



COTTONWOOD INSTITUTE

→ Endangered Wolves Project





ENDANGERED WOLVES PROJECT

Tucked below the Sangre De Cristo mountains of Southern Colorado resides a unique sanctuary called Mission:Wolf that hosts a group of 40 wolves born into captivity. Wild wolves were once abundant in Colorado, playing an important role in the health of the ecosystem, but today there are fewer than 4,000 wild wolves in the lower 48 states. This action-packed program combines low-impact camping at Mission:Wolf, teamwork, communication, survival and animal tracking skills, as well as the completion of Action Projects to help care for the wolves and their habitat.

PROGRAM GOALS

Through Environmental Education & Service Learning, Endangered Wolves Project seeks to inspire students to:

- Understand basic wolf biology, including: habitat, behaviors, care, and their role in the ecosystem.
- Increase their environmental literacy through awareness of environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts.
- Gain a broader understanding of environmental issues pertinent to Colorado from a stakeholder perspective.
- Provide an opportunity to develop leadership and teamwork skills.
- Develop essential camping and wilderness skills.
- Develop 21st Century Skills such as: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Collaboration, Communication, and Leadership.

GROUP DETAILS

- Group size: 15 students maximum
- School chaperones: 1-2
- Grades: Middle and High School
- Length: 4 days, 3 nights (minimum)

program description

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Example Activities

Camping Skills & Nature Awareness:

- Hiking
- Wilderness Survival Skills
- Primitive Fire Building
- Outdoor Cooking
- Sensory Awareness Games
- Sit Spots
- Journaling
- Wolf and Ecology Lessons

Service Learning

- Preparing Food and Feeding Wolves
- Trail and Fence Maintenance
- Horse Care
- Landscaping
- Building Maintenance
- Construction Projects
- Gathering Firewood
- Building Fire Bunkers



Leadership & Team Building

- Collaboration Skills
- Group Decision-Making
- Communication Styles
- Character Strength Building
- Leadership Opportunities
- Team Building Games and Activities
- Group Living

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT



High impact curriculum utilizes best practices in education, 21st Century Skills, Environmental Education, Service Learning, & Leadership Development.

The Endangered Wolves Project can be tailored to meet curriculum needs through use of a custom student journal and guide, including exercises for before, during, and after the program. Curriculum reinforces Colorado academic standards, such as:



SC10-GR.8-S.2-GLE.1:

Human activities can deliberately or inadvertently alter ecosystems and their resiliency



RWC10-GR.12-S.1-GLE.2:

Effective collaborative groups accomplish goals



PE09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.:

Demonstrate inclusiveness in and out of classroom settings



PE09-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.3:

Apply rules, principles, problem-solving skills, and concepts to traditional and nontraditional movement settings