



Wild Words

“Adventures and Summer Literacy”

Program Description

Wild Words combines an outdoor education program with a summer literacy program for children ages 6-8. Children’s literature is used as a springboard for summer adventure. Themes are based on the children’s interests. The program focuses on reading enjoyment and free time to explore in the outdoors.

Outcomes

- Keep children reading throughout the summer
- Interact with others in an outdoor setting (teambuilding)
- Foster a love for and a personal relationship with our local natural world
- Connect learning and literacy with adventure and play

Activities/Process

Children will meet at the Peak Base Camp (in the Ore Bucket Building) before setting out for a daily adventure. We will engage in a literacy activity and then head into the surrounding wilderness for further exploration around the day's or week's theme. Children are encouraged to bring personal books to read and share. We will also have a library at Base Camp from which they can select titles of interest. The books travel with us, and the children can read in the van as well as wherever we go for the day. In addition, journals and sketchbooks will be provided for literature responses and art activities.

Every day your child needs to bring:

- Backpack that s/he can carry comfortably
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Hiking/walking shoes
- Water shoes
- Extra outfit, including socks
- Picnic lunch and snacks
- Water bottle
- Booster seat (if necessary)

At times we will have days in and near water so a swimsuit and towel will be needed.

Schedule

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
June 15 – August 19

Cost and Participants

Program Fee: \$45.00/day for 10 or less days
\$40/day for more than 10 days
Program is offered to children ages 6-8
Capacity: 6 children

*Possible after-care available from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

To register, please contact Brian Krill at 209-1006 or 349-2830

STAFF

ADGE MARZIANO (bio forthcoming)

and

JEN HILLEBRANDT

Through early experiences with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), adventures at the Colorado College, and a degree in Sociology, Jen Hillebrandt discovered that she was meant to be a teacher, but not in the traditional sense. “Experiential Education” would become a life-long pursuit.

Once she discovered this “calling”, she attended the **University of Colorado at Boulder** to further her studies, obtaining a **Colorado Teaching License as well as a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education, with emphasis in bilingual and special education.** Later, Jen traveled to Costa Rica to hone her Spanish language skills in an immersion program, as she found herself in Leadville, Colorado, teaching an elementary class of students with varying levels of English proficiency. She strongly believes in the benefits of immersion studies, and that language and culture are intricately linked.

In 2001, Jen finally made her way to Crested Butte, after dreaming about calling it home for years. Here, she has discovered the joys and challenges of motherhood, and gained new insights into **early childhood development and education.** Jen started a **state licensed in-home preschool/daycare**, simultaneously obtaining training and **certification as a Montessori Primary teacher** (focusing on children aged 3-6 years).

In all her various manifestations as an educator, Jen has realized her strengths and passions lie in **early childhood education**, as well as **literacy for all ages.** She firmly believes in the benefits of Montessori education, Multiple Intelligences theory (which allows for eight ways to be “smart” and to learn), and finally, time spent problem-solving in the outdoors and developing a relationship with our natural world. She is so grateful to have the opportunity to share these passions with others, as part of the Peak team.

Jen has also served as the Director of Paradise Place Pre-school, and currently works at the Crested Butte Public Library.