



WILDERNESS RANCH HISTORY

Remote and rugged, the Wilderness Ranch valley was first homesteaded in the early 20th century by the Wills family who operated a profitable trout hatchery and cabin rentals to fishermen. In the early 1970s, Will and Betty Wyatt purchased the property as a family retreat. Following a campfire conversation with Bob Mitchell (Young Life president at the time), the Wyatts were led to consider the property for Young Life to use as a backpacking ministry. Bob Mitchell and the Wyatts knew Young Life should be using this tool to draw high school kids closer to Christ. The first Young Life backpackers came to Wilderness Ranch in 1973, and the Wyatts turned over the property to Young Life completely in 1978. The 80 acres, complete with a dazzling lake, nestled in a beautiful valley in the San Juan mountains, provide the signature location for Wilderness Ranch. In the summers since, thousands of high school friends have been exposed to Jesus Christ and a deeper relationship with Him through the wonders of a week in God's creation, with gifted leaders who are passionate about connecting high school students to Jesus Christ.

IMPACT

Wilderness Ranch seeks to create a less distracted space for people to meet Jesus Christ and grow in their faith through a guided wilderness adventure. Through relationships and asking questions, we want to offer constructive, hopeful, God-centered insights to the core issues of identity, belonging and purpose. Recent data from multiple Young Life areas showed that of high school students that went to outreach camp only, 33% were following Jesus three to five years later. Of those that also went to Wilderness Ranch, that number increased to 92%!



WILDERNESS RANCH

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Wilderness Ranch | Creede, CO

Wilderness.younglife.org

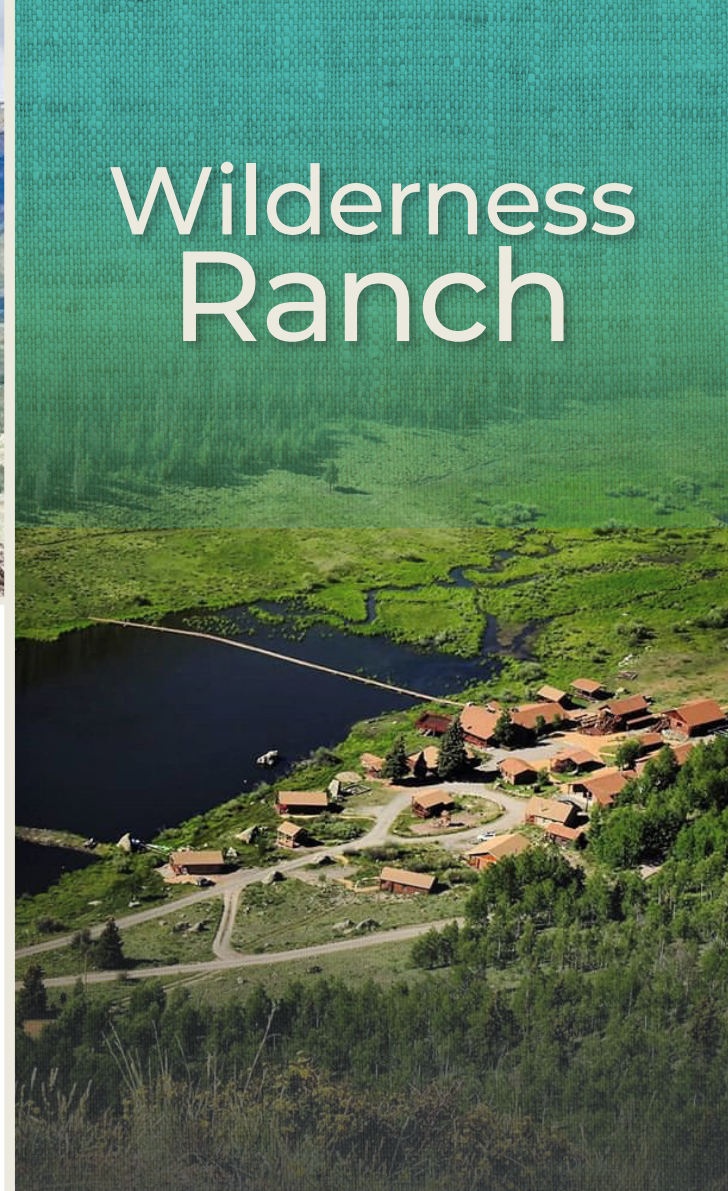
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Wilderness Ranch



CREATING A LESS DISTRACTED SPACE TO MEET JESUS AND GROW IN FAITH THROUGH GUIDED WILDERNESS ADVENTURES

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ADVENTURE CAMPING IN COLORADO

Here in the San Juan Mountains of southwest Colorado, through wilderness experiences, we provide high school and college students with an opportunity to get away from the distractions of the city and encounter God in new ways they can't back home. We currently offer two different trips — backpacking and adventure camp. Backpacking trips will spend time hiking through some of the most beautiful country in the United States. Adventure camp trips base out of Wilderness Ranch and experience different day adventures (hiking, climbing, rafting, etc) around the area. Our guides are prepared to adjust to meet the individual needs of each group. Every trip will be relationally focused, enjoying quiet times, life stories, Bible studies, group discussions and of course a few surprises along the way!



Wilderness Ranch is an equal opportunity service provider and employer which operates under special use permit #DIV2205 from the USFS in the Rio Grande National Forest.