionally per participant.

OPTIONAL OFFERINGS

FAMILY CUSTOM TRIPS

Family members or siblings may be included in our curriculum for a portion of our summer, with particular goals in mind. Please contact us if you are interested!

FAMILY VISITS TO MONTANA

HomeBase students may be recommended to have visitors come to Explorations and/or may be recommended to visit home during the course of the summer. These visits are based upon therapeutic recommendation ONLY and length of any visit is also recommended to meet therapeutic needs. Family members are encouraged to visit and participate in the closing of the summer program events on August 5 – 6.