



Scouting America

Adventure West Council
YHAO - KAYAKING

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! Our kayaking adventure is truly a once in a lifetime experience in one of the most beautiful and ecologically unique areas of our country.

The YHAO Kayaking Adventure consists of a 5-day, 4-night adventure including a backcountry kayaking trek in the heart of Yellowstone National Park using 16' kayaks to visit some of the largest thermal features within the park that are not accessible by road. Activities may include fishing and side hikes.

Participants will travel up to 8 hours per day, encountering 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 and geothermal features, 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 (*Summer Only*)

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 KAYAKING – ADVENTURE WEST COUNCIL

YHAO SESSION DATES:

- Kayaking is not available weeks 0-2 due to low lake temperatures
- 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. All participants must have completed the Kayaking merit badge as a minimum skill level and have currently passed the BSA swimmer test. 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 skill and physical fitness requirements and must attend the trek with the group.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Participants must be physically fit and able to carry at least 40 lbs. 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. Trek reservations are first-come, first-serve.



GROUP SIZES

4-8 individuals per crew

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 KAYAKING – ADVENTURE WEST COUNCIL

The YHAO Kayaking Adventure includes a 4-day, 3-night boating expedition on the waters of Yellowstone National Park. Participants will spend the first day practicing boating and rescue skills before departing for their trip. Kayak trips leave camp on Tuesday morning and return on Friday afternoon. Participants paddle to backcountry campsites each day before making camp for the night.



KAYAKING IN YELLOWSTONE

- Group sizes can be between 4 and 8 individuals. This includes both youth and adults.
- Learn about the local ecology and experience Yellowstone’s hydrothermal features from a unique point of view. You haven’t experienced a geyser until you’ve felt it vibrate your boat!
- Backcountry experience away from roads and populated trails, with established campsites and bear boxes.
- See parts of Yellowstone only accessible by boat. Opportunities to see wildlife abound along Yellowstone’s remote lake shores.
- Fishing is allowed. Individual Park fishing licenses are required, and you must bring your own gear (see page 5).
- We use 16’ expedition-grade sea kayaks. These boats are ideal for carrying equipment and paddling across long distances of open water but handle differently than smaller recreational kayaks. We recommend renting a similar boat for a weekend and getting some practice.
- This adventure is not for novice boaters. This trip is difficult, requiring up to 8 hours of paddling each day. The kayaking merit badge is recommended as the bare minimum experience level.
 - Our guides may decide to withhold participation in the Kayaking Adventure if they feel that a Scout(s) is unable to participate safely. While we do not make this decision lightly, we will revoke a Scout’s boating privileges if we determine their participation would create an unacceptable level of risk to themselves or others. In these rare cases, the affected Scout(s) will be offered participation in one of our other adventures.
- Yellowstone Kayaking Permits:
 - Kayaking in Yellowstone is not guaranteed. We will apply 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 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 will be offered their choice of available activity.

ARRIVAL DAY

- Please arrive on Sunday afternoon between 1 pm – 3 pm. It is IMPERATIVE that kayakers arrive during this window. Late arrivals may not have time to finish all necessary training on Sunday, impacting the adventure.
- 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.

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PREPARING FOR CAMP

PRE-TREK SHAKEDOWNS

Please have at least two shakedown campouts and as much kayaking as possible prior to your trek. Kayaking merit badge is the minimum skill. If possible, rent a sea kayak for a weekend. 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 – Visitor Acknowledgement of Risk

GROUP GEAR

- Medication container
- Tents – shared among hikers
- Basic first-aid kit
- Ziploc Gallon Freezer bags, 60 count
- 2 disposable lighters/flint & steel

GEAR WE WILL PROVIDE

- Neoprene wetsuits
- Cooking gear incl. stoves & fuel / bear bags
- Hanging water filter & Aquamira (chlorine dioxide)
- Dromedary/map/tarp/cathole shovel

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 / Dry Bags
- Sunglasses / Sleeping Bags

SCOUT – WHAT TO BRING

PERSONAL CAMPING GEAR

- 2 Nalgene water bottles
- Carabiner (to attach water bottle to boat)
- Sleeping bag (20°-30° degrees)
- Ground pad (with patches if inflatable)
- Large duffel bag (move gear from boat to camp)
- Headlamp w/backup batteries

- Mess Kit (bowl w/resealable lid & utensils)
- Small dry bags or stuff sacks, under 20L for organization of personal gear. Stuff sacks will also need waterproof liners.
- Waterproof watch

DAILY WEAR KAYAKING CLOTHING

Synthetic fabrics, wool or neoprene only. NO COTTON. Packing list assumes participant is wearing/air drying one dedicated set of water clothing throughout the week.

- Wide brimmed hat
- Short sleeved shirt
- Long sleeved sun/wind shirt
- Rain Jacket and pants
- Zip-off pants (quick dry, NO cotton or canvas)
- Quick-dry pants and shorts
- Water close-toed shoes
- Bandana (minimum 1)
- Sunglasses (required) / Glasses strap (floating)
- Kayaking Gloves

DRY CLOTHING

- Base layers
- Camp shoes (must be closed-toed)
- Non-cotton shirts and pants
- Non-cotton underwear (2-3 pair)
- Fleece jacket
- Wool socks (4 pair minimum)
- Gloves
- Sleeping clothes
- Stocking cap or beanie

SMELLABLES

- Insect Repellent (NO DEET or Permethrin, picaridin highly recommended alternative)
- Sunscreen (water resistant, high SPF)
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Soap/Shampoo/Comb/Hairbrush
- Other sanitary items

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Trekkin' Poles, Camp Chair, Battery Pack, Camera
- Pack of cards, book, etc.
- Money for Trading post (\$100 suggested)
- Fishing Gear/Licenses for basecamp (*see page 5*)
- OA Sash
- Day hiking shoes (you never know!)
- Sewing/repair kit

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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 have limited fishing supplies available. A Wyoming fishing license is required for anyone over the age of 14.

- Fishing IS allowed on the Kayaking Trek. You must bring your own gear and have a Yellowstone Fishing Permit to fish in the Park while on the trek.

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 at basecamp 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 in 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 at least 40 lbs. (boats, gear, equipment)
- Participants need to be strong swimmers with a basic knowledge of boating and physically able to self-rescue in a kayak. Participants that do not pass the "flip test" as part of shake-down at the beginning of camp will not be able to participate in the trek.

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 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 with 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 usage 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 and logistics of backcountry rescue, no participant's weight can exceed 295 pounds.

