



Field
Institute
of Taos

A NON PROFIT 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION PROVIDING ACTIVE, HANDS-ON, NATURE-BASED OUTDOOR EDUCATION SINCE 1996



SPRING 2018

CELEBRATING OVER 20 YEARS
OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURES!

2018 MOUNTAIN CAMPS

MOAB MOUNTAIN BIKE CAMP

May 28-June 1 (5 days) \$415 – all-inclusive
Riding & skills development; advanced, experienced FIT riders only;
Ages 13 and up. 4-night/5-day riding, exploring & camping trip.

NATURE ADVENTURE MINI #1

June 4-7 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$200
Youth entering 1st through 4th grades.

NATURE ADVENTURE #1

June 11-21 (8 days; Monday - Thursday) \$390
Youth entering 1st through 3rd grades.

TAOS MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE

June 11-14 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$225
Ages 9 & up. Intermediate & above; Local trails;
Riding & skills development; Past participation in our bike programs required

DURANGO MOUNTAIN BIKE CAMP

June 18-21 (4 days) \$340
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 required.

OUTDOOR EXPLORE

June 25-July 5 (8 days; Monday - Thursday) \$435
Youth entering 4th through 7th grades; Overnight camping trip included. July 4th included.

NATURE ADVENTURE #2

July 9-19 (8 days; Monday-Thursday) \$390
Youth entering 2nd through 4th grades.

ADVENTURE LEADERSHIP

July 9-12 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$310
Adventurous, experienced campers entering 6th grade & up;
Hiking, mountain biking, rafting and rock climbing included!

ADVANCED ADVENTURE

July 16-20 (5 days; Monday - Friday) \$310
Experienced campers entering 6th grade & up;
Two-night backpacking trip included.

NATURAL HEROES - NEW SESSION!

July 23-26 (4 days) \$200
Youth entering 3rd through 6th grades. Active adventures and service learning projects!

ALPINE JOURNEY

July 23-27 (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.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

July 30-August 2 (4 days) \$235
Youth entering 4th through 6th grades. Overnight camping trip included.

NATURE ADVENTURE MINI #2

August 6-9 (4 days; Monday - Thursday) \$200
Youth entering 1st through 3rd grades.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL SESSIONS!

Welcome to our 22nd Summer!

The seasons keep changing & we continue to be lucky enough to interact with many young people & share our wonder, joy, & curiosity around the natural world through ongoing fun, healthy, engaging, & exciting outdoor adventures!

Our programs implement a unique approach to developing a connection with nature & encouraging healthy lifestyles.

From our launching pad at our new Base Camp, we explore from the beautiful alpine peaks of the Sangre de Cristo

Mountains to the dramatic canyon landscapes of the Rio Grande Gorge & way beyond. Our approach is always multi-faceted, team oriented, & educational with topics blending natural sciences & outdoor skills.

**Adventure, explore, connect,
grow, learn, listen, see, and
experience the world with us!**



- ☆ LIMITED MOUNTAIN CAMP SPACE
- ☆ ONLINE REGISTRATION at www.fitaos.org
- ☆ \$100 DEPOSIT PER SESSION REQUIRED
- ☆ SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

FIT NeIGHBORHOOD CAMP

Our fun, hourly DROP-IN program
at Quail Ridge Taos!
Opens Tuesday May 29th

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

After School Mountain Bike Programs

Endurance & skills improve as riders learn about trail etiquette & respecting the environment while riding in a group. In 2017, we had 38 riders, ages 8-16, challenge themselves, learn new skills, & enjoy some good, dirt-filled physical activity. **Spring and Fall programs are offered.** 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!**



2018 SUMMER BIKE CAMPS will include our **Durango Mountain Bike Camp** for strong intermediate riders, a **Moab Camp** and a **Crested Butte 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 3RD 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 Del Norte Mountain Bike Alliance. 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 3RD SEASON A SUCCESS!

This team gives high school athletes from the region the chance to train and compete in the exciting sport of mountain biking. 13 riders from 3 area schools attended 5 races with the Colorado League (National Intercollegiate 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, Anonymous, Brown Rice Internet, Linda Cosden, Ken Price Studios, The Lora Company, Greg Nelson, Carl Shulman, Tony Skvarla, Lucus Construction, Metric Motors, and Taos Mountain Energy Bars! On Facebook: Taos Area High School Mountain Bike Team



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 2018!

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

SPRING BIKE SWAP & TEAM meeting April 29TH

at **Base Camp.** Visit www.fitaos.org and click on Team FITaOs to **join for 2018!** 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 2017 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

With Base Camp established & endless adventures in progress...the ongoing support of so many **INDIVIDUALS & BUSINESSES** inspires us daily. Each donor & volunteer is critical to our success. We also want to thank **PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS & FAMILIES**, Team FITaos **RIDERS & SPONSORS**, & those who supported our 16th Annual RUBBER DUCK RACE, our YOUTH PHOTO PROJECT & BE FIT RAFFLE, RIDE the RIFT and the NEW BELGIUM BREWING SCAVENGER HUNT!



Accesso-Siriusware
ACEQ Restaurant
Andean Software
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Bridget Barnhart
Rose Blair Bauhs
Alana Benjamin & Tim Corner
Black Diamond Espresso
Blonde Bear Tavern
The Boot Doctors
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Holly Burger
Bureau of Land Management
Marilyn Cassily
Sean Cassily
Centinel Bank of Taos
Cid's Food Market
Alyson Clark
Julie & Fred Closuit
Carl & Romy Colonius
Colorado League-NICA
Austin, Doug, & Elaine Connor
Susan Cooper
Copy Queen of Taos
Linda Cosden
Maggie Crane
Dala Balm
Del Norte Mountain Bike Alliance
Mary Droste

Kurt Edelbrock
Edelweiss Lodge & Spa
Deb & Gary Edidin
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Enchanted Forest XC Ski Area
Karen & Nils Ericson
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Susan Moller
Mountain Skills Guides
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N+1
Shane Natelson
Natelson Law Firm
Greg Nelson
New Belgium Brewing Company
NM Department of Game & Fish
Northside at TSV
Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs
Orlando's
PPC Solar

Pattison Family Trust
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Tony Skvarla
Liana Sonne
Scarlet Southern
Sol Luna Solar
Clark Spoden
James Stuart
Andrea Szekeres
Taos Community Foundation
Taos Cow
Taos Cyclery
Taos Landscaping, Inc.
Taos Land Trust
Taos Mountain Energy Bars
Taos Ski Valley Foundation
Taos Ski Valley, Inc.
Taos Sports Alliance
TSV Chamber of Commerce
Taos Valley Honey
Taos Veterinary Clinic
Taos Video Works
Iris & Day Thornton
Trips for Kids
USDA Forest Service
Village of Taos Ski Valley
Michael Wagener
Barbara Wiard
In Memory of Keri & Amy Wiard
Ted & Marcella Wiard
Bob Wilkinson
World Cup



Donor contributions help us grow and improve our programs! These funds allow us to offer more scholarships, increase & improve our program offerings, help us train & 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!

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 2017 STAFF!

CITs: Ella Aquino, India Buchanan, Haley Chanler, Aricela Chavez, Adelaide Driver, Eliza Earl, Mariel Gomez, Ben Hastings, Aidan Hefflin, Helen Henry, Harper Higdon, Cole Hughes, Perry Kushner, Sasha Kushner, Oz Leshem, Jonathan Lucero, Lily Marchasin, Isabella O'Donnell, Sarah Peralta, Jaimie Ritchie, Lily Sanborn, Otto Van Willigen, and Michael Vigil.

JUNIOR COUNSELORS:

Rozy Colonius, Junipar Cortopassi, Sam Hastings, Andrew Jusbasche, Daisy Kirshbaum, Peyton Lacy, Jazlyn Lynch, Kira Seckler, Zoe Urban, Goldie Vinella, Nathan Wooldridge, Robbie Wooldridge & Timmo Wooldridge.



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

CITs & Junior Counselors

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. Each year there are 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**

2017 IN REVIEW This was a year we will always remember with the extremely generous in-kind donation of the use of the most gorgeous indoor and outdoor space that has become our **Base Camp**! Every single aspect of our organization from programming to planning to fundraising and administrative work has benefited. We welcome visitors any time the gate is open!

Our local school connections flourished through **EdVenture, N.O.T. School programs, Educational Outreach & Professional Teacher Development**. With the support of Trips for Kids, we continued working with Taos Pueblo to provide youth **mountain bike programs**. The after school mountain bike club (spring and fall), the high school mountain bike team, **community outreach and special events** were all part of our year. **Collaborations** continued to grow in 2017 with Youth Heartline, Dreamtree, Taos Land Trust and others. **Summer Mountain Camps** provided 250 young adventurers with engaging, exciting, age-appropriate, outdoor experiences through hiking & immersion in our local mountains and rivers. *ALL families who requested scholarship assistance received financial support.*

FIT Neighborhood reached over 1000 "kid days." **Fundraising events** included the July 4th TSV Parade & Rubber Duck Race, the New Belgium Brewing Scavenger Hunt, the Be FIT Raffle, the Youth Nature Photo Exhibit, and Ride the Rift. We had a total of **46 staff** (including CITs, JCs and Lead Instructors) during the summer. **Thank you to everyone who participated in & supported our programs in 2017. PLEASE JOIN US OUTSIDE IN 2018!**

NEW FOR 2018: CUSTOM MOUNTAIN CAMP PROGRAMMING BASED IN TSV AND BEYOND IS AVAILABLE.

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. **We welcome our new Director, Stephanie Vigil**, to the team. 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



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