

# Student Testimonials

*Other high school students report back on their own wilderness experience.*

“Why climb this mountain? Because it is the best thing to do. It’s this feeling you get when you reach the top and see back where we started. To get the sense of how far you can push yourself.” - Natalie

“Dear Wilderness, Thank you for the quietness that made me feel so relaxed and helped me get my thoughts straight, also made my way of thinking of life different...I am really proud of myself to do something I was actually scared of doing. Nothing will ever make me feel better than what you have made me feel. Thank you for everything!! Love, Alejandra.”

“People were growing, becoming leaders and leading other people to the top of the mountains. The group was beginning to believe in themselves, believing that they can reach the top.” - Robert

“...Wilderness is not something we want to change, but something that can change us.” - Monica

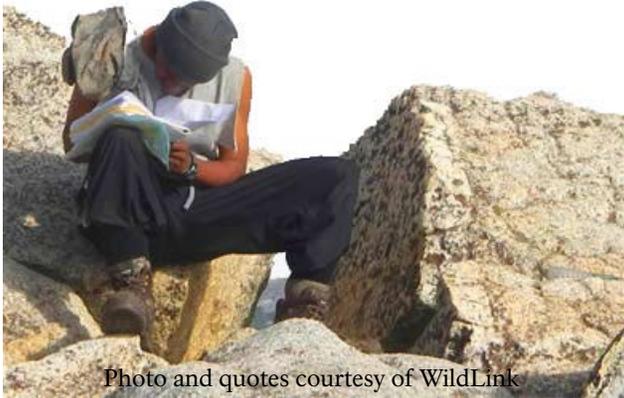


Photo and quotes courtesy of WildLink

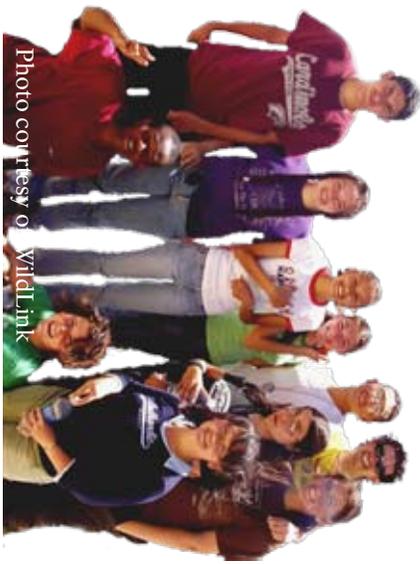


Photo courtesy of WildLink



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

attn: Ambassadors for Wilderness  
Please send me more information  
and application packet!

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

12/07

Return address

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Great Sand Dunes  
National Park and Preserve

## Ambassadors for Wilderness

*The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but rather in the future.*

— Aldo Leopold

...Make new friends

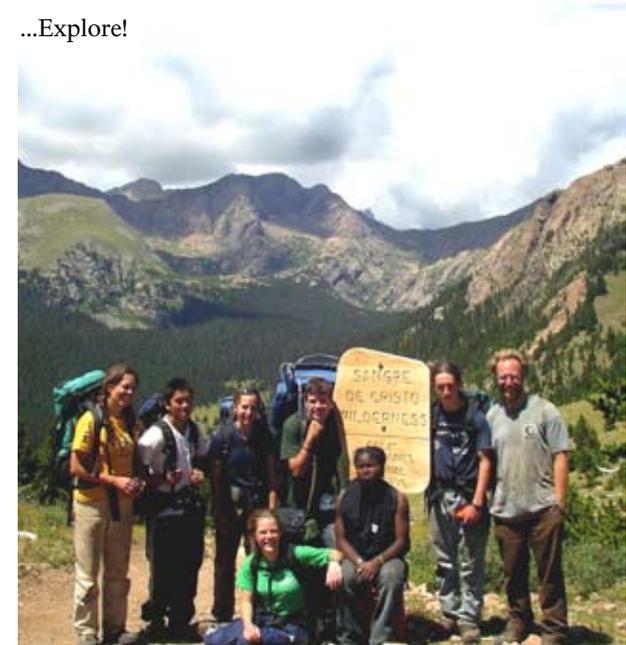
...Learn new outdoor skills and Leave No Trace

...Earn volunteer credit

...Add to your college applications

...Get your foot in the door to jobs on federal land

...Explore!



Affix 1st class  
postage here

# Who, Where, When, How?

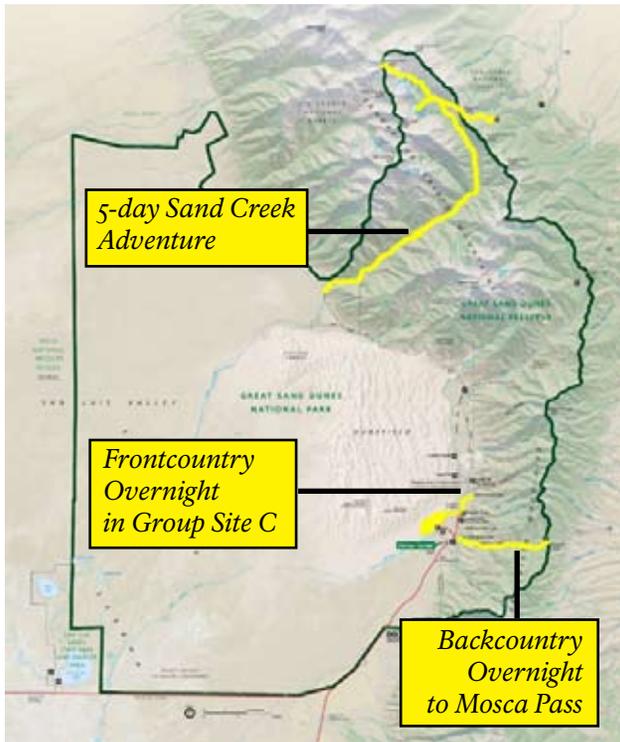
## Who is eligible?

You must be currently enrolled as a high school freshman, sophomore, or junior living in the San Luis Valley. You must also be able to commit to two overnights plus one 5-day trip in the summer.

## What does it cost?

Nothing! All camping gear (tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, etc.) is provided. You need only to provide your own clothing, personal items, and transportation.

## Where will we go?



## When will we go?

Overnight trips will be in July and 5-day trips in August. Carpools may be arranged.

## How can I find out more?

Call 719-378-6344 or visit our website at [www.nps.gov/grsa/parknews](http://www.nps.gov/grsa/parknews)

# Program Content

## Outdoor Skills

Whether you are an experienced outdoor traveler or have never seen the inside of a tent, there is always more to learn outside. Leave No Trace ethics will be an integral part of daily life. You will leave the summer more confident in your outdoor skills and the wilderness will be in better condition than when you found it.

Photo courtesy of WildLink



## Field Science and Volunteer Work

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



- water quality monitoring
- invasive plant removal
- trail building and maintenance
- wildlife studies
- teaching young visitors on Junior Ranger Day

## Reflection and Personal Time

Wild places can inspire strong emotions that might include awe, fear, loneliness, or joy. Periods of solo time and journals will be provided for sketching, writing or recording the day's events. Exceptional journal work will be posted on the park's and Hands on the Land websites.

# Bring Wilderness Back Home

## Ambassador Projects

Part of your duties as an Ambassador for Wilderness will be to complete a wilderness-related project back in your home community.

- make a presentation to your class
- write an article for your local newspaper
- organize a clean-up of a local trail or natural area
- improve local habitat by planting native plants
- create an art project or exhibit for display at the Visitor Center

## Ambassadors Family Weekend at Great Sand Dunes

Graduates of the Ambassadors program will have the opportunity to bring their families back to the park for a weekend of camping free of charge. This September event will reunite these new friends from across the San Luis Valley and allow them to share their in-depth knowledge of the park with those closest to them.

# Get Started Today

By mail: Request info by using the mailer on the back  
By phone: Call the Education Specialist at 719-378-6344  
By internet: Get complete info and download an application at [www.nps.gov/grsa/parknews](http://www.nps.gov/grsa/parknews)

*"Believe one who knows; you will find something greater in woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters." -- St. Bernard de Clairvaux*