



## Kieve West 2010 Program Information

### Introduction

Kieve West is a 23-day co-ed summer wilderness experience set in Colorado’s Rocky Mountains. The Mountains of Colorado offer an amazing environment for learning, developing leadership skills, making lifelong friends, and exploring the rugged, Wild West. Over the course of our 23-day trip, we’ll go on a 12-day backpacking trip, spend 2 days rock-climbing, complete a Wilderness First Aid course, and go rafting on the Arkansas River. KieveWavus partners with Moondance Adventures to handle all of the logistics of the trip. (<http://www.moondanceadventures.com>)

While a lot of fun, you should understand that Kieve West is an intense leadership course and there will be classes on leadership and wilderness. Participants are 16-18 year old men and women who aspire to become outdoor leaders, hopefully at Kieve or Wavus.

### Planned 2010 Trip Itinerary

Day 1	Arrival in Denver, Colorado, Travel to Buena Vista
Day 2 -3	White water rafting
Day 4 – 5	Wilderness First Air & CPR Certification by the Wilderness Medical Institute
Day 6 – 18	Backpacking through Colorado’s San Juan Mountains. We will be traveling both on and off trail, camping between 8,000 and 12,000 feet above sea level. Students can expect full and challenging days.
Day 19 – 20	Rock Climb in Lake City, Colorado
Day 21	Whitewater rafting Royal Gorge of Arkansas River
Day 22	Travel, clean gear, Banquet Dinner
Day 23	Travel home from Denver, Colorado

### What you can expect:

Each Kieve West group will be comprised of 8-12 students, and 2-3 Kieve/Wavus counselors. On a day-to-day basis, students will not only be physically challenged as we hike from one place to another, but also intellectually engaged. Each day, students will travel through the mountains both on and off trail. Once in "camp," students will be responsible for setting up their own campsite, cooking their meals, and all other basic wilderness living skills. Finally, students can expect to travel and live in the wilderness and also to learn in the field. Each day, either in the morning or evening, there will be classes in which students learn a wide range of technical and interpersonal skills described below. These classes will be based on the “describe, demonstrate, do” model of teaching in which students are actively involved in the teaching. The students will also be responsible for teaching some classes and for developing their wilderness teaching skills. Finally, students can expect time to reflect on their experiences and become close friends with the other students on their course. All in all, students can expect each day to be long—but diverse and fulfilling—in Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

### Technical Skills

One of the goals of Kieve West is to develop the outdoor skills of our future counselors. We hope they develop not only stellar habits, but also the knowledge of why these habits are the best ways to travel. The Kieve-Wavus staff will teach backcountry classes such as cooking, nutrition, Leave No Trace, sanitation, and fly-fishing. There will also be a focus on mountain travel skills such as map reading, route finding, and river crossing. The students' Wilderness First Aid certification will give them a superb base of first-aid skills that we will practice in numerous emergency scenarios. The rock climbing section of the trip will introduce the students to other wilderness skills that are commonly used at Kieve and Wavus.

### Interpersonal Skills

The other main goal of Kieve West is to foster strong leadership skills that will benefit these young men and women when they return to Kieve or Wavus to become camp counselors. We will have many classes on communication, leadership, and group dynamics. Students will also take turns being leaders of the day for small (3-5 students) hiking groups. In this situation they will practice their leadership skills and receive feedback from other students and counselors in a formal setting. Students will also gain experience as outdoor educators. Each student will be responsible for teaching two 30-minute classes on one aspect of the curriculum. They will receive both support and oral feedback on their classes. The Kieve-Wavus counselors will also lead several discussions about how to manage some of the challenges of being a camp counselor. Finally, students will be asked to keep a leadership journal and do several readings from a diverse selection of sources. This allows students to reflect on what they are doing and learning from day to day and read about the experience of others who have ventured into the wilderness.

### Risk Management:

Challenge is at the heart of the Kieve West experience, and with this challenge comes inherent risk. We are proud of the quality of our programs, our safety record, and risk management practices. The Kieve-West counselors have wilderness medical training, and are typically certified Wilderness First Responders with 80 hours of Wilderness First Aid and CPR training. The students' WFA training course will further allow them to help themselves and the instructors in the event of an injury. The instructors also carry cell phones and have access to both land and air rescue crews. Kieve-Wavus strives to develop creative and challenging programming and endeavors to manage risks responsibly, knowing they cannot eliminate those risks. Students learn that they share in the responsibility for their own well-being and the well-being of others on the program.

Finally, non-prescription drugs (including tobacco) and alcohol are not allowed on any part of the Kieve West experience. A student found using such substances will be immediately removed from the field and sent home at their family's expense - **a zero tolerance policy**.

### Evaluation:

Evaluation is a critical part of any learning experience. For this reason the students will receive oral and written feedback both during and after the trip. Halfway through the backpacking section and at the end of the expedition, students will be evaluated on their wilderness travel, outdoor living, First Aid, and leadership skills. They will receive feedback in detailed comments. These evaluations are meant solely to help the student improve their own wilderness travel both during and after the Kieve West expedition.

**Tuition & Fees:**

Tuition and fees are exclusive of round-trip airfare to **Denver, Colorado**. (Tuition does include WFA certification.)

**Payment Policy & Procedures:**

Checks drawn on foreign banks are extremely expensive and time consuming to process. Therefore, we would appreciate receiving payment by one of the following options.

- A check payable in U.S. Dollars drawn on a U.S. bank.
- A wire transfer to the Damariscotta Bank & Trust Co., Damariscotta, Maine

**Telegraph name: Damariscotta Bank**

**ABA#: 011200585**

**Account#: 075-4114-2**

Except for the deposit, Visa or MasterCard is discouraged due to the high transaction cost.

A bill for the remaining tuition charges will be sent out in February. Final payment must be received by March 15th.

**Refund Policy:**

Once your child is accepted, deposits are non-refundable. Tuition payments are also non-refundable, but in special circumstances, please contact the Kieve West Program Assistant, Jean Vose, [jean@kieve.org](mailto:jean@kieve.org)

**Travel:**

As soon as you are accepted to the program, we recommend that you reserve a flight into **Denver, Colorado**. Upon acceptance, you will receive additional information from Kieve-Wavus about when you should book your flight.

**Equipment:**

Kieve-Wavus provides all group equipment. A good backpack and sleeping bag will be available to borrow or you can bring your own. A packing list will be sent upon acceptance to the program.

**Baggage Info:**

Baggage should be sent no later than 10 days prior to the opening of each Kieve West session. Send UPS or Fed Ex to:

Your child's name  
Moondance Adventures  
c/o Kieve West  
2004 Riverside Dr, Suite T  
Asheville, NC 28804

**Telephone /Fax/Email:**

Except in special circumstances, telephone calls between Kieve West campers and parents are discouraged since they detract from the campers being "present". Cell phones will be collected at the start of the program and returned on the last night. For many reasons, practical as well as philosophical, we prefer families to rely on the U.S. mail.

All USPS mail should be sent to Kieve West students at the following address:

Your child's name  
Moondance Adventures  
c/o Kieve West  
PO Box 5020  
Asheville, NC 28813

For packages, please use the Baggage Info shipping address listed previously.

**Fitness:**

Kieve West is a physically demanding trip. Students will be expected to carry heavy backpacks that weigh up to 45% of their body weight over challenging terrain for 4-10 miles a day at high elevation. Students should be in very good physical condition prior to the start of the program. Students with pre-existing athletic injuries or who are otherwise unsure about their physical ability should consult with Kieve-Wavus to determine whether or not Kieve West is an appropriate choice.

**Application Process:**

After initial screening of your application at Kieve West, we will contact you about your acceptance status within 2 weeks of receiving your application.