

Details:

When: July 25 - 31, 2027

Cost: $1200. Covers transportation, lodging, staff, and all food.

Sign up: Sign up is first-come-first-serve, but with priority for rising seniors. **To lock in your spot:**

1. **Get an interest form from Mr. Gibson**
2. **Return form to Mr. Gibson with parent signature**
3. **Pay $300 deposit via FACTS bill**

You may be asking….

"But what if I don't have any backpacking gear?" *Don't you worry. Gear is easy to rent and I have plenty of extra stuff. We will make sure you are squared away.*

"Do I need any backpacking experience? I've never backpacked before and I'm scared!" *You will be safe and well taken care of. No experience is needed. Plenty of students have done this trip without any experience and had the time of their lives.*

More Details and Trip Description:

Itinerary:

July 25: Meet at Covenant at 4:00am. Leave at 4:30am. Drive to Haviland Campsite in Durango, Colorado.
July 26: Take train to trail heads. Girls will go to Needleton, guys will go to Elk Creek.
July 27: Backpacking
July 28: Backpacking
July 29: Backpacking
July 30: Hike out, stay in airbnb in Pagosa Springs.
July 31: Drive back. Arrive in Dallas by 11pm.

First payment is due December 16, 2025. Then, the finance office will send you a **FACTS bill for a nonrefundable deposit of $300**. There is a maximum of 12 guys and 12 girls that can attend the trip. Once the roster is full I'll start a waitlist.

Other payment deadlines. I disperse the payments for the trip as I know that plans sometimes change, but I also need to make some larger purchases before spring break. After each payment is made, it is nonrefundable.

Friday, March 7 - $500
Friday, May 15 - $500

Parent Meeting: I will host a parent informational meeting on **Thursday, November 19 at 3:45pm in CLC 201.**

Description:

In the summer of 2027, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Gibson, AND Ms. Godfrey are back at it again! We're very excited to offer a week of backpacking for both male and female Covenant students in the stunning San Juan National Forest. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Stevenson will guide the boys portion of the trip, and Ms. Godfrey, along with another professional guide, will lead the girls portion. Prior to teaching, Mr. Gibson was a mountain guide and had the great fortune of guiding dozens of backpacking trips throughout Colorado. Mr. Stevenson has over two decades of personal experience in the high mountains, including a trip on Mt. Rainier. His pastoral leadership, logistical support, and environmental science expertise are invaluable to our time together. Ms. Godfrey joined us for our first ever Covenant sponsored girls backpacking trip last year and she loved it so much she's back for more!

We will drive from Dallas to Durango, Colorado, camp for one night, and then take a two hour steam-engine train ride to the trailheads. The girls will hike into Chicago Basin, where they will set up a base camp for the week and explore a truly majestic area. The boys will be dropped off at Elk Park, and then complete a 40 mile loop over to the Needleton stop. Both guys and girls will get picked up by the train at Needleton, which will take us back to Durango, from which we will drive to Pagosa Springs to rest, shower, and stay in Airbnbs

before driving back to Dallas.

Purpose:

Time in the wilderness serves many purposes: it offers much needed slowness and solitude; ignites a sense of awe at the grandeur of God and His creation; and it's an opportunity for friends to experience something both beautiful and difficult together. The purpose of this trip is to give a small group of Covenant students the opportunity to enjoy all of these things and so much more in one of the most spectacular parts of the country.

Student Information:

Name _____
Parent cell phone _____
Email Address _____
Parent email address _____

Please briefly tell me about any backpacking experience you have. **You do not need any experience**, but it's helpful information for me to know.

Do you have any medical conditions that might keep you from backpacking 30 - 40 miles over 5 days? (Yes/No). If yes, please explain.

Do you have any medical conditions that I should be aware of prior to the trip?

By signing below you acknowledge that you are attending this trip as a Covenant student, and most importantly, a representative of Christ's mission in the world, and as such you will honor and respect your trip leaders and the other attendees in your words and actions, and you will treat the wilderness as God's good creation will therefore adhere to the appropriate Leave No Trace ethical standards.

Applicant's Signature _____

Parents, please sign below indicating your knowledge and approval of your child's participation in this trip:

Parent Signature _____

-