

All Leadership Training Programs involve an application and selection process that requires initiative and dedication from the camper. Steps of the application include submitting one letter of recommendation (for applicants who have not completed a prior Leadership Training Program), completing a set of supplemental questions, and a phone interview with the CCO Leadership and Trips Director. YMCA of the Rockies – Camp Chief Ouray is an equal opportunity service provider and employer. YMCA of the Rockies – Camp Chief Ouray operates under special use permit from the USDA Forest Service, Arapaho- Roosevelt National Forest.

Leader in Training

Summer 2025 will offer one-week LIT programs (LIT A and LIT D)!

LIT B and LIT F will have a moderate backpacking trip and base camping

LIT C and LIT E will have an advanced backpacking trip and backcountry camping

YOUNG ADULTS. BECOMING LEADERS.

The Leaders-In-Training (LIT) program is the first step in our leadership training programs and it is for teens who have **completed the 9th grade**. This program involves an application and selection process that requires initiative and dedication from the camper rather than the parent/guardian. One letter of recommendation is required - these letters are from teachers, coaches, and youth group leaders and should explain why the candidate would be good for the program. Once applied for the program, check your CampInTouch account 'Forms' for supplemental questions that the camper needs to fill out and submit. Once the questions are submitted, an interview will be scheduled. Interviews will **only** be scheduled when all materials have been submitted and reviewed.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

All LIT campers will learn their personal leadership styles and have an opportunity to lead peers and/or young campers (small group or large) in an activity. This will provide public speaking practice while giving LITs a chance to share something they are passionate about! We hope that campers leave feeling connected to camp community, invested in making camp better, and with lifelong friendships. Mentorship is an important piece of an adventure, so each camper will be provided individual coaching to further their skills.

LIT campers that participate in a backpacking trip will learn basic map reading and compass skills. These groups will either travel into Rocky Mountain National Park or a nearby National Forest area. Following their 4-day trip, campers will know the gear needed to successfully complete a backpacking trip, how to plan and prepare backcountry meals, and how to use backcountry stoves. All sessions complete a service project (most likely trail-work based) on property or the Fraser River Valley.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

LIT A and LIT D will be sleeping in platform tents in our Wilderness Village during their one-week program. They will eat all meals at the dining hall. There is no backpacking trip for these two sessions.

LIT B and LIT F will be base camping during the backpacking portion of their program. During the rest of their program, these LIT groups will be sleeping in platform tents in our Wilderness Village. They will eat most meals at the dining hall. Base camping allows the group to set up tents and kitchen in one area that they can then use as a "home base" for majority of their gear. Each day the group will only carry with them what is needed for that specific day and return to that campsite. They will be cooking on backcountry stoves and filtering their water.

LIT C and LIT E will be backcountry camping during the backpacking portion of their program. During the rest of their program, these LIT groups will be sleeping in platform tents in our Wilderness Village. They will eat most meals at the dining hall. Backcountry camping allows the group to bring on their backs everything that they will need - from clothes, gear, food, tents and sleeping bags. This means that the group can move further into the wilderness to new campsites each day. They will be cooking on backcountry stoves and filtering their water.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY FOR ONE-WEEK LIT PROGRAM:

Sunday: Campers arrive, icebreakers, Leave No Trace, ROWDIE campfire

Monday: LITs learn about their personal leadership styles, how Leave No Trace applies to overnight camp, low ropes course

Tuesday: Service project (generally trail work at camp or around the Fraser Valley), assist with all camp game

Wednesday: Takeover day! LIT's are split into cabin groups where they apply their leadership skills during FOCA (freedom of choice activities), lead games/activities with younger campers and stay the night in a cabin

Thursday: Day hike, plan for teaching talents

Friday: High ropes (weather dependent), Teaching talents: LITs lead a 15-20 minute lesson about something they have a passion for or something that relates to Leave No Trace principles. LIT's also learn how to give and receive feedback and lead a song at closing vespers

Saturday: Campers leave. See you next year in a two-week session of LIT, SIT or EL!

TENTATIVE ITINERARY FOR TWO-WEEK LIT PROGRAM:

Sunday: Campers arrive, icebreakers, ROWDIE Campfire

Monday: Teambuilding, Leave No Trace, pack for trip

Tuesday-Friday: Backpacking in Rocky Mountain National Park or nearby National Forest. During the trip, LITs learn about their personal leadership styles, backcountry skills, and apply their Leave No Trace knowledge

Saturday: Rest, learn more about leadership styles, group bonding/activities, lead Leave No Trace activity for peers

Sunday: More leadership activities, greet incoming campers, lead rules speech for all of CCO, lead a song at ROWDIE campfire

Monday: Service project (generally trail work at camp or around the Fraser Valley)

Tuesday: Prepare for challenger night, lead challenger night (teach challenger campers about Leadership Training Programs and then facilitate a game), dinner with challenger campers in WIL VIL

Wednesday: LIT Takeover day! LIT's are split into cabin groups where they apply their leadership skills during F.O.C.A. (freedom of choice activities), lead games/activities with younger campers and stay the night in a cabin

Thursday: Day hike, plan for teaching talents

Friday: Teaching talents: LITs lead a 15-20 minute lesson about something they have a passion for or something that relates to Leave No Trace principles. LIT's also learn how to give and receive feedback and lead a song at closing vespers

Saturday: Campers leave. See you next year in SIT , EL, or BLT!

Interested? Have more questions? Contact the office at chiefouray@ymcarockies.org or call 970-887-2648.

Specialist in Training

SKILL MASTERY. FOR FUTURE LEADERS.

The specialist in Training (SIT) program provides campers who are 16-17 and have **completed 10th** grade with an incredible opportunity for skill development in an outdoor setting. This program is best suited for campers who have experience backpacking and basic knowledge of mountain biking. The rafting portion of the trip will be led by professional guides; while backpacking and mountain biking will be led by CCO staff. Mentorship is an important part of an adventure, so each camper will be provided individual coaching to further their skills.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

Rafting: Campers will have an orientation prior to getting on the water that covers river safety and emergency procedures. The groups will paddle and navigate along the Arkansas River near Buena Vista, Colorado in inflatable rafts, usually around six people per raft. These groups will learn basic river terminology, paddle techniques and Leave No Trace as it relates to river corridors.

Mountain biking: Parts of a mountain bike, terminology, basic mountain bike maintenance and repair, along with beginner level techniques for riding. Leading by example, risk management, leadership and how it applies outside of CCO.

Backpacking: Campers will learn navigation with map and compass, along with triangulation and should have an opportunity to practice off-trail travel. Basic Wilderness First Aid, backcountry emergencies, and how to keep warm in the wilderness will be covered. Trip preparation and packing, group hiking etiquette, and Leave No Trace principles each day on the trail.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

Rafting: The group will camp in Buena Vista the night before their raft trip begins and cook their own meals. During the rafting, guides drop off and pick up groups at campsites along the river each day. Some rafting days can be shorter than others so the group may have time to hike around nearby and/or do group activities into the evening. Rafting meals are all provided by the guiding company for SIT rafting. Clothes and other gear will be stored in dry bags provided by CCO.

Mountain biking: These groups will base camp at an established campground in Fraser, CO for 4-nights until it is time to bike back to campus. SITs will bike to the campground (~8 miles) and their camping gear will be dropped off. Each day the group will only carry with them what is needed for that specific day in a daypack and return to that campsite each night. Potable water and restrooms at the campground and the groups will be preparing all their meals using a two-burner camp stove.

Backpacking: During the backpacking portion of this trip the group will be carrying everything they need on their backs and backcountry camping. Backcountry camping allows the group to bring on their backs everything that they will need - clothes, gear, food, tents and sleeping bags. This means that the group can move further into the wilderness, to new campsites, each day. They will be cooking on backcountry stoves and filtering their water.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

All participants in each session will do the same activities, though the order may change. Groups will return to CCO in between the activity "weeks" to rest, repack group gear, etc. Each SIT session includes:

- A 3-day rafting trip on the Arkansas River near Buena Vista, CO
- A 5-day mountain biking trip in Fraser, CO
- A 5-day backpacking trip
- All SIT sessions complete a service project (most likely trail-work based) on property or in the Fraser River Valley

Interested? Have more questions? Contact the office at chiefouray@ymcarockies.org or call 970-887-2648.

Expedition Leadership

FUTURE EXPLORERS. SKILL BUILDING.

Expedition Leadership is a program designed for campers ages 15-16 who have **completed the 9th grade**. Applicants should have a desire to go on a 9-day backpacking adventure. Backpacking experience is not required, but applicants should be prepared to hike up to five miles a day while wearing a pack that is at least 20 lbs.

This program involves an application and selection process that requires initiative and dedication from the camper. Steps of the application include submitting one letter of recommendation (for applicants who have not completed a prior Leadership Training Program), completing a set of supplemental questions, and a phone interview with the CCO Leadership and Trips Director.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

Participants will learn backpacking skills, backcountry etiquette, Leave No Trace principles, and backcountry risk management. Participants will develop their personal leadership skills and learn about the history of the White River National Forest. By the end of the program each participant will have had the opportunity to act as "Leader of the Day" where they are given feedback from their peers about their leadership strengths and areas for improvement. Mentorship is an important part of an adventure, so each camper will be provided individual coaching to further their skills.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

Campers will have hands-on opportunities to learn and practice outdoor living skills such as backcountry travel, navigation, and how to pack efficiently for multi-day trips. Groups will travel with camp stoves, pots, utensils, and all the food needed to prepare their group meals. CCO provides ingredients to meet dietary needs and allergy restrictions.

Expedition Leadership campers will be backcountry camping during the duration of their program. Backcountry camping allows the group to bring on their backs everything that they will need - clothes, gear, food, tents and sleeping bags. This means that the group can move further into the wilderness to new campsites, each day.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

Sunday: Arrive at CCO, icebreakers, Intro to Leave No Trace, ROWDIE campfire

Monday: Team building, review trip route, pack food and gear

Tuesday: Depart CCO for Flat Tops Wilderness, near Meeker, CO

Wednesday–Wednesday: Backpacking in the Flat Tops Wilderness area, backcountry camping

Thursday: Hike out to trailhead, drive back to CCO, clean gear and shower

Friday: Debrief trip, high ropes (weather dependent), camp dance

Saturday: Leave CCO. See you next year at BLT or SIT!

Interested? Have more questions? Contact the office at chiefouray@ymcarockies.org or call 970-887-2648.

Backcountry Leadership Training

BACKCOUNTRY SKILLS. SELF REFLECTION.

The Backcountry Leadership Training (BLT) program is designed for campers ages 16 to 17 who have **completed 10th grade**. Applicants preferably have completed a two-week LIT program or the EL program at CCO (or the equivalent at another camp). BLT is best suited for campers with previous backpacking experience and a genuine desire to pursue an extended wilderness experience. This program involves a 10-day backpacking trip in the Santa Fe National Forest of New Mexico and a 4-day rafting trip along the Upper Colorado River.

This program involves an application and selection process that requires initiative and dedication from the camper. Steps of the application include submitting one letter of recommendation (for applicants who have not completed a prior Leadership Training Program), completing a set of supplemental questions, and a phone interview with the CCO Leadership and Trips Director.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

Campers will learn navigation with map and compass, along with triangulation and should have an opportunity to practice off-trail travel using a topographic map. Wilderness First Aid, wilderness risk management and mitigation. Trip preparation and packing, group hiking etiquette, and Leave No Trace principles each day on the trail.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

This group will travel with camp stoves, pots, utensils, and all the food needed to prepare their group meals. CCO provides ingredients to meet dietary needs and allergy restrictions. BLT campers will be backcountry camping during the backpacking portion of their program and base camping during the rafting portion. Backcountry camping allows the group to bring on their backs everything that they will need - clothes, gear, food, tents and sleeping bags. This means that the group can move further into the wilderness, to new campsites, each day.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

Sunday: Arrive at CCO, icebreakers, ROWDIE campfire, campout

Monday: Team building, review route of trip, pack food and gear, intro to Leave No Trace

Tuesday: Leave CCO for trip; sleep at trailhead

Wednesday (day 5)- Friday (day 14): Backpacking for 10 days in the Pecos Wilderness in the Santa Fe National Forest (New Mexico)

Saturday: Drive back to CCO, clean gear and shower, rest

Sunday: Service project (generally trail work at CCO or the Fraser Valley).

Monday: Day hike in a local Wilderness area, laundry, pack food and gear for rafting

Tuesday-Friday: Rafting on the Upper Colorado River, base camping

Saturday: Leave CCO. See you next year in WIL or CIT!

Interested? Have more questions? Contact the office at chiefouray@ymcarockies.org or call 970-887-2648.

Wrangler in Training

HORSES. LEADERSHIP.

Wrangler in Training (WIT) is a two-week program designed for campers 15-16 years of age. WIT applicants must also have completed the Trail Blazer riding level at CCO (or possess equivalent skill level). Prerequisites: Know how to groom, bridle, saddle, and control the horse at a walk, trot and canter. Campers in this program will spend the first week at CCO working on team building, learning the CCO barn, building confidence in teaching, and helping out in the arena when CCO staff are leading lessons. The second week of the program will be spent on a 4-day horse pack trip in State Forest State Park, near Gould, CO which will be led by professional guides. WIT campers will complete a service project during their session.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

All WIT campers will learn their personal leadership styles and have an opportunity to put these skills into practice while covering a topic they are passionate about during lessons at the CCO barn! During the first week of the program, campers will spend most of the day at the barn, learning from our Wrangler how to handle horses, facilitate activities safely and improve their own horsemanship skills.

During the horse pack portion of this program WIT campers will learn the gear needed to successfully complete a horse packing trip, how to plan and prepare backcountry meals, and how to use backcountry stoves. Horse packing is like backpacking except instead of hiking to campsites the group will be riding horseback every day. Campers will learn skills related to grooming, tacking, horsey first aid as well as backcountry travel and etiquette.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

While at CCO WITs will be sleeping in platform tents in our Wilderness Village and will eat all meals at the dining hall. During the horse pack trip the group will travel with camp stoves, utensils, pots, spices, and all the food they will need. Once the group meets their guides, they will pack all of this gear onto mules. Campers will have a saddlebag on their horse for carrying water, sunscreen, and any other items that need to be accessed quickly. While at camp each camper will be responsible for helping set up the campsite, preparing, and cleaning up group meals.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

Sunday: Campers arrive, icebreakers, ROWDIE campfire

Monday: Team building, personal leadership styles, giving and receiving feedback

Tuesday-Friday: WITs are at the barn for all activity sessions learning from our wranglers how to handle horses, facilitate activities safely, help campers improve their own skills, and improve their own horsemanship skills. Receive feedback

Saturday: Service project at the National Sports Center for the Disabled Therapeutic Riding Center (TBD), located on YMCA of the Rockies property

Sunday: Rest day, trail ride, learn more about personal leadership style and CCO barn practices

Monday: Pack food and gear for trip, intro to Leave No Trace

Tuesday-Friday: Depart CCO, trip in State Forest State Park near Gould, CO with Red Feather Guides

Friday: Return to CCO, debrief trip, clean gear and shower, camp dance

Saturday: Leave CCO. See you next year!

Interested? Have more questions? Contact the office at chiefouray@ymcarockies.org or call 970-887-2648.

Counselor in Training

BRIGHT FUTURES. FUTURE COUNSELORS.

The Counselor-In-Training (CIT) program is a three-week program designed for campers ages 16-17 who have **completed the 10th grade**. Applicants preferably have completed at least two other Leadership Training Programs at CCO (or the equivalent at another camp). CIT is best suited for campers with previous backpacking experience and a genuine desire to work at camp in some capacity. After turning 18 years old, CIT campers are eligible to apply for a position with CCO or Snow Mountain Ranch. This program involves a 5-day backpacking trip in Rocky Mountain National Park followed by one week of shadowing/observing, and one week assisting counselors in cabins and leading activities for younger campers.

SKILLS & LEADERSHIP

Participants will refine their personal leadership style and receive training on some basic camp counselor topics such as risk management, relationship building, camp songs and games. They will cover child abuse prevention, character development, and restorative justice. Mentorship is an important part of any leadership program, so each camper will be provided individual coaching to further their skills. Campers of all levels will find ways to grow and be challenged. Program participants will complete a service project (most likely trail-work based) on property or the Fraser River Valley.

OUTDOOR LIVING & COOKING

While at CCO campers will be sleeping in platform tents in our Wilderness Village until they are placed in cabins and will eat all meals at the dining hall. During the 5-day backpacking portion of this trip the group will be carrying everything they need on their backs and backcountry camping. Backcountry camping allows the group to bring on their backs everything that they will need - clothes, gear, food, tents and sleeping bags. This means that the group can move further into the wilderness, to new campsites, each day. They will be cooking on backcountry stoves and filtering their water.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

Week one: 5-day Backpacking trip in Rocky Mountain National Park where the group bonds with each other, refines their personal leadership style, and gets trained on some basic camp counselor topics such as risk management, behavior development, simple songs and games, age group characteristics, and relationship building.

Weeks 2-3: CITs are placed into traditional camp cabins with campers ages 7-13. Here, they learn from a variety of counselors how to approach various situations and are given several chances to lead and facilitate games and activities.

- **Week 2** is focused on CITs observing CCO counselors working with campers and asking questions. CITs are encouraged to take more initiative when getting the cabin ready for the day, traveling from place to place, and helping counselors assess the needs of their group and respond.
- **Week 3** is when CITs take the lead for the majority of activities and camper situations. The counselors in their cabins step in as needed to ensure proper camper-to-counselor supervision ratios and also to provide feedback to the CITs.

Other events during the CIT program include a service project, dessert at the CCO Summer Camp Director's house, a half-day rafting trip on the Upper Colorado River, and day or evening out in Granby/Grand Lake.

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