



CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURES!

Spring 2014

A non profit 501(c)3 organization providing active, hands-on, nature-based outdoor education since 1996

2014 SUMMER SCHEDULE...EXPANDED!

LETTUCE GROW WITH FIT (NEW FOR 2014!)

June 2-5 (4 days) \$185 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
Youth entering 1st-3rd and 4th-6th grades.

DURANGO MOUNTAIN BIKE CAMP

June 2-5 (4 days) \$320 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
Riding & skills development; enthusiastic intermediate riders & above;
Ages 10 and up. 3-night/4-day riding, exploring & camping trip.

NATURE ADVENTURE #1

June 9-19 (8 days; Monday - Thursday) \$370
Youth entering 1st through 3rd grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

OUTDOOR EXPLORE

June 23-July 3 (8 days; Monday - Thursday) \$415 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
Youth entering 4th through 7th grades; Overnight camping trip included.

NATURE ADVENTURE #2

July 7-17 (8 days; Monday-Thursday) \$370
Youth entering 2nd through 4th grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN BIKE CAMP

July 7-11 (5 days) \$385-all inclusive. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
Riding & skills development; enthusiastic intermediate riders & above;
Ages 12 and up. 4-night/5-day riding, exploring & camping trip.

ADVENTURE WEEK

July 21-24 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$305
Youth entering 6th grade & up; hiking, mountain biking, rafting & rock climbing.
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Recommended with Advanced Adventure.

LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE WEEK (NEW FOR 2014!)

July 21-24 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$250
Youth entering 7th grade & up; more advanced than Adventure Week with a focus on expedition leadership skills; includes hiking, mountain biking & rock climbing.
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Recommended with Advanced Adventure.

ADVANCED ADVENTURE

July 28-August 1 (5 days; Monday - Friday) \$305
Experienced campers entering 6th grade & up; Two-night backpacking trip included.
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Recommended with Adventure Week.

NATURE ADVENTURE MINI #1

July 28-31 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$185
Youth entering 1st through 3rd grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

TAOS MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE

August 4-7 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$185
Ages 9 & up. Riding & skills development; local trails. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

August 7-7 (4 days) \$230 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
Youth entering 4th through 6th grades. Overnight camping trip included.

ALPINE JOURNEY

August 11-15 (5 days) \$385-all inclusive. Youth entering grades 7 & up.
Mountain environments & glaciers; includes an 6-night/7-day camping & hiking adventure in Rocky Mountain National Park and beyond. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

NATURE ADVENTURE MINI #1 (NEW FOR 2014!)

July 28-31 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$185
Youth entering 1st through 3rd grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Welcome to our 19th Summer!

Join us as we explore the natural world through fun, healthy, engaging, & exciting outdoor programs! We aim to make a positive difference in the lives of young people, our community & the world. We offer high quality programs with a unique approach to developing a connection with nature and encouraging healthy lifestyles. Based in Taos Ski Valley's beautiful alpine summer setting, our approach is multi-faceted, team oriented, & educational with topics in natural sciences & outdoor skills.

Join us this year as we adventure, explore, interact, grow, learn, listen, see, & touch the world around us!



- ⚙ **SPACE IS LIMITED**
- ⚙ **ONLINE REGISTRATION at**
www.fitaos.org/registration.php
- ⚙ **\$100 DEPOSIT REQUIRED**
- ⚙ **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

We also offer **FIT Neighborhood Camp**, a daily drop-in program at Quail Ridge Taos! Details available on our website at www.fitaos.org/neighborhood.php.

For additional program info, registration, current news & more, please visit **www.fitaos.org** or call (575) 770-2391



Spring After School Mountain Bike Programs

Our After School Mountain Bike Club will continue to develop young riders with sessions this spring & fall. Endurance & skills improve as the riders learn about trail etiquette & respecting the environment while riding in a group. In 2013, we had close to 30 riders, ages 8-16, challenge themselves, learn new skills, & enjoy some good, dirt-filled physical activity throughout the month of May. **Spring 2014 programs will begin on April 28th & 29th.**

Ages 8-12 ride Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ages 12 & up ride Mondays & Wednesdays.

Space is limited to keep the group size manageable, safe, & respectful of the environment. We focus on environmental education, safety, fitness, & biking skills. Groups are always split by experience & ability level. Topics include bike maintenance, trail use & access issues, teamwork, fitness, nutrition, hydration, safety, riding skills & fun! We have **great bikes & helmets available** for those who need to borrow one.

Cost is \$150 for 6 rides. Loaner bikes, helmets, & scholarships are available!

Summer Bike Programs will include our popular **Durango Mountain Bike Camp** for strong intermediate riders, a **Crested Butte Camp** for advanced riders, & the 4-day **Taos Mountain Bike Camp** where riders will practice their skills on local trails. *Additional riding & racing opportunities with Team FITaos, our local, inclusive, all-ages cycling team* (see below).

Sign up for programs at **www.fitaos.org**

Watch for our community-wide youth bicycle skills clinics this spring and the Team FITaos TSV Hill Climbs in summer!



AN INCLUSIVE, LOCAL CYCLING TEAM

Team FITaos encourages a **fun, supportive environment** & offers opportunities to **experience cycling, through education, training, & competition.** Team FITaos supports mentorship of youth, families, & individuals spanning **all ages & abilities of cyclists.** In 2013, our team members rode & raced in NM, CO, and beyond & offered Team rides throughout the season. We also held many great road & mountain bike rides and put on several special events in the local community. A women's riding group was established and took to the trails with passion and attitude.

In 2014, we will continue hosting our **grass-roots Hill Climb events** & more. We will also offer **on-going mountain bike sessions in the evenings for junior team riders.** We look forward to many rides & races with a strong, energetic team styling in the **2014 jerseys.** Thank you to our **great sponsors for 2014:**

Gearing Up, Mogul Medical, N+1,
PPC Solar, Ski Taos, Taos Cyclery

Boot Doctors, Edelweiss Lodge & Spa, Full Moon Development, KSP Power Tools, Metric Motors, Northside Health & Fitness Center, Siriusware, Taos Mesa Brewing, TaosPhoto.com, Taos Veterinary Clinic, Pizano's, Taos Mountain Energy Bars, Twirl Toystore

The first TEAM meeting of 2014 will be on April 2nd.

Visit **www.fitaos.org** and click on Team FITaos to **join for 2014!** Bring (or mail) your Team paperwork, meet fellow riders, pick up your jerseys, & get ready to ride!



Out riding!



Community Event



Some Team FITaos Members



Junior Team Training in Moab, Utah

THANK YOU TO ALL 2013 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

The ongoing support of so many **INDIVIDUALS & BUSINESSES** inspires us. Each donor & volunteer is critical to our success. We also want to thank all **PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS & FAMILIES**, Team F.I.Taos **RIDERS & SPONSORS**, & those who supported our 12th Annual RUBBER DUCK RACE, our YOUTH PHOTO PROJECT & RAFFLE, & the NEW BELGIUM BREWING SCAVENGER HUNT!



Andean Software
Edy & Charlie Anderson
Angel Fire Bike Park
Anonymous
Rose Blair Bauhs
Blonde Bear Tavern
The Boot Doctors
Dawn Boulware
Elisabeth Brownell
Buddah Punk Jewelry
Bureau of Land Management
Marilyn Cassily
Sean Cassily
Centinel Bank of Taos
Cid's Food Market
Julie & Fred Closuit
Doug & Elaine Connor
Lori and Bob Crouch
Brendan Curran
Dala Balm
Edith and Russell deBurlo
Mary Droste
Suzanne Duca
Kurt Edelbrock
Edelweiss Lodge & Spa
Essential Massage
Mary Ann & Owen Fiore

Martha & Chris Flanders
Helen & Kent Forte
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Hotel St. Bernard
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Roberta & Roger Lerman
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Carlos McGarity
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Susan Moller
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Natelson Law Firm
New Belgium Brewing Company
NM Department of Game & Fish
Northside at TSV
Northside Health & Fitness Center
Nu Garden
Nicola & James Ortiz
Austin O'Connor
Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs
PPC Solar
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TSV Chamber of Commerce
Taos Tennis
Taos Veterinary Clinic
Taos Youth Ballet
Iris Thornton
Rodger Thornton
Twirl Toy Store
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Village of Taos Ski Valley
Michael Wagener
Dan & Larissa Weinman
Barbara Wiard
Ted & Marcella Wiard
Bob Wilkinson & Terri Illingworth
Willow Clinic



For the second year in a row, F.I.T. has been awarded a wonderful grant from an anonymous donor that is really something to celebrate!

These funds are allowing us to offer more scholarships, increase & improve our program offerings, help us develop our staff & add additional staff to our team, and provide much needed infrastructure.

Your continued support will allow us to maintain all that we have built while seeing our dreams come true.

Please stay connected via our new website and social media!

If you are not on this list but you should be, please forgive our error and notify us so we can correct it. Thank you!



2013 Staff...the Biggest and Best Ever!

CITS: Santiago Archuleta, Harlo Burlin-Greiner, Joe Colonius, Roland Danneman, Madison Davisinger, Bridger Fiore, Maya Forte, Rell Gibert-Hock, Angelina Goodhue, Cully Howard, Jazlyn Lynch, Maggie Maestas, Anna McConnell, Finn McMullin, Trempealeau Morninglight, Austin O'Connor, Forest Rach, Ransom Welch, Robbie Wooldridge, Timmo Wooldridge & Sophia Zandi.

JUNIOR COUNSELORS: Nathalie Bertoncin, Antonia Bowden, Bailey Corry, Chloe Davis, Michaela Fiore, Boden Franklin, Peter Hunt, Eliana Lerman, Tierra Lynch, Carolina McGarity, Juliana Moore, Haley Rach, Erin Roberson, Sparrow Skywalker, Aimee Lynn Stearns, Zoe Urban & Nathan Wooldridge.

ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS: Macky Franklin, Emily Sadow & Michael Wagener.

LEAD INSTRUCTORS: Germaine Bartlett-Graff, Sean Cassily, Margot Pierce, Susie Fiore, Emily Mendez, Liana Sonne, Heather Steele, & Susan Valdez.

CIT's & Junior Counselors & Staff

Our **Counselor In Training** program selects 20+ youth who have been past campers to take on leadership internships. The popularity of this program illustrates the commitment to outdoor experiences (leadership, mentorship, teamwork, natural science education, & outdoor skills) that our programs develop in youth. Each C.I.T. is an intern for 1-2 weeks with younger campers. Applicants ages 11 and up are selected based on experience, motivation, & enthusiasm. In 2014 there will be 12-15 **Junior Counselor** positions available. These paid youth mentors need to demonstrate a very high level of commitment to working with youth in an outdoor setting. Each Junior Counselor must be at least 14 years old & available to work 2 - 4 weeks. C.I.T.s & Junior Counselors must attend an orientation covering safety, rules, first aid & expectations (May 31st). **Completed applications are due by April 1st** and are available at www.fitaos.org

2013 IN REVIEW Outstanding educational adventures with enthusiastic campers & a staff filled with experience, energy, & passion for getting out in the natural world. In Spring of 2013, we led our "**EdVenture**" **school programs** for Taos Academy, Anansi Charter School & Taos Charter School. We worked with Taos Pueblo assisting with their youth mountain bike program. Our After School Mountain Bike Club supported & encouraged 30 young riders. We offered a community-wide cycling skills clinic for kids at the Taos Youth and Family Center. **Summer camps** = exploration, connections & adventure. Hiking in & around Taos Ski Valley. Topics included wildlife, river ecology, map, compass & GPS, archeology, weather, paleontology, nature art, geology & mining history, Leave No Trace, team building & alpine ecology. Backpacking in spectacular alpine terrain. Chair lift rides. July 4th TSV Parade and Rubber Duck Race. Camping at Hopewell Lake & at Wild Rivers. Visits to the Wildlife Center. Adventure Week enjoyed rafting with Los Rios River Runners & rock climbing with Mountain Skills guides. We had 2 mountain bike specific summer camps. One session rode in Moab, Utah & the other rode some of the best local trails. An end of summer BBQ at Quail Ridge. Our **Youth Photo Project** provided each camper with a camera for a day with instructions to take nature photos. One photo per camper was selected, printed, framed, & exhibited in our big October event, the 4th Annual FITaos Youth Photo Exhibit held in conjunction with Winterfest at KTAO. Viewing nature through the eyes of the kids inspired everyone. Attendees voted for their favorite photos to recognize these young artists. **Thank you to everyone who participated in & supported our programs in 2013. GET OUT & HIKE, BIKE, EXPLORE, PONDER, SNOWSHOE, SKI, RUN, LEARN, OBSERVE, GROW, ADVENTURE & PLAY WITH US IN 2014!**

FIT NEIGHBORHOOD Camp Offers ACTIVE FUN & Drop In Availability!

In 2013, Field Institute of Taos began operating FIT Neighborhood, a new program based at Quail Ridge Taos. This is an engaging, active and fun way for kids ages 5-12 to spend summer days. Directed by Emily Mendez, this program offers a supervised, structured environment with daily activities including swimming, tennis, group games, crafts, projects and Field Trip Fridays. FIT NEIGHBORHOOD believes in fun, teamwork, mentorship, and creativity...all with a FITaos flair. Weekly enrollment as well as daily drop-ins are welcome. FIT NEIGHBORHOOD operates from 8:30-4:30 on Monday through Friday throughout the summer. Come for a week, a few days or a few hours. Parents are free to drop off or pick up their child at anytime during those hours. More info at www.fitaos.org/neighborhood.php



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