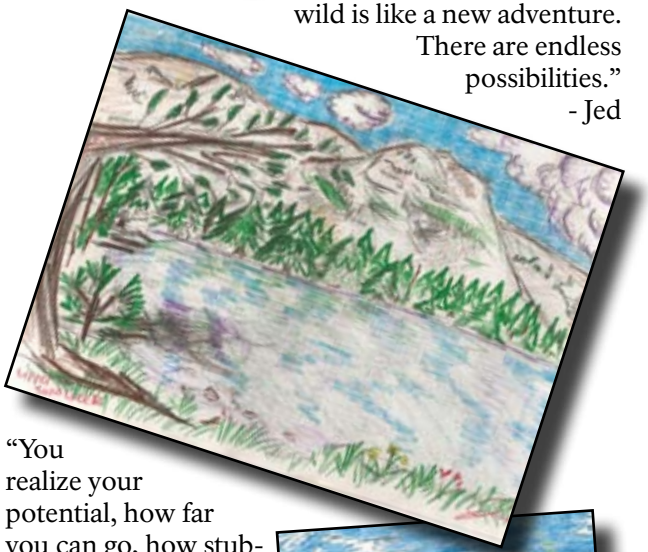
In Your Own Words

"...in this group, if one falls, we all fall, and if one perseveres, then so do the rest. You matter, and so does everyone else." - Marlee



"Every day in the wild is like a new adventure. There are endless possibilities." - Jed

"You realize your potential, how far you can go, how stubborn you are, how brave..." - Danielle

"There's not really much you can do once nature decides to do something . . . except run for it." - Salvador

"The wilds are mysterious, so they're wonderful." - Christina

"...this experience has been fun and something totally new to me! It has given me so many new friends and really amazing people." - Jessie

Return address (please print neatly!)

Affix postage here

Great Sand Dunes
attn: AFW
National Park and Preserve
11999 Highway 150
Mosca, CO 81146

Ambassadors for Wilderness

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

What It's All About

Outdoor and Leadership Skills

We stress the essentials of wilderness risk management, Leave No Trace, leadership, teamwork, and personal responsibility.

In addition, participants learn about backcountry navigation, wild edibles, cooking, camping in bear country, packing, and reading the weather. By the end of the session, students will have the skills to begin planning outdoor excursions of their own.

Career Mentoring and Volunteer Work

Participants will have the opportunity to join park staff in one or more of the following activities:

-field science
-wilderness monitering
-working with kids
-trail and campsite rehab

Why It's Awesome

Participant Benefits

Besides the memories, friendships, and skills to last a lifetime, more tangible benefits include:

- One elective credit transfer (high school only)
  or
  30-50 hours volunteer service credit
- Bragging rights on leadership experience to put on college applications
- Cool camping swag to take home
- Photo and video DVD

Scholarship money is also available to participants who complete an independent study project.

Returnee Benefits

Alumni of the program are eligible to become student instructors within either the middle or high school program. Student instructors attend additional instructor training and assist in teaching essential skills. These instructors earn a small daily stipend in addition to the participant benefits.

NPS Photo credits:
Left (top): Navigation skills session on a peak overlooking the dunes.
Left (middle): Tomas makes a new friend at Lower Sand Creek Lake.
Left (bottom): The gang obliterates a damaging social trail.
Center: Take a flying leap off the remote northern dunes!
Right: The frozen T-shirt challenge breaks the ice on Day 1.
Cover: Our crew at the crest of the Sangre de Cristos and the top of the dunes watershed.
Back: Christina checks out the view from 13,000 feet.

Who, Where, When, How?

Who is eligible?

High school sessions:
- Must be entering 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in the fall.

Middle school sessions:
- Must be entering 8th or 9th grade in the fall.

How long will I be away from home?

High school sessions last 7 days, 6 nights.
Middle school sessions last 5 days, 4 nights.

When will we go?

Session dates vary from year to year but typically fall in midsummer. Current session dates can be found on this year's application.

What does it cost?

Nothing! All meals and camping gear are provided. You need only to provide your own clothing, personal items, and transportation to the park. A small refundable deposit may be required to hold your spot once accepted.

How can I get an application?

Mail: Write your return address and slap a stamp on the back of this brochure!
Phone: 719-378-6344
Email: Melanie_Rawlins@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/grsa/ambassadors-for-wilderness.htm

Or Find us on Facebook follow us on twitter