

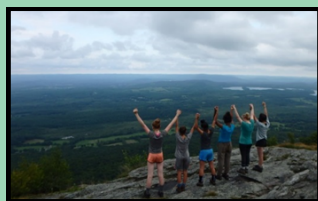
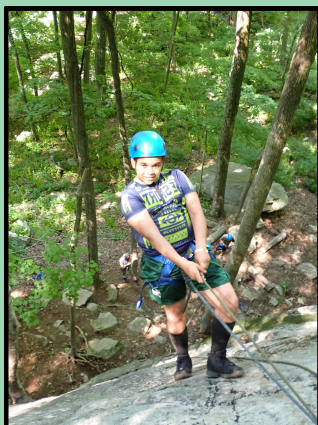


# 20 SUMMER COURSE 24 CATALOG



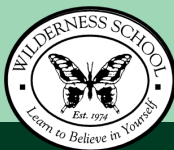
# WELCOME !

**Are you considering enrolling in a Wilderness School (WS) expedition?** Then you have come to the right place! In this catalog, you will find a general description of the programs that WS is offering this summer. We invite you to explore and find which program best fits your goals and level of adventure.



**Wilderness School is a positive youth development program for CT adolescents and young people ages 13-21 who are looking to make positive changes in their lives.** Our expedition-based and “Challenge-by-Choice” 20-day, 14-day, 5-day, 3-day, and 1-day programs, led by trained outdoor professional staff, offer a variety of adventure activities that emphasize teamwork, communication, independence, and self-discovery in a tech-free and supportive environment. Based on the chosen course design, participants may experience the following on their expeditions: hiking, backpacking, rock-climbing, canoeing, ropes/challenge course, service learning, and conservation/trail work. Our multiday expeditions traditionally occur off basecamp on the CT/MA sections of the Appalachian Trail as well as along the regional Housatonic, Farmington, and Connecticut rivers.

**Wilderness School also provides opportunities for “graduates” to continue their journey after completion of a summer course.** We offer extended leadership expeditions for Alumni students during the summer as well as Follow-Up expeditions during the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons. These courses are dedicated towards strengthening relationships and staying connected with students and families. Alumni and Follow-Up course areas include upstate Maine/Acadia National Park and the New York Adirondack Wilderness.



# SHORT COURSE EXPEDITIONS

Our short courses range from 1-Day to 3-Days to 5-Days in length.

## 1-Day Programs

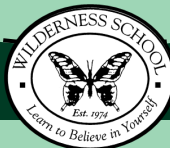
Participants are introduced to outdoor activities that incorporate elements of teambuilding, bonding, and cooperation. Activities may include hiking, canoeing, rock-climbing, or the ropes/challenge course. Programs are best suited for community groups, school groups, and Student/Agent/Family outings.

## 3-Day Expeditions

The primary focus of a 3-day is comfort and belonging. These courses are designed as an intro to Wilderness School programming. This is an excellent choice for young people new to an outdoor setting and overnight camping. Depending on the course design, activities may include hiking, canoeing, rock-climbing, or the ropes/challenge course. Often after completing a 3-day course, students elect to participate in longer courses later in the summer.

## 5-Day Expeditions

On a 5-day, students work to develop new skills and build resilience. These courses are designed around group travel by backpacking or canoeing (carrying all food, clothing, and equipment down the trail or waterway) for multiple days and overnight camping in different locations along the way. A high adventure activity such as the ropes/challenge course or rock-climbing is also incorporated into the course design. This is an excellent choice for young people who are ready to face a progressive challenge by expanding their comfort zones and building confidence and independence.



# SHORT COURSE EXPEDITIONS

DATES | *COURSE TYPE*

## 3-Days

June 18 - June 20 | *Open Enrollment: Mixed Gender*

June 18 - June 20 | *Agency Specific*

June 26 - June 28 | *Agency Specific: Solnit North*

July 24 - July 26 | *Open Enrollment: LGBTQIA+*

## 5-Days

June 24 - June 28 | *Agency Specific: Old Saybrook*

July 8 - July 12 | *Open Enrollment: Girls and  
BACKPACKING Gender Non-Binary*

August 2 - Aug 6 | *Open Enrollment: Boys and  
BACKPACKING Gender Non-Binary*

August 9 - Aug 13 | *Open Enrollment: Mixed Gender  
CANOEING*



# 20-DAY COURSE EXPEDITIONS

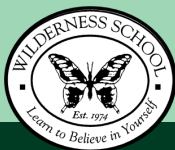
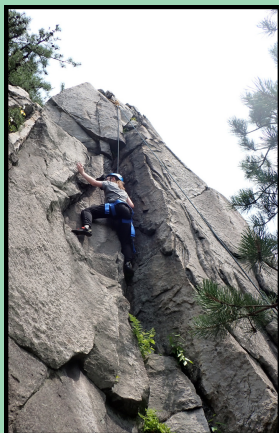
**Wilderness School's original course since 1974.** Our 20-day courses are designed for young people eager to make changes and take on the responsibility of leadership. Students will master campcraft skills, work on interpersonal skills such as communication and decision making, build confidence and independence, problem-solve challenging moments, and create meaningful connections in their crew. Outdoor activities on all 20-days include backpacking, canoeing, rock-climbing, ropes/challenge course, a solo experience, service project day, and final expedition. As Wilderness School's longest expedition, this course allows for the greatest foundational positive changes and formation of new habits and attitudes.

## DATES | COURSE TYPE

**June 27 - July 16** | *Open Enrollment: Boys and Gender Non-Binary, Minimum Age 14*

**July 25 - Aug 13** | *Open Enrollment: Boys and Gender Non-Binary, Minimum Age 14*

**July 25 - Aug 13** | *Open Enrollment: Girls and Gender Non-Binary, Minimum Age 14*



# 14-DAY CONSERVATION COURSE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**Paid opportunity to earn 120 hours at the Summer Youth Employment Rate!**

In coordination with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and CT Forest and Parks Association (CTFPA), our unique 14-Day Conservation Course allows students the opportunity to earn money as well as experience traditional Wilderness School adventure activities. While on an extended overnight camping expedition, employed youth develop workforce skills as well as perform manual labor, alongside WS instructors, to maintain and construct trail networks in a designated area of the state. Enrichment activities include rock-climbing, canoeing, and team building. The extended duration of the course provides more opportunities for mastering skills, building resilience, and taking on leadership as the crew forms as a team.

## DATES | COURSE TYPE

**July 11 - July 24** | *Open Enrollment: Mixed Gender*  
*[Special Enrollment, call to inquire]*

**July 31 - Aug 13** | *Open Enrollment: Mixed Gender*  
*[Special Enrollment, call to inquire]*

### \*SPECIAL ENROLLMENT

- Applicants must enroll in their regional Summer Youth Employment Program.
- Indicate: Wilderness School as the desired “worksite”.
- Application deadlines to apply may vary, however, some regions close applications as early as mid-April - Apply ASAP!



# 14-DAY ALUMNI ADVENTURE

**Continuing the wilderness journey!** Our alumni expeditions are designed for Wilderness School graduates to enhance their leadership skills, expand their perspectives, and elevate confidence and self-esteem to the next level. These courses often extend to more remote areas of New England and beyond. We are offering the opportunity for alumni to embark on a canoe expedition in Maine. Additionally, students participate in a whitewater rafting experience as well as camp, rock-climb, and hike in Acadia National Park.

## DATES | COURSE TYPE

**July 3 - July 16** | *Open Enrollment: Mixed Gender*



# NEXT STEPS . . . ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Scan the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#)  
to visit our website on how to enroll.



Other ways to get in touch with us:



[WildernessJourney@ct.gov](mailto:WildernessJourney@ct.gov)



860-653-8059



"State of Connecticut Wilderness School"

