Field Institute of Taos

Spring 2017

Celebrating over 20 years of outdoor adventures!

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

2017 SUMMER SCHEDULE!

MOAB MOUNTAIN BIKE CAMP
May 29-June 2 (5 days) $405-all inclusive.
Riding & skills development; advanced, experienced riders only;
Ages 13 and up. 4-night/5-day riding, exploring & camping trip.

NATURE ADVENTURE MINI #1
June 5-8 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) $190
Youth entering *1st through 4th grades.*

NATURE ADVENTURE #1
June 12-22 (8 days; Monday - Thursday) $380
Youth entering *1st through 3rd* grades.

OUTDOOR EXPLORE
June 26-July 6 (8 days; Monday - Thursday) $425
Youth entering *4th through 7th grades;*
Overnight camping trip included. July 4th included.

NATURE ADVENTURE #2
July 10-20 (8 days; Monday-Thursday) $380
Youth entering *2nd through 4th grades.*

TAOS MOUNTIAN BIKE ADVENTURE
July 17-20 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) $205
Ages *9 & up.* Intermediate & above; Local trails;
Riding & skills development;
Past participation in our bike programs usually required.

ADVANCED ADVENTURE
July 24-28 (5 days; Monday - Friday) $310
Experienced campers entering *6th grade & up;*
Two-night backpacking trip included.
Two groups this year with one for new backpackers and one for experienced backpackers who want more of a challenge!

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
July 31-August 3 (4 days) $225
Youth entering *4th through 6th* grades.
Overnight camping trip included.

DURANGO MOUNTAIN BIKE CAMP
July 31-August 3 (4 days) $330
Riding & skills development; strong intermediate riders & above;
Ages 10 and up. 3-night/4-day riding, exploring & camping trip.
Past experience in our bike programs usually required.

NATURE ADVENTURE MINI #2
August 7-10 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) $190
Youth entering *1st through 3rd grades.*

ALPINE JOURNEY
August 7-11 (5 days) $395-all inclusive.
Youth entering *grades 7 & up.*
Mountain environments & glaciers; includes a 4-night/5-day camping & advanced hiking adventure in Rocky Mountain National Park.
Past experience in FIT programs required.

Welcome to our 21st Summer!

Join us as we explore the natural world through fun, healthy, engaging, & exciting outdoor programs! 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 and beyond, our approach is multi-faceted, team oriented, & educational with topics in natural sciences & outdoor skills.

Adventure, explore, interact, grow, learn, listen, see, & experience the world with us!

- **SPACE IS LIMITED**
- **ONLINE REGISTRATION at www.fitaos.org**
- **$100 DEPOSIT** REQUIRED
- **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

Check out **FIT Neighborhood Camp**, fun, hourly DROP-INS at Quail Ridge Taos!

NEW THIS YEAR: Daily Drop-In Mountain Camp on Saturdays & Sundays in Taos Ski Valley!

Details on our **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

Endurance & skills improve as riders learn about trail etiquette & respecting the environment while riding in a group. In 2016, we had 30 riders, ages 8-16, challenge themselves, learn new skills, & enjoy some good, dirt-filled physical activity. **Spring 2017 programs begin on April 24th.** Ages 8-12 ride Tuesdays & Thursdays. Ages 13 & 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! **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. **Sign up & get more info on our website.**

We help youth develop skills & attitudes to safely explore their own physical abilities & the natural world.

FITAOS HOSTED THE 2ND ANNUAL RIDE THE RIFT, a FREE community mountain bike event, on the BLM's Rift Valley Trail System in Taos. Over 150 participants ages 4-74 participated and rode nearly 1900 miles during the 6-hour event! Community partners included BLM and Taos Land Trust. Many local sponsors also supported the riders. All funds raised went to the Taos Area High School Mountain Bike Team. **www.ridetherifttaos.com**

TAOS AREA HIGH SCHOOL MOUNTAIN BIKE TEAM'S 2nd SEASON ROCKED!

This team continued to give high school athletes from the region the chance to train and compete in the exciting sport of mountain biking. 15 team athletes from 3 area schools attended 5 races with the Colorado League (National Interscholastic Cycling Association). Our riders proudly represented New Mexico throughout the season and into State Championships. Sponsors covered travel costs for the team to attend all races! Athletes raised funds during the Ride the Rift event. Coaches, parents and the local community really rallied behind the team. Thank you team sponsors: Team FITaos, Aceq, Ken Price Studios, Brown Rice Internet, Tanya Lauer, Linda Cosden, Tony Skvarla, Barbara Potter, Capo's, Lucus Construction, Metric Motors, Piñon Investments, and Taos Mountain Energy Bars! Facebook: Taos Area High School Mountain Bike Team

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**. We host events and offer on-going rides in the evenings for team members. We look forward to many rides & races with a strong, energetic team.

THANK YOU to our **amazing sponsors for 2017**!
FX 18, N+1, PPC Solar, Taos Cyclery, Taos Ski Valley, Inc., Taos Veterinary Clinic, ACEQ, Boot Doctors, Edelweiss Lodge & Spa, Full Moon Development, Kachina Medical, KOKO, KSP Power Tools, The Lora Company, Metric Motors, Mogul Medical, New Mexico ACLU, accesso-Siriusware, Taos Cow, Northside at TSV, Pizaño's, Taos Mountain Energy Bars

The first TEAM meeting of 2017 will be in April.
Visit **www.fitaos.org** and click on Team FITaos to **join for 2017**!
Bring (or mail) your Team paperwork to the meeting, meet fellow riders, pick up your new jersey, & get ready to ride!

THANK YOU TO ALL 2016 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Two new vans and endless adventures…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 15th Annual RUBBER DUCK RACE, our YOUTH PHOTO PROJECT & RAFFLE, the Ben Myer's RIDGE-A-THON and the NEW BELGIUM BREWING SCAVENGER HUNT!

ACEQ Restaurant
Andean Software
Edy & Charlie Anderson
Bridget Barnhart
Germaine Bartlett-Graff
Rose Blair Bauhs
Alana Benjamin and Tim Corner
Black Diamond Espresso
Blonde Bear Tavern
The Boot Doctors
Blair Bouchier
Dawn Boulware
Doris Breier
Brown Rice Internet
Elisabeth Brownell
Holly Burger
Greta Burke
Bureau of Land Management
Capo's
Marilyn Cassily
Sean Cassily
Centinel Bank of Taos
Cid's Food Market
Julie & Fred Closuit
Carl and Romy Colonius
Colorado League-NICA
Common Fire
Doug & Elaine Connor
Linda Cosden
Lauren Cramer

Once again, FIT has been awarded a grant from an anonymous donor to help us continue to grow 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 **website** and social media!

Crossfit Taos
Dala Balm
Mary Droste
Kurt Edelbrock
Edelweiss Lodge & Spa
Elevation Coffee
Enchanted Forest XC Ski Area
Michael Englehart
Karen & Nils Ericson
In Memory of Bill Etchemendy
The Evans Rael Family
FX 18
Ferguson Family Foundation
Mary Ann & Owen Fiore
Martha & Chris Flanders
Helen & Kent Forté
Macky Franklin
Hugh Friedman
Full Moon Development Company
Ken Gallard
Gearing Up Bicycle Shop
Carter T. Geyer
Cristina Gonzalez
Matt Gorman
Gina Hawryluk & Dan Greenwald
High Altitude Health & Fitness
Rebecca & Michael Jusbache
KSP Power Tools
Anne Kaplan
Katherine Kett Massage
John & Marsha Kleinheinz
Koko
Tanya Lauer
Risa Lehrer
Roberta & Roger Lerman
Lucas Construction
Linda & Spike Lynch
Lyon Brokerage
Emily Manfredi
Metric Motors
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Julie Montoya-Stearns
Mountain Skills Guides
Mudd N Flood Mountain Shop
N+1
Shane Natelson
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New Belgium Brewing Company
NM Department of Game & Fish
Northside at TSV
Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs
Orlando's & Station 3one6
PPC Solar
Kirsten Parsons
Pattison Family Trust
Roger & Kerrie Pattison

People's Bank
Jane Pilger
Piñon Investments
Pizaño's
Matt & Denise Poage
Joan Pond
Barbara Potter
Happy Price
Ken Price Studio
Quail Ridge Taos & Taos Tennis
Marcia Ready
Malia Reeves
Jean Richards
Stephen Rose & Barbara Zaring
Dianna Sakai
Santa Barbara Foundation
Emily Schneider & Tom Wiard
Karen & Scott Seitter
Singing River Field Center
Siriusware Accesso
Tony Skvarla
Liana Sonne
Scarlet Southern
Sol Luna Solar
Storyteller Taos Theaters
Gary Stropki
James Stuart
Andrea Szekeres
Taos Cow
Taos Cyclery
Taos Landscaping, Inc.
Taos Land Trust
Taos Mesa Brewing
Taos Mountain Energy Bars
Taos Ski Valley Foundation
Taos Ski Valley, Inc.
TSV Chamber of Commerce
Taos Valley Honey
Taos Veterinary Clinic
Taos Video Works
Iris & Day Thornton
Trips for Kids
Tom Twitmyer
USDA Forest Service
Village of Taos Ski Valley
Michael Wagener
Dan & Larissa Weinman
Barbara Wiard
In Memory of Keri & Amy Wiard
Ted & Marcella Wiard
Bob Wilkinson
World Cup

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!

THANK YOU 2016 STAFF!

CITs: Selina Bayles, Jonah Bromley, Aricela Chavez, Rozy Colonius, Juniper Cortopassi, Adelaide Driver, Ben Hastings, Sam Hastings, Arin Kolshorn, Perry Kushner, Sasha Kushner, Peyton Lacy, Finn Linholm, Trempealeau Morninglight, Isabella O'Donnell, Cameron Olsen, Jaimie Ritchie, Lily Sanborn, Kira Seckler, Jackson Shiver, and Michael Vigil.

JUNIOR COUNSELORS: Joe Colonius, Madison Davisinger, Daisy Kirshbaum, Eliana Lerman, Jazlyn Lynch, Austin O'Connor, Haley Rach, Erin Roberson, Zoe Urban, Nathan Wooldridge, Robbie Wooldridge & Timmo Wooldridge.

ASSISTANT & LEAD INSTRUCTORS: Germaine Bartlett-Graff, Sean Cassily, Bridger Fiore, Susie Fiore, Rosey Hayett, Emily Manfredi, Liana Sonne, Aimee Lynn Stearns & Michael Wagener.

CITs & Junior Counselors & Staff

Our **Counselor In Training** program selects 18-22 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 2017 there will be 10-12 **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 (June 3rd). **Applications due April 1st**

2016 IN PROGRAM REVIEW We led **EdVenture & N.O.T. School programs** for Taos Academy, Anansi Charter School, TISA, Taos Charter School, Ranchos Elementary, Colorado College, Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning, Nature's Classroom Montesorri and many others. We worked with Taos Pueblo providing youth **mountain bike programs**. Our After School Mountain Bike Club saw many young riders participate. We provided Educational Outreach & Professional Development for local schools. We saw a successful 2nd season of the high school mountain bike team and the growth of the Ride the Rift community event. Collaborative efforts were strong in 2016 with Youth Heartline, Dreamtree, Taos Land Trust and others. **Summer camps** provided 250 young adventurers with engaging, exciting, outdoor experiences. Hiking & immersion in all that the local mountains and rivers have to offer. 3 mountain bike summer camps in Crested Butte, Durango & Taos. A co-ed backpacking trip. FIT Neighborhood grew to reach over 1000 "kid days." Fundraising events included the July 4th TSV Parade & Rubber Duck Race, the hilariously fun New Belgium Brewing Scavenger Hunt, the Be FIT Raffle, and a wildly successful team in the 20th annual Ben Myers RidgeAThon. We had a total of 42 staff in summer. ALL families who request scholarship assistance received financial support. We were able to purchase 2 new 15-passenger vans, thanks to some very generous anonymous donations. **Thank you to everyone who participated in & supported our programs in 2016. PLEASE COME OUTSIDE & HIKE, BIKE, EXPLORE, PONDER, SHARE, LEARN, OBSERVE, GROW, LISTEN, ADVENTURE & PLAY WITH US IN 2017!**

NEW FOR 2017: DAILY DROP IN MOUNTAIN CAMP IN TSV DURING WEEKENDS THE CHAIRLIFT IS RUNNING!

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. An engaging, active & fun way for kids ages 5-11 to spend summer days directed by Emily Manfredi (assisted by Lead Instructors, CITs and Junior Counselors), this program offers a supervised, positive, structured environment with a wide variety of daily activities including swimming, tennis, group games, crafts, yoga, projects & more. FIT NEIGHBORHOOD believes in fun, teamwork, mentorship, & creativity...all with a 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 these hours. More info **www.fitaos.org**

facebook

Visit our facebook page.

A non-profit organization providing active, hands-on, nature-based, outdoor education and promoting healthy lifestyles since 1996.