

# Covenant Colorado, Summer 2025

## San Juan National Forest



**Description:** In the summer of 2025, Phillip Gibson and Jason Stevenson will lead 12 male students on a backpacking adventure in the high mountains of San Juan National Forest in southwest Colorado. 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, deepening the bonds of their friendship. 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. 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. Reiner. His pastoral and environmental science experience will also be invaluable to our time together.

### **Itinerary:**

June 15: Meet at Covenant at 4:00am. Start driving at 4:30. Drive to Haviland Campsite in Durango, Colorado.

June 16: Wake up early and drive to the downtown Durango train station, from which we will take the train to [Needletop Flagstop](#) where the trail begins. We will hike 6 miles uphill to get to Chicago Basin where we will make a base camp.

June 17: Day hike in Chicago Basin. Possibly summit 14er.

June 18: Hike over Columbine Pass

June 19: Backpack out to the Vallecito Creek trailhead. Stay in an Airbnb in Pagosa Springs

June 20: Drive back. Arrive in Dallas by 10pm.

**Cost: \$900.** Covers transportation, lodging, staff, and all food except for 1 night. Please see [this document](#) for a packing and gear list

**Sign up:** Sign up is first-come-first-serve, but with priority for rising seniors. First, you'll need to get an interest form from me. Rising seniors have until Monday, February 17 to turn this in before I open up spots for rising sophomores and juniors. When you turn the form in, please also provide a \$200 check deposit made out to The Covenant School of Dallas. There is a maximum of 12 students that can attend the trip. Once the roster is full I'll start a waitlist. Once sign-ups are finalized, a parent informational meeting will be scheduled for the week before Spring Break.