



Spring 2015

Celebrating 19 years
of outdoor adventures!

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

2015 SUMMER SCHEDULE...EXPANDED!

NATURE ADVENTURE MINI #1

June 1-4 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$185

Youth entering 1st through 3rd grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

MOAB MOUNTAIN BIKE CAMP

June 1-5 (5 days) \$385-all inclusive. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Riding & skills development; advanced, experienced riders;

Ages 13 and up. 4-night/5-day riding, exploring & camping trip.

NATURE ADVENTURE #1

June 8-18 (8 days; Monday - Thursday) \$370

Youth entering 1st through 3rd grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

OUTDOOR EXPLORE

June 22-July 2 (8 days; Monday - Thursday) \$415 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Youth entering 4th through 7th grades; Overnight camping trip included.

TAOS MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE

June 22-25 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$185

Ages 9 & up. Intermediate & above; Riding & skills development; local trails.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

DURANGO MOUNTAIN BIKE CAMP

June 29-July 2 (4 days) \$320 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Riding & skills development; strong intermediate riders & above;

Ages 10 and up. 3-night/4-day riding, exploring & camping trip

NATURE ADVENTURE #2

July 6-16 (8 days; Monday-Thursday) \$370

Youth entering 2nd through 4th grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

LETTUCE GROW WITH FIT #1

July 20-23 (4 days) \$185 FARM CAMP!

Youth entering 1st through 3rd grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE WEEK

July 20-23 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$305

Youth entering 6th grade & up; hiking, mountain biking, rafting & rock climbing.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Recommended with Advanced Adventure.

LETTUCE GROW WITH FIT #2

July 27-30 (4 days) \$185 FARM CAMP!

Youth entering 4th through 6th grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

ADVANCED ADVENTURE

July 27-31 (5 days; Monday - Friday) \$305

Experienced campers entering 6th grade & up; Two-night backpacking trip included.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Recommended with Adventure Week.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

August 3-6 (4 days) \$230 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Youth entering 4th through 6th grades. Overnight camping trip included.

ALPINE JOURNEY

August 3-7 (5 days) \$385-all inclusive. Youth entering grades 7 & up.

Mountain environments & glaciers; includes an 4-night/5-day camping & hiking adventure in Rocky Mountain National Park and beyond. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

NATURE ADVENTURE MINI #2

August 10-13 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$185

Youth entering 1st through 3rd grades. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

TAOS ADVANCED MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE

August 10-12 (3 days/2 nights; Monday - Wednesday) \$185

Ages 12 & up. Advanced riders only; camping and riding EPIC local trails.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Welcome to our 20th 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**
- ⦿ **\$100 DEPOSIT REQUIRED**
- ⦿ **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

We also offer **FIT Neighborhood Camp**, a fun, daily DROP-IN program at Quail Ridge Taos! Details here & on our **new website**.

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 riders learn about trail etiquette & respecting the environment while riding in a group. In 2014, we had close to 40 riders, ages 8-16, challenge themselves, learn new skills, & enjoy some good, dirt-filled physical activity throughout May, September & October. **Spring 2015 programs begin on April 27th & 28th. Ages 8-12 ride Tuesdays & 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.

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



SUMMER BIKE CAMPS will include our **Durango Mountain Bike Camp** for strong intermediate riders, a **Moab Camp** for advanced riders, the 4-day **Taos Mountain Bike Camp** where riders learn & practice skills on local trails, & new this year, **Advanced Taos Mountain Bike Camp**. *Additional riding & racing opportunities with Team FITaos, our local, inclusive, all-ages cycling team* (see below). **Sign up & get more info on our website!**

Watch for our youth bicycle skills clinics this spring & group rides & Team FITaos TSV Hill Climbs this summer!

Team FITaos 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 2014, our team members rode & raced in NM, CO, UT & beyond & offered Team rides throughout the season. There were many great road & mountain bike rides plus several special events in the local community. Our women's riding continued to ride the trails with passion & attitude.

In 2015, 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 **2015 jerseys**.

THANK YOU to our amazing sponsors for 2015!

FX 18, Gearing Up, Mogul Medical, N+1,
PPC Solar, Taos Ski Valley, Inc., Taos Cyclery
Boot Doctors, Edelweiss Lodge & Spa, Full Moon Development,
KSP Power Tools, Metric Motors, Siriusware, Taos Mesa Brewing,
TaosPhoto.com, Taos Veterinary Clinic, Willow Clinic,
Pizaño's, Taos Mountain Energy Bars

The first TEAM meeting of 2015 will be on April 1st.

Visit **www.fitaos.org** and click on Team FITaos to **join for 2015!**

Bring (or mail) your Team paperwork, meet fellow riders,
pick up your jerseys, & get ready to ride!



THANK YOU TO ALL 2014 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

The ongoing support of so many **INDIVIDUALS & BUSINESSES** inspires us daily. Each donor & volunteer is critical to our success. We also want to thank all **PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS & FAMILIES**, Team FITaOs **RIDERS & SPONSORS**, & those who supported our 13th Annual RUBBER DUCK RACE, our YOUTH PHOTO PROJECT & RAFFLE, GIVE GRANDE NEW MEXICO, the NEW BELGIUM BREWING SCAVENGER HUNT & the FESTIVAL OF TREES!



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Michael Wagener
Dan & Larissa Weinman
Barbara Wiard
Ted & Marcella Wiard
Bob Wilkinson & Terri Illingworth
Willow Clinic



For the 3rd year in a row, FIT has been awarded a grant from an anonymous donor to help us expand & improve programs! These funds allow us to offer more scholarships, increase & improve our program offerings, help us develop our staff, add additional staff to our team, & provide much needed infrastructure improvements. **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 feel you should be, please forgive our error & notify us so we can correct it. Thank you!

THANKS 2014 Staff! CITS: Drake Bjorkman, Leif Bjorkman, Roland Danneman, Gianmarco Frezza, D'Andre Gonzales, Angelina Goodhue, Canyon King, Peyton Lacy, Maggie Maestas, Finn McMullin, Trempealeau Morninglight, Lily Sanborn, Coco Welch, Ransom Welch, Robbie Wooldridge, & Timmo Wooldridge.

JUNIOR COUNSELORS: Joe Colonius, Madison Davisinger, Bridger Fiore, Boden Franklin, Edoardo Frezza, Caleb Kast, Eliana Lerman, Jazlyn Lynch, Austin O'Connor, Haley Rach, Sparrow Skywalker, Aimee Lynn Stearns, Zoe Urban, Otto Van Willigen & Nathan Wooldridge.

ASSISTANT & LEAD INSTRUCTORS:

Germaine Bartlett-Graff, Sean Cassily, Audrey Edinger, Macky Franklin, Margot Pierce, Susie Fiore, Lucy McDermott, Emily Mendez, Lee Shawver, Syd Schulz, Liana Sonne & Michael Wagener.



CITs & Junior Counselors & Staff

Our **Counselor In Training** program selects 15-20 youth who have been past campers to take on leadership internships. The popularity of this program shows the commitment to outdoor experiences (natural science education, leadership, outdoor skills, teamwork, & mentorship) that our programs develop in youth. Each CIT is an intern for 1-3 weeks with younger campers. Applicants ages 11 & up are selected based on experience, motivation, & enthusiasm. In 2015 there will be 12-15 **Junior Counselor** positions available. These paid youth mentors have demonstrated 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 3 - 5 weeks. CITs & Junior Counselors must attend an orientation covering programming, safety, rules, first aid & expectations (May 30th). **Applications are due by April 1st**

2014 IN REVIEW Outstanding educational adventures with enthusiastic campers & a staff filled with experience, energy, & passion for getting out in the natural world. In 2014, we led our **EdVenture & N.O.T. School programs** for Taos Academy, Anansi Charter School, TISA & others. We worked with Taos Pueblo providing a youth **mountain bike program**. Our After School Mountain Bike Club saw 40 young riders participate. We offered **Bike Rodeos** teaching cycling skills for youth at Arroyos del Norte & Anansi. We provided Educational Outreach & Professional Development for several local schools. **Summer camps** = exploration, connections & adventure. Hiking in & around Taos Ski Valley. Topics included wildlife biology, river ecology, map, maps & GPS, fitness, trees, farming, archeology, weather, nature art, geology, Leave No Trace, first aid, team building & alpine ecology. Chair lift rides. July 4th TSV Parade & Rubber Duck Race. Camping, rafting, backpacking & rock climbing. Great Sand Dunes & Rocky Mountain National Park. 3 mountain bike specific summer camps in Crested Butte, Durango & Taos. Our **Youth Photo Project** once again provided each camper with a camera for a day with instructions to take nature photos. Photos were exhibited in our big October event, the 5th Annual FITaos Youth Photo Exhibit & Be FIT Raffle. Other fundraising events included the hilariously fun New Belgium Brewing Scavenger Hunt & the Festival of Trees. Collaborative efforts in 2014 with Youth Heartline, ECHO Kids, Lettuce Grow Farm, ChoKuRei Farm, Wildlandance, & more. We had a total of 46 staff in summer. Over 50% of participants received financial assistance. Yes, it was a busy year! **Thank you to everyone who participated in & supported our programs in 2014. GET OUT & HIKE, BIKE, EXPLORE, PONDER, SNOWSHOE, SKI, RUN, LEARN, OBSERVE, GROW, ADVENTURE & PLAY WITH US IN 2015!**

FIT NEIGHBORHOOD Camp Offers ACTIVE FUN & Drop In Availability!

In 2013, Field Institute of Taos began operating FIT Neighborhood, a summer camp based at Quail Ridge Taos & we've been making it great ever since. It's an engaging, active & fun way for kids ages 5-11 to spend summer days. Directed by Emily Manfredi, this program offers a supervised, positive, structured environment with daily activities including swimming, tennis, group games, crafts, projects & more. FIT NEIGHBORHOOD believes in fun, teamwork, mentorship, & creativity...all with a distinctive FITaos flair. Weekly enrollment as well as daily drop-ins are welcome! Some discounts are available. FIT NEIGHBORHOOD is open from 8:30-4:30 on Monday through Friday throughout summer. Come for a month, 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



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