YMCA OF THE ROCKIES

Camp Chief Ouray Overnight Activity & Facility Guide

Updated November 2026

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ACTIVITY FACILITIES

Camper Hub (Hub)

Formally called the Schlessman Family Camper Hub, this building primarily functions as the camp dining hall. The Nurse's Station is housed within the Hub, as well as the camp store (open during check-in and check-out only). The Hub is also used for large all camp events like the dance, or when weather prevents us from having evening programs outside.













Nordic Center

The Nordic Center functions as a multi-use indoor program space for creative arts, the library, music space, and more. When weather prevents us from having evening programs outside this space is utilized.

















Pavillion (Pav)

The Pav is a multi-use space where a 30-ft rock climbing, floor ball, gaga ball, carpet ball, the bouldering rock, 9 square and more are available. The Pav is also where the Trail Department is located. The Trail Department offers campers of all ages access to camping equipment upon request. Campers in Adventure and Trekker programs store their luggage in the Trail Department and sleep in tents set up around the Pav in the nearby forest when they are sleeping on site.















Phoenix Fire Circle

The Phoenix Fire Circle is where campers gather together to sing songs, play skits and make their first summer camp memory at our opening ROWDIE campfire.







Ember Fire Circle

The Ember Fire Circle is where campers gather together to perform at the talent show, sing Taps at the end of each day and say goodbye to CCO at the closing campfire ceremony.







CCO Barn

Available to campers enrolled in horseback riding programs

The CCO Barn is where all CCO equestrian programs are run. The barn includes the red barn, two riding arenas, a few small pens, the hay barn, and a large grazing pasture. We utilize trails on Snow Mountain Ranch property for our trail rides.







Target Sports Range

The Target Sports Range contains the Archery, Slingshot and Axe Throwing Range. Only campers who are 12+ years old have access to the Axe Throwing Range.











Low Ropes Course

The Low Ropes Course has 5 elements where campers build their team building and communication skills among peers.

















Pinecone Park

Pinecone park is a nature based playscape made of recycled tires, a bouldering rock, Gaga Ball ring, slack lines and a hammock village.













CAMPER LODGING

Woods Lodge

Youngest – Male Identifying – Cabins (3)

The Woods Lodge encompasses the Gray Jay, Chipmunk and Racoon cabins who house our youngest overnight male Identifying campers. Each cabin sleeps up to 10 campers and 2 cabin staff. Each cabin has a full bathhouse. This is our heated cabin model. Campers in this lodging will be apart of “Pinecone Village“ for activites.











Wild Bunkhouse

Youngest – Female Identifying– Cabin (3)

The Wild Bunkhouse encompasses the Pine Marten, Mountain Blue Bird and Gray Squirrel cabins who house our youngest overnight female identifying campers. Each cabin sleeps up to 10 campers and 2 cabin staff. Each cabin has a full bathhouse. This is our heated cabin model. Campers in this lodging will be apart of “Pinecone Village“ for activites.









Monarch Village

Mid-Age - Female Identiying- Cabin (5)

TheMonarch Village encompasses the Gaillardia, Dunroamin West, Snickers, Mariposa, and Babaloo cabins, who house our mid-age overnight female identifying campers. Each cabin sleeps up to 10 campers and 2 cabin staff. This village shares one central bathhouse. This is our insulated cabin model. Campers in this lodging will be apart of "Sprout Village" for activites.











South Village

Oldest – Female Identifying– Cabin (8)

South Village encompasses the Aspen, Blue Spruce, Bristlecone, Cottonwood, Douglas Fir, Lodgepole, Pinyon and Ponderosa cabins; which house our oldest one-two week overnight female Identifying campers. Each cabin sleeps between 8-10 campers and 2 cabin staff. This village shares one central bathhouse. This is our rustic cabin model. Campers in this lodging will be apart of "Sapling Village" or "Forest Village" for activites.











North Village

Oldest – Male Identifying – Cabin (8)

North Village encompasses the Bighorn Sheep, Brown Bear, Coyote, Elk, Fox, Marmot, Pika and Trout cabins who house our oldest one-two week overnight male identifying campers. Each cabin sleeps between 8-10 campers and 2 cabin staff. This village shares one central bathhouse. This is our rustic cabin model. Campers in this lodging will be a part of "Sapling Village" or "Forest Village" for activities.









Juniper Cabin

Challenger Female Identifying (Ages 13-14)

The Juniper Cabin is where the Challenger Female Identifying Campers (ages 13-14) stay. This cabin sleeps up to 20 campers and 3 cabin staff. This cabin shares the South Village Bathhouse. This is our rustic cabin model. Campers in this lodging will be a part of "Forest Village" for activites.









Osprey Cabin

Challenger Male Identifying (Ages 13-14)

The Osprey Cabin is where the Challenger Male Identifying Campers (ages 13-14) stay. This cabin sleeps up to 20 campers and 3 cabin staff. This cabin shares the North Village Bathhouse. This is our rustic cabin model. Campers in this lodging will be apart of "Forest Village" for activites.









Wilderness Village

Accessible to Leadership Training Programs campers

Wilderness Village is where campers in Leader In Training (LIT), Specialist in Training (SIT), Counselor in Training (CIT), Backcountry Leadership Training (BLT), Wilderness Leadership (WIL) and Expedition Leadership (EL) programs stay while NOT on trail. Campers stay in large white tents with 3 campers. Wilderness Village has portable toilets and hand-washing stations. Wilderness Village shares the bathhouses with North and South Village for showers.

*** While on trial, campers will stay in tents of 3-4 campers who all have the same gender identity. Counselors will sleep in a nearby adjacent tent.***











ACTIVITIES

Please note that this activity guide is specific to overnight campers. While Day Camp includes many of these activities, the eligibility requirements and participation expectations may differ.

Alpine Tower

Coming Summer 2027, the Alpine High Ropes Tower will be the newest addition to CCO programming.

Staff Training: Staff are trained by leadership staff with a minimum of a Level 1 certification through ACCT during staff training. A staff member with a level 1 certification will be present whenever this activity is running. Staff must complete skills and risk training and pass a skill evaluation check prior to facilitating this activity.

Eligibility: Campers must be at least 45 lbs to participate.

Degree of Difficulty: Medium-High







TENTATIVE MOCK UP IMAGES

Archery

All Campers Participate (weather permitting)

All overnight campers can expect to spend some time at the Target Sports Range, where they will participate in Archery. Campers will build their hand eye-coordination skills while practicing this timeless camp activity.

Staff Training: Staff are trained by leadership staff with a minimum of a Level 1 certification from USAA Archery during staff training. There is always a Level 1 certified staff member present at an active Archery Range. Staff must complete skills and risk training and pass a skill evaluation check prior to facilitating this activity.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low-Medium









Arts and Crafts

All Campers CAN Participate

Arts and Crafts offers a variety of fun activities for campers to express themselves creatively. All campers can expect do a form of Arts and Crafts while at CCO but the Freedom of Choice Activity (FOCA) is an intentional activity period with a planned-out art or craft, most likely related to the theme of the week.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low







Athletics

All Campers CAN Participate

All campers can expect to play a sport or athletic game at CCO. Athletics is a specific Freedom of Choice Activity (FOCA) where campers can also sign up for extra athletics time. Common athletics are soccer, kickball, capture the flag and more.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low











Biking

Available to campers who meet bike size requirements

Biking is a Freedom of Choice Activity campers can choose if they meet the minumum requirements. CCO has a variety of biking trails for all skill levels.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area. Staff must complete skills and risk training and pass a skill evaluation check prior to facilitating this activity.

Eligibility: CCCO only has certain bike sizes so campers must be able to safely fit on a CCO bike. Campers can expect to bike in rough and uneven terrain with quick elevation gains.

Degree of Difficulty: Medium-High







Camp Out Night

Traditional One Week, Two Week and Challenger

Once a week (weather permitting), campers sleep under the stars after a fun evening in the great outdoors. Cabin groups head out to a designated campsite with camping materials and dinner. Counselors cook a dinner over a fire and campers participate in various games and activities before sleeping out in the open.

Staff Training: Staff complete a mock camp out night during training, covering all supervision and risk management expectations for this activity. This includes the orientation that is given to campers each week.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Medium

Learn more information on Camp Out Night here.









Ceramics

Traditional Two Week, Challenger, Certain Ages of Traditional One Week

One of CCO's newly revamped programs, ceramics will teach campers a new creative skills with various types of ceramic making.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area.

Eligibility: Due to the length of time this activity takes, Two Week Campers will have the most access to this activity. Older One Week Traditional Campers and the Challenger Campers will have a limited access to this activity.

Degree of Difficulty: Low





Climbing Wall

All Campers CAN Participate

The Climbing Wall is a Freedom of Choice Activity (FOCA) campers can choose to participate in. There are three courses on the 30 ft. wall. Campers are top roped belayed by a CCO staff member after a safety orientation and equipment checks.

Staff Training: Staff are trained by leadership staff with a minimum of a Level 1 certification through ACCT during staff training. Staff must complete skills and risk training and pass a skill evaluation check prior to facilitating this activity.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low-Medium







Comedy and Drama

All Campers CAN Participate

Comedy and Darama is a Freedom of Choice Activity (FOCA) campers can select to learn more about performing, creating a story and telling that story. Comedy and Drama are staples of CCO's culture from singing songs to playing silly skits.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area.

Eligibility: There are no significant eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low









Gaga Ball

All Campers CAN Participate

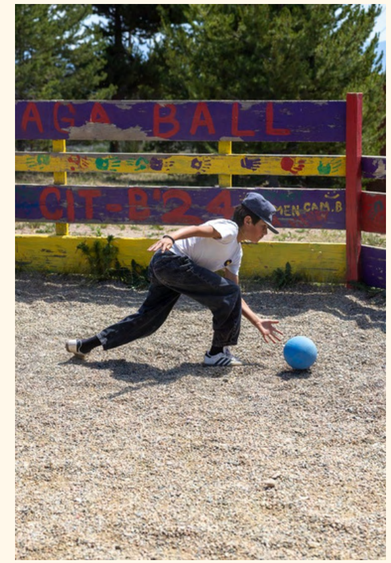
CCO has not one, not two, but three different Gaga Ball rings throughout overnight camp. Gaga Ball is a camper favorite game that involves speed, attention and hand eye coordination. This activity is so popular, some campers choose it as one of the Freedom of Choice Activities (FOCA).

Staff Training: There are no specific training requirements for this activity besides general risk management and supervision.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low











High Ropes Course



This muti-element high ropes course offers a variety of challenges campers can attempt. This course includes a 50-ft tall zip line, Jacob's Latter, Leap of Faith and more.
Staff Training: Staff are trained by leadership staff with a minimum of a Level 1 certification through ACCT during staff training. A staff member with a level 1 certification will be present whenever this activity is running. Staff must complete skills and risk training and pass a skill evaluation check prior to facilitating this activity.

Eligibility: Campers must be at least 40 lbs to participate.

Degree of Difficulty: Medium-High













Hiking

All Campers Participate (weather permitting)

Campers of all ages have several hiking trail options varying in length, difficulty, elevation gain, and terrain. Cabins/trip groups hike together so the difficulty of the hike matches the age group. With over 5,100 acres at Snow Mountain Ranch, one summer is not enough to see it all.

Staff Training: Staff are trained on hiking safety procedures and Leave No Trace principles.

Eligibility: There are no significant eligibility requirements for this activity beyond ability to walk on uneven surfaces.

Degree of Difficulty: Low-High







Hatchet Throwing

Available to campers 12+ years old

Hatchet Throwing is a Freedom of Choice Activity campers can choose if they meet the eligibility requirements. Campers will build their hand eye-coordination skills while practicing this fun activity is a well monitored space.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area. Staff must complete skills and risk training and pass a skill evaluation check prior to facilitating this activity.

Eligibility: Campers must be at least 12 years old to sign up.

Degree of Difficulty: Low-Medium







Horseback Riding Programs

Additional Option Signup (additional fee)





Camp Chief Ouray's Horseback Riding Instruction Program offers five levels of western riding lessons for campers age 9+. Campers will gain confidence and learn valuable horsemanship skills; both on the ground and in the saddle! Campers enrolled in this program will spend multiple activity sessions at the CCO barn throughout the week (either the morning or afternoon for a designated number of days) learning how to care for horses and improve their riding skills. The remainder of the day is spent participating in traditional camp activities as regularly scheduled.



Staff Training: All Cabin Counselor Riding Instructors participate in staff training specifc to the equestrian program. This includes safety procedures, lesson facilitation, getting to know the herd, and learning the trails. Staff must complete skills and risk training and pass a skill evaluation check prior to facilitating this activity.

Eligibility: Campers must be at least 9+ years old to sign up under the Additional Options Form of their CampInTouch account. There are prerequisites for each level, learn more about the prerequisites here.

Degree of Difficulty: Low-High (based on level)

Intro to Horses



Additional Option Signup (additional fee)

CCO's Intro to Horses program is an opportunity for campers to spend some time at our barn and participate in a short beginner trail ride. Campers enrolled for this activity will spend one morning at the CCO barn. They will participate in a short ground lesson, learning about how to approach, lead, and groom a horse. The trail ride is approximately 30 minutes and will include a quick orientation on how to steer and stop their horse.

Staff Training: All Cabin Counselor Riding Instructors participate in staff training specifc to the equestrian program. This includes safety procedures, lesson facilitation, getting to know the herd, and learning the trails. Staff must complete skills and risk training and pass a skill evaluation check prior to facilitating this activity.

Eligibility: Campers must be at least 7+ years old to sign up under the Additional Options Form of their CampInTouch account.

Degree of Difficulty: Low



Leave No Trace (LNT)

All Campers Participate

CCO is a designated Gold Standard Youth Program and non-profit partner with Leave No Trace, Inc. (LNT), an organization dedicated to outdoor ethics. By promoting the seven principles of Leave No Trace alongside the Core Values of the YMCA, Camp Chief Ouray can ensure that camp stays beautiful for future generations. We instill Leave No Trace ethics in all parts of camp, from our dining hall to our backcountry trips. We believe that every child deserves a high quality and nature-filled camp experience.

Staff Training: All staff are trained on the seven principals and how to properly educate campers throughout their time at CCO.

Eligibility: There are no significant eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low





Low Ropes

All Campers Participate

Our low ropes course has 5 elements for campers to swing, jump, balance and cross. Campers build their communication and team building skills with their cabin mates as they acomplish courses together.

Staff Training: Staff are trained by leadership staff with a minimum of a Level 1 certification through ACCT during staff training. Staff must complete skills and risk training and pass a skill evaluation check prior to facilitating this activity.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low-Medium







Music Arts

All Campers CAN Participate

Music is a Freedom of Choice Activity (FOCA) where campers can learn a new instrument like the guitar, ukulele, piano, or practice their skills if they decide to bring an instrument.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low-Medium







Outdoor Skills

All Campers Participate

Campers will learn various Outdoor Skills at CCO such as fire and shelter building, flora, track, and scat identification, map reading and more. The specific topic of outdoor skill activity periods will vary.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area.

Eligibility: There are no significant eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low







Pav Time

All Campers CAN Participate

Pav Time is a Freedom of Choice Activity (FOCA) campers can choose to participate in. Pav Time is a camper favorite because it offers a variety of activities like Carpet Ball, Gaga Ball, bouldering, 9-square, basketball and floor ball.

Staff Training: No specific training requirements for this activity besides general risk management and supervision.

Eligibility: There are no significant eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low









Science Experiments

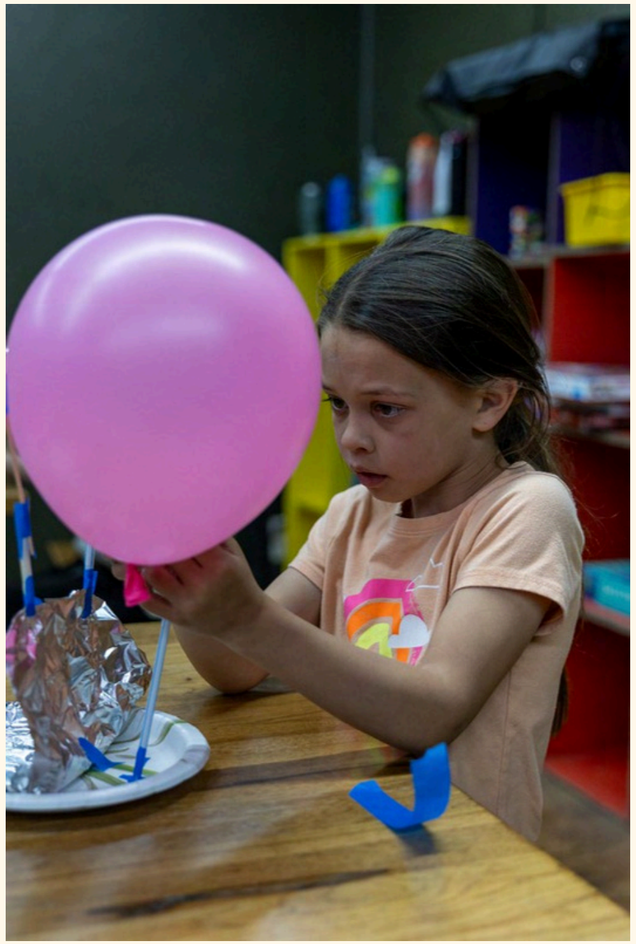
All Campers CAN Participate

Science Experiments is an activity campers can sign up as a Freedom of Choice Activity (FOCA). Campers will participate in various fun and investigative science experiments.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low



Sligshots

All Campers CAN Participate

Campers can sign up for slingshots as a Freedom of Choice Activity (FOCA). Campers will build their hand eye-coordination skills at the Target Sports Range during this activity.

Staff Training: Staff that routinely facilitate this activity will participate in training specific to this area.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low-Medium





Tie Dye

Traditional One Week, Two Week and Challenger

Campers receive a white cotton t-shirt (size picked at registration) to tie dye at camp. A CCO staple activity where there are no wrong designs!

Staff Training: Staff are trained on assembling tie dye materials and making basic designs.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements for this activity

Degree of Difficulty: Low









Whitewater Rafting

Additional Option Signup (additional fee)

Guided by MAD Adventures, this half-day rafting trip takes campers down a stretch of the Upper Colorado River at Gore Canyon near Kremmling, CO. MAD Adventures is licensed and all their staff are first aid/CPR and whitewater rescue certified. Each raft will have a MAD Adventures Guide, a CCO staff and campers. Everyone is required to wear personal flotation devices and a helmet provided by the guide, and go through a safety orientation prior to boarding the vessel.

Staff Training: All cabin staff members are required to participate in a staff rafting trip that mimics their camper's upcoming expereince.

Eligibility: Campers must be at least 9+ years old to sign up under the Additional Options Form of their CampInTouch account. An additional waiver is required to participate.

Degree of Difficulty: Low-Medium





