



## Mountain Stewards High School Summer Program 2017

This year, we will continue our partnership with the Friends of the Blackwater, and the United States Forest Service to assist in trail development within the Blackwater Canyon, near Thomas, West Virginia. The stewardship project will be based on the Canyon Rim Trail. Participants will learn about erosion control techniques and will help build preventative structures. The week will be split between the stewardship project at the beginning and adventures in the North Fork Valley at the end of the week. The schedule below details each day.



**Sunday:** Arrival at 12pm at the Circleville High School (please eat lunch before you arrive). The group will participate in get to know you games and activities before packing expedition-style backpacks, and shuttling to the Blackwater Canyon, stopping at Lindy Point along the way. Once there, they will hike out to a campsite, learn camp craft skills and prepare for the week's adventure. *Camp at primitive site near Canyon Rim Trail.*

**Monday:** Introduction to the stewardship project on the Canyon Rim Trail in the morning. Meet with the project manager from Friends of Blackwater to learn how to implement erosion control measures through the construction of turn pikes and rolling grade dips. That evening, the group will climb the historic Olson Fire Tower for a bird's eye view of the national forest

below, and will participate in discussion and activities surrounding the history of the area's extractive industry. *Camp at primitive site near Canyon Rim Trail.*

**Tuesday:** Continue stewardship project. Field games in the afternoon, sensory awareness activities in the evening. *Camp at primitive site near Canyon Rim Trail.*

**Wednesday:** Finish up stewardship project mid-day. Orienteering challenge: navigate from camp to the Olson Bog in the afternoon using a topographic map and compass. Campfire games in the evening. *Camp at primitive site near Canyon Rim Trail.*

**Thursday:** Break camp and hike out to vans - shuttle to Seneca Rocks. Campers will hike to the summit, and swim at the Seneca Creek swimming hole. Campfire cooking using a dutch oven workshop in the evening. *Camp with amenities at Seneca Shadows Campground.*

**Friday:** Shuttle to nearby Simoda for guided top-robe rock climbing. Head back to the yurts at the Spruce Knob Mountain Center in the afternoon to clean and de-issue any borrowed group gear. Showers and move into dorms. Dinner served out of the yurts, reflective activities around the campfire to follow in the evening. *Sleep in gender divided dorms.*

**Saturday:** Hot breakfast served at the yurts, followed by a facility tour. Departure/pick up for all at 11:30am from the yurts at the Spruce Knob Mountain Center. \*Join us for family night in the evening on July 1<sup>st</sup> (more information about Family Night can be found on our [website](#)).

### Reminders:

- You will receive an official letter at the end of the program outlining the scope of the work provided and the number of service hours earned. If you need a specific form filled out for proof of service hours please bring it with you.
- Drop off on Sunday will be at the Circleville High School at 12pm (please eat lunch before you arrive).
- Pick up on Saturday will be from the Spruce Knob Mountain Center at 11:30am.
- Outside of emergency situations, your child will be responsible for administering any necessary medications while on the program. Please double check that these medications are not expired, and that your child is capable of self-administration (pack written directions). If you carry an epi pen, or asthma inhaler, plan to bring an additional as a backup, and oral Benadryl as needed.
- We recommend leaving all electronics and cell phones at home, campers should plan to be unplugged for the length of the program. Anything brought on the trip could potentially be lost, destroyed, or gotten wet – pack accordingly!

### ***Experience Learning Inc.***

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