



Scouting America

Adventure West Council

YHAO - Backpacking



On behalf of The Adventure West Council, it is our honor to welcome you to the Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost Experience! We are thrilled that you have chosen to spend an exciting and memorable week with us. We have been hard at work ensuring that your experience is amazing! Backpacking in Yellowstone or Shoshone National Forest is truly a once in a lifetime experience in one of the most beautiful and ecologically unique areas of our country.

The YHAO Backpacking Adventure is a 5-day, 4-night backpacking adventure in the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park or Shoshone National Forest. Scouts will hike between 5-10 miles a day and complete a 30–50-mile backpacking trek. Along the journey, Scouts will encounter a variety of wildlife that often includes elk, moose, coyotes, wolves, bison, and bears. They will learn about the local ecology, view the stars with almost no light pollution, view scenic mountain vistas, wade in the mountain streams, and fully experience the backcountry wilderness.

CAMP BUFFALO BILL:

The Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost is operated out of Camp Buffalo Bill. The camp is within Shoshone National Forest, America's 1st National Forest, and is just 8 miles from Yellowstone National Park's east gate. This famous camp is a once in a lifetime destination full of beauty, wildlife, and adventure!

Camp Buffalo Bill
870 North Fork Hwy
Cody, WY 82414
307-587-5885 (*During Summer Sessions*)

ELEVATION & WEATHER:

The camp sits at 6,400ft. Mornings are chilly, sometimes dipping to 30°-50° F. Afternoons can get as high as 90°. The air is very dry and hydration is essential.

ADVENTURE WEST COUNCIL:

The Adventure West Council serves Northern Colorado, Western Nebraska, and most of Wyoming. We operate 5 camping properties and have 3 service centers.

YHAO Director – Ian Squires

307-709-1081 | ian.squires@Scouting.org

Camping Department – Jeanene Gage

970-584-2202 | Jeanene.gage@scouting.org

Director of Support Services – Billy Riley

970-518-5479 | Billy.riley@scouting.org

www.awbsa.org

YHAO BACKPACKING – ADVENTURE WEST COUNCIL

YHAO SESSION DATES:

- Week 0: June 7-13
- Week 1: June 14-20
- Week 2: June 21-27
- Week 3: June 28 July 4
- Week 4: July 5-11
- Week 5: July 12-18



ADVENTURE FEES

EARLY BIRD: \$700 (Paid by April 15th)
REGULAR: \$750

TREK REQUIREMENTS

Youth must be 14-years of age or 13-years of age and have completed the 8th grade to participate in the program. Mature participants strongly encouraged.

ADULT LEADERSHIP

Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over is required if female youth are participants. Adults must meet the physical fitness requirements and must attend the trek with the group.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Participants must be physically fit, able to carry 25% of their own body weight and able to hike 5-12 miles per day in mountain wilderness at high elevations. Please see the Risk Advisory section of the leader's guide.

CAMPERSHIPS

Our Council offers campership opportunities for in-council units that are attending merit badge summer camp at Camp Buffalo Bill and BDSR. We **do not** offer camperships for our High Adventure Programs.

REFUNDS

Planning and purchasing for camp happen long before camp begins and is based on pre-registration. If the unit or a Scout cannot attend, please review the Council's refund policy found at <https://awbsa.org/refunds/> and submit a refund request through our online portal.

1 TREK RESERVATION

Reserve your adventure by submitting your registration with a non-refundable unit deposit of \$100 online at <https://awbsa.org/yhao/>. The direct link is found on our website. After Sept 30th, non-refundable individual deposits are \$50 a person.



GROUP SIZES:

Yellowstone: 4-8 individuals
Shoshone: 4-12 Individuals

2 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. Feb 15th – 50% of remainder is due
2. Apr 15th – 100% of remainder is due.
(If not paid in full by April 15th, then registration is the regular fee amount.)

3 DIETARY & SPECIAL NEEDS

Special food requests beyond normal menus may be provided and may have additional costs. Vegetarian and gluten free alternatives are normally available. Please limit dietary requests to medical and religious needs. Please submit all special food requests in the online reservation system AND contact the YHAO director to discuss the need.

MEDICATIONS

An adult leader from your group must keep any medications in a secure, protected container under their control. A medication log sheet will be provided and must be filled out during the trek. The log sheet is submitted to the camp medic upon returning.

CPAP

Participants needing CPAP must be prepared to carry their equipment and extra batteries for the entire week. There is no way to re-charge batteries mid-trek.

SATURDAY ARRIVALS

We realize that some units are unable to arrive at camp during our standard check-in beginning 1:00pm on Sunday afternoon. We are pleased to offer early arrival but **have firm policies due to Forest Service restrictions**. Unit's must arrive between 5pm & 7pm on Saturday evening and must bring a pre-cooked/prepared meal. No storage is available, and all food must be disposed of that night. Purchase of breakfast and lunch are required (\$10/ meal). Breakfast is continental. Lunch is at 12:45pm.

YHAO BACKPACKING – ADVENTURE WEST COUNCIL

The YHAO Backpacking Adventure is a 5-day, 4-night backpacking adventure in either the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park or Shoshone National Forest. Both offerings require permits from the National Park and Forest Service, which we will secure. Both treks leave camp on Monday morning and return on Friday afternoon.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

- Group sizes can be between 4 to 8 individuals. This includes both youth and adults.
- Learn about the local ecology, and experience Yellowstone’s hydrothermal features.
- Backcountry experience with maintained trails, bridges, developed campsites, bear boxes and park visitors.
- Fishing is allowed. Individual Park fishing licenses are required, and you must bring your own gear (see page 5).
- The trek is of moderate difficulty with elevation changes beginning at 7,200 ft and rising to 9,500 ft.
- Yellowstone Backpacking Permits:
 - Backpacking in Yellowstone is not guaranteed. We will submit for the permits on your behalf. ALL participants MUST be registered in the online system by March 1st. There are NO exceptions.
 - We normally can secure the permits; however, Yellowstone can revoke the permits at any time up to 1 day prior to your arrival. Revocations do not happen often, but they can. We do not provide refunds for canceled permits. If this unfortunate situation occurs, your unit’s trek will take place in the Shoshone National Forest.



SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST

- Group sizes can be between 4 to 12 individuals. This includes both youth and adults.
- Participants will pack bearproof containers with them for food and smelly items.
- Participants will get their feet wet. There are no bridges. You will cross multiple streams and rivers.
- Mountainous backcountry experience in a wilderness area with lightly used trails, no campsites or other people.
- Scouts will learn about the local ecology, experience mountain vistas, and wade in the streams and rivers.
- Fishing is NOT allowed.
- The trek is of strenuous difficulty with significant elevation changes ranging from 6,400 ft to 11,000 ft.

ARRIVAL DAY

- Please arrive on time, Sunday afternoon between 1 pm – 4:15 pm.
- Please park in the parking lot and back into your parking spot.
- Scouts can use the restrooms and visit the Trading Post. The adult leader will check-in at the camp office.
 - Check-In Items: Official Roster from my.scouting.org / 3 copies of Medical Forms / Signed Waivers
- After check-in, everyone will complete a camp tour and then head to the Shakedown campsite.
- SHAKEDOWN includes:
 - Meeting your Guide. Reviewing your trek plans. Gear review. Food packing. Physical Evaluation. Q&A.
 - Using the Patrol Method, the SPL will designate leadership roles for each day of your adventure.
- 5:15 pm is Flags & Dinner, followed by an evening campfire which is optional for YHAO participants.
- We recommend going to sleep at a responsible time, you have a fun adventure that begins in the morning.

*If you're lost in the woods by yourself, then you're lost...
If you're lost in the woods with friends, IT'S AN ADVENTURE!*

YHAO BACKPACKING – ADVENTURE WEST COUNCIL

PREPARING FOR CAMP

PRE-TREK SHAKEDOWNS

Please have at least two shakedown campouts with as much hiking as possible prior to your trek. Test your equipment and make sure the group can work together. Establish a duty roster and practice low impact camping. Complete an evaluation of what worked and what didn't work and what needs to be improved prior to your arrival at YHAO.

UNIT ITEMS - WHAT TO BRING

- Paperwork – Official Unit Roster exported from my.scouting.org. Please mark all youth and adults that are attending the Trek.
- Paperwork – **3 copies** of each participant's medical forms, parts A,B, & C. (*2 copies will be collected and not returned*)
- Paperwork – Visitors Acknowledgement of Risk for each participant.

GROUP GEAR (*will be shared among hikers*)

- Medication container
- Tents – shared among hikers
- A compass / Basic first-aid kit
- Ziploc Gallon Freezer Bags, 60 count
- Sharable Hygiene products (toothpaste, sunscreen, soap, non-aerosol non-deet insect repellent, etc.)
- 2 disposable lighters / flint & Steel

GEAR WE WILL PROVIDE

- Cooking Gear inc. MSI Whisperlite Stove and fuel
- Dromedary for untreated water
- Map / Tarp / Cat hole shovel
- Hanging water filter & Aquamiza (chlorine dioxide)

GEAR AVAILABLE TO BE BORROWED

If you need to borrow something, please contact us early. We have **limited supply** of these items.

- Tents / Ground Pads
- Water Bottles / Ponchos
- Compass / Hats / Sunglasses
- Sleeping Bags / Backpacks

SCOUT – WHAT TO BRING

CAMPING GEAR

- Ground pad (with patches if inflatable)
- Sleeping bag (20°-30° degrees)
- Silk/Synthetic Sleeping bag liner (adds 10° if cold)
- Backpack (60 liter capacity)
- Flashlight (headlamps are most convenient)

TREK CLOTHING *“I can get by with less”*

- 1 Hiking Long Sleeve Shirt (No Cotton)
- 1 Hiking Long Pants (No Jeans/Cotton)
- Hiking Boots (Waterproof, ankle high, broken-in)
- 3 pairs of Wool Socks (No Cotton)
- 3 pairs of Synthetic/wool underwear (No Cotton)
- Sleepwear (gym shorts & t-shirt)
- Rain gear (jacket/poncho, pants optional)
- Closed-toe water shoes (for river crossings)
- Mosquito Head Net
- Hat / Sunglasses / Stocking cap for night temps.
- 1 roll of athletic tape, 1-inch wide.

NON-TREK CLOTHING & ITEMS

To be stored at camp while you are out.

- Scout Uniform
- Spare set of clothes for trip home
- Deodorant / Antiperspirant / Shaving Products

SMELLABLES

- Spork, Cup, and Bowl
- Water Bottles (Hard sided or bladder style, 3-liters total, extra is ok)
- Lip Balm, Toothbrush, Feminine Products, etc.
- Non-Aerosol Insect Repellent (No DEET)

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Trekkin' Poles, Camp Chair, Battery Pack, Camera
- Slippers, Light gloves for night temps.
- Pack of cards, book, etc.
- Toilet Paper (*must be packed out after use*)
- Money for Trading post
- Fishing Licenses (*see page 5*)

DO NOT BRING:

- DEET Insect Repellent
- Permethrin (treated clothing is ok).

YHAO BACKPACKING – ADVENTURE WEST COUNCIL

PRE-CAMP LEADERS MEETING

We will hold a pre-camp leader orientation meeting on Wednesday April 8th at 7:00 pm and Thursday April 9th at 5 pm (MTN). We will answer any additional questions that you may have. Information for the meeting will be sent out in advance.

FISHING

Fishing is allowed on the Shoshone river while at Camp Buffalo Bill and we do have fishing supplies available. A Wyoming fishing license is required for anyone over the age of 14.

- Fishing is NOT allowed on the Shoshone Trek.
- Fishing IS allowed on the Yellowstone Trek. You must bring your own gear and have a Yellowstone Fishing Permit.

WILDLIFE

The wildlife in the area is amazing and we know that you will enjoy the experience. Please be aware that wildlife should be considered dangerous and to keep your distance.

Bears: The local ecosystem is home to the largest grizzly bear population in the lower US. Bears can smell food, deodorant toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and soda from long distances. We call these things “smell-ables” and they must be stored in bear proof containers or vehicles. Food and Beverages are NEVER allowed in campsites. Violations of bear safety rules which include staying 100 yards away from a bear, are enforced by the National Forest Service and can result in individual fines of up to \$5,000.

Moose: We often have moose in and around camp. They are stronger and faster than they appear and can become aggressive if you intrude on their space. Please keep your distance.

Bison: American Bison, commonly known as Buffalo occasionally wander through camp. They can be unpredictable and easily agitated if you intrude on their space. They are capable of charging at high speeds. Stay clear and remember “Don’t pet the fluffy cows”.

LAUNDRY

There are limited access laundry facilities available that can be used by campers for emergency situations.

INTERNET

Internet service is available in and around the dining hall for adults. There is no cell service in the area.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices such as cell phones are allowed but a Scout may be asked to not use their device during program time.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & DRUGS

Alcoholic beverages and controlled substances are **absolutely prohibited**. Possession or use will be reported to local law enforcement. BSA Camps are smoke-free. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, or systems which simulate tobacco smoking.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Pets (Service animals must be pre-approved)
- Fireworks and pyrotechnic devices
- Personal Firearms, Air-Pistols, Bows, Ammunition, Slingshots
- Bikes / Unicycles / Skateboards
- ATV’s, UTV’s, or ORV’s

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

- Behave in a Scout-like manner (Scout Oath & Law)
- Do not throw rocks.
- Shoes must be worn and must be closed toed. (*sandals are allowed at the showers*)
- No clothing with inappropriate graphics.
- Items which are in violation of BSA policy.
- See Guide to Safe Scouting for all policies.



EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Camp Buffalo Bill and YHAO have written plans for emergency response such as severe weather, fire, or a lost Scout, etc.

Details will be shared at check-in. Adult leaders should always carry a unit roster and vehicle keys on them while in camp in case of an emergency or evacuation. YHAO guides carry SpotX communication devices for use in case of an emergency.

Yellowstone High-Adventure Risk Advisory to Health-Care Providers and Parents

Council Phone: 307-234-7329

www.awbsa.org

Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost Experience.

The YHAO experience is not risk-free; however, by taking responsibility for one's own health and safety, and cooperating with staff, it's expected that most participants will have an enjoyable, safe YHAO experience. All participants should review all materials related to the experiences they are planning to have at YHAO. For questions, please call 307-234-7329.

Risk Advisory. Participants at YHAO should be physically fit, have the proper clothing and equipment, be willing to follow instructions, work as a team with your crew, and take responsibility for your own health and safety. Each crew is required to have at least two members trained in CPR.

Staff members are trained in Wilderness first aid and CPR. They can assist participants in recognizing and responding to accidents, injuries, and illnesses. However, response times are affected by location, terrain, weather or other emergencies and could be delayed for hours or even days in a wilderness setting.

Weather. The weather at YHAO is characterized by significant shifts in temperature. Elevation varies from 6,400 feet to 11,000 ft, depending on your adventure. Mornings can be chilly, sometimes dipping to 30°F, and afternoons can get as high as 90°F. Afternoon thunderstorms are possible. The air is very dry and many experience dry skin and chapped lips. Staying hydrated is essential.

Physical Fitness:

- Each participant must be able to carry 25% of their own body weight and be able to hike 5-12 miles per day in a mountain wilderness at high elevations.
- Kayaking/rafting participants MUST be strong swimmers with a basic knowledge of boating and physically able to self-rescue in a kayak or raft. Participants that do not pass the "flip-test" at the beginning of camp cannot participate in boating.

Allergy or Anaphylaxis. People who have had an anaphylactic reaction from any cause are required to have appropriate treatment (i.e. at least one unexpired epinephrine auto-injector) in sufficient quantity to last the entire trip. All members of the crew should know how to administer the auto-injector.

Medication. Each participant who needs medication must bring enough medicine for the duration of the trip. Be aware that altitude/heat/exertion etc. can affect a medication's efficacy. It is not uncommon for participants to use more medication (particularly insulin and albuterol) than anticipated due to unfamiliar conditions faced on the trek.

Seizures (Epilepsy). The seizure disorder must be well-controlled by medication. **A well-controlled disorder is one in which 12 months have passed without a seizure.** Individuals with seizure conditions should familiarize others with signs and symptoms in the event that a seizure occurs in the backcountry.

High Blood Pressure. Upon arrival at YHAO, all adult participants may have their blood pressure checked. People diagnosed with hypertension should have controlled blood pressure before attending YHAO and should continue their medications to keep the blood pressure at or near normal levels. Those individuals with a blood pressure consistently greater than 160/95 at YHAO may be kept off the trail.

Diabetes Mellitus. Participants with diabetes can have a successful YHAO experience by good planning prior to their trek. Both the person with diabetes and others in their crew or group need to be able to recognize signs of excessively high or low blood sugar. An insulin-dependent person who was diagnosed or had a change in delivery system (e.g., insulin pump) or dosage in the last six months is advised to consult with their physician before participating. A person with diabetes who has had frequent hospitalizations or who has had problems with low blood sugar should not participate until better control of the diabetes has been achieved.

Recent Musculoskeletal Injuries and Orthopedic Surgery.

Participants will put a great deal of strain on their joints. Individuals who have significant musculoskeletal problems (including back problems) or have had orthopedic surgery or injuries within the last six months must have a letter of clearance from their treating physician to be considered for approval, and YHAO should be contacted in advance of participation. Permission is not guaranteed.

Asthma. Asthma must be well-controlled before participating at YHAO. Well-controlled asthma is defined as:

- The use of a rescue inhaler (albuterol) fewer than two times per week (except use for the prevention of exercise-induced asthma); awakened by asthma symptoms less than two times per month.
- Well-controlled asthma may include the use of long-acting bronchodilators, inhaled steroids, or oral medications such as Singulair.

You may not be allowed to participate if:

- You have asthma not controlled by medication; or
- You have been hospitalized/gone to the emergency room to treat asthma in the past six months; or
- You required treatment by oral steroids (prednisone) in the past six months.

All members of the crew should know how to assist in administering the rescue inhaler and where the inhaler is located. Any person who has needed treatment for asthma in the past three years must carry a rescue inhaler on the trek. If you do not bring a rescue inhaler, you must purchase one before you will be allowed to participate.

Psychological and Emotional Difficulties. Parents and advisors should be aware that no high-adventure experience is designed to assist participants in overcoming psychological or emotional problems. Experience demonstrates that these problems frequently become worse when a participant is under stress from the physical and mental challenges of a remote wilderness setting. Medication must never be stopped prior to participation and should be continued throughout the entire experience.

Cardiac or Cardiovascular Disease. Adults or youth who have a history of chest pain, myocardial infarction (heart attack), a family history of premature heart disease, or heart surgery including angioplasty may consider a physician-supervised stress test. Even if the stress test results are normal, the testing is done without portage packs or canoes and does not guarantee safety. If the results are abnormal, the individual is advised not to participate.

Food. If a participant has dietary needs or restrictions, it is critical that this information is provided in the dietary restrictions and allergies portions of their registration in Black Pug. We cannot plan for dietary restrictions that we are not aware of at least 2 weeks before you come to YHAO.

Weight Limits. Each participant in a YAHO trek should not exceed the maximum acceptable weight for height in the table shown in Part C of the Annual Health and Medical Record. Those who fall within the recommended weight limits are much more likely to have an enjoyable trek and avoid incurring injuries and other health risks. Due to the risks of logistics of backcountry rescue, no participant's weight can exceed 295 pounds.

