

Experiential Education Trip Proposal



PREPARED BY:

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INTRODUCTION



My participation in Experiential Education trips in middle and high school played a large role in shaping my passion for the outdoors ultimately leading me to a 26 years in outfitting. Sharing with students this passion, truly brings this experience full circle. Many kids, like me at the time of my participation, are searching for their path in life. Providing them the opportunity to connect with nature, adventure, the value and serenity of our environment, and to gain a perspective on our place as humans on this planet is invaluable. Together with my wife Molly, a corporate world drop out, the opportunity to share our passion and the treasures and natural playground of the Southwest is an honor. With our four kids, ages 13-21 join us in the roles of guides, guest relations and photographers. We consider our team at Mild to Wild to be our family, and invite you to join the Mild to Wild family as our guests.

Warm regards,

Alex Mickel

Co-Founder: Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Tours, Inc.



ABOUT MILD TO WILD

Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Tours have been the Southwest's adventure and whitewater experts for over 25 years. Started by Molly & Alex Mickel, Mild to Wild has grown from a small booth in downtown Durango, to running trips all over Arizona, Utah, & Colorado. With the addition of Adventure Bound USA in 2018, Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Tours expanded to open an office in Moab, UT and run multi-day trips on legendary river sections such as Gates of Lodore, Yampa, Desolation Canyon, & Cataract Canyon. Mild to Wild is thrilled to carry on the nearly 70 year legacy of Adventure Bound River Expeditions.



OUR MISSION

To enrich our guests' lives with an escape in the outdoors, creating a deeper connection with nature, adventure, family, and new friends.

WHY CHOOSE MILD TO WILD



Group Experts - We are celebrating 26 years of connecting family & friends through nature and adventure! We are known as the Southwest's Whitewater & Adventure Experts...just ask the locals.

Exclusive Guarantee - "Commitment to be the best" - Our goal is to exceed expectations. If you have any concerns, you have direct access to us the owners, Molly and Alex. We are committed to excellence and serve of 25,000 delighted guests annually.

Highest Trained Guides - We have a State-Certified Guide Training Program. Our in-house guide training assures high-quality and knowledgeable guides. Our training program exceeds the state requirements to ensure our guides' higher level of professionalism & experience. Your guide is trained in river rescue, local knowledge, customer service skills, as well as First Aid and CPR.

Family Focused & Family Owned - We are family-focused with committed owners! We are a family at Mild to Wild! Alex and Molly, our leaders/owners, are daily managers, guides on the river, trip consultants and greeters! Our team is a family and we want you to feel a part of that family!

1st Class Trip Provisions - We provide state-of-the-art, self-bailing rafts and equipment, quality shuttle vehicles, professional guides, AEDs, multiple satellite communication devices, on-water radios to communicate between boats, free helmets, free Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices, free splash gear, safety orientation, and our unparalleled guarantee.

Ease of Planning - You will receive a dedicated group coordinator to help you plan your group's adventure & ensure any details or accommodations are met. We offer flexible payment plans, group discounts, electronic waivers, & split payments. Not to mention we are southwest experts and can provide you with expert local knowledge to ensure your trip is a success!

SAFETY

At Mild to Wild, safety is our number one priority. While we strive to provide an engaging and exciting experience for youth groups, we always take safety very seriously with our industry-leading safety precautions.

Safety Precautions

- True river professionals guide you down the river and share their love and knowledge of the river with you.
- We step above industry standards and bring AEDs on trips.
- On-river radios & satellite communication devices.
- Our trip leaders set the standard with an average of 2,000 river miles.
- State-certified, in-house guide training ensures quality.
- First Aid and CPR certification for all guides.
- Online waivers & pre-trip preparation material.
- Free helmets and PFDs.
- Instructional and safety orientation prior to launch.



EXAMPLE EXPERIENTIAL TRIP OPTIONS

We understand different schools and districts have different policies that need to be met on school outings. From adventure levels allowed, meeting certain curriculum objectives, budgeting and time. Each school has different needs. To overcome these obstacles, Mild to Wild offers river adventures from two hours to six days. We have varying payment arrangements, including youth pricing, and group discounts. All of our trips include optional educational components of Leave No Trace, river ecology, river safety, interpretive information, and team building activities. Please let us know what the purpose of this trip is and what you'd like us to incorporate into the adventure.

Cataract Canyon - Moab, UT

- Enjoy thrilling whitewater & spectacular scenery, similar to the Grand Canyon, but in a fraction of the time.
- Challenge class III-V waves in the heart of Canyonlands National Park.
- Relive history as your guide explains the geological layers found in the canyon.



Yampa River - Vernal, UT

- Travel down the untamed waters of the last free-flowing river in the entire Colorado River system.
- Challenge class III-IV rapids as you build new bonds with family & friends.
- Uncover awe-inspiring geology and history as you travel through Dinosaur National Monument.



Desolation Canyon - Moab, UT

- Experience 60+ class II & III rapids in rafts, kayaks and standup paddleboards.
- Travel through the largest wilderness area in the Lower-48 beside mustangs, bighorn sheep, eagles, and more.
- Explore real wild west hideouts, moonshiners' cabins, and mind-boggling geographical features.





The Gates of Lodore - Vernal, UT

- Step back in time to the Jurassic Period as you travel through Dinosaur National Monument.
- Challenge 50+ evenly dispersed class II & III rapids throughout the trip.
- Enjoy hikes to waterfalls, petroglyphs, & slot canyons.

Castle Valley - Moab, UT

- Take in the amazing sites of Fisher Towers; natural rock skyscrapers chiseled precariously by wind and water.
- Relax in calm water & class II splashes, a perfect way to cool off in the Utah sunshine.
- Enjoy large sandy beaches, swimming holes, and chances to try inflatable kayaking.



Salt River - Phoenix, AZ

- Experience more class III rapids per mile than on any other Arizona river.
- Savor the beauty of spectacular blooming cacti & spring wildflowers as the Southwest desert awakens.
- Discover Arizona's best kept secret: Arizona's other Grand Canyon.

Lower Animas - Durango, CO

- Convenient; accommodates tight itineraries.
- Packages available, including jeep trail tours, for the complete Colorado experience!
- Perfect trip for groups with all ages!



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Stern frame boats for interactive paddle assist rafting.
- Motor support based on river conditions when needed.
- Team/Community-building games in camp each evening.
- Opportunities for side hikes to ecological sites, petroglyphs, homesteads & breathtaking views.
- Interpretive knowledge on the history of the river canyon and geology inside the river canyon.
- Opportunity to disconnect from screens and pressures of everyday life.
- Joining together in nature and adventure to overcome challenges.
- Chances to adapt and build connections in new environments.
- Teamwork, problem-solving, and communication games and exercises.
- True wilderness experiences providing opportunities to overcome adversity & build unity.
- Free PFDs, helmets, camping equipment, portable toilets, camp chairs, and dry bags.
- Healthy and delicious meals while on the river.
- Dairy-free, gluten-free, & vegetarian dietary accommodations made free of charge.
- Inflatable kayaks & paddleboards when river conditions allow.

Optional Educational Opportunities

"Leave No Trace" Principles

River Safety

River & Waterway Conservation

Rafting Terminology and How to Read a River

Easy Planning for Trip Leaders

We know organizing a group is a big undertaking; not to worry, we are here to help! You will have a single, personal contact at Mild to Wild to help accommodate all the trip planning details & special arrangements. All of our adventures include experienced, caring guides & staff as well as quality shuttle vehicles & rafting equipment. We are knowledgeable about our area and would love to help coordinate your Southwest experiential trip. All reservations come with flexible payment plans, a lenient cancellation policy, and online waivers submission.



THE VALUE OF EXPERIENTIAL TRIPS

In contrast to our traditionally run commercial trips, where we do all the work, experiential adventure trips will involve the youth with the trip logistics or rigging boats, loading and unloading gear, camp setup, cooking and cleaning. We will include social, emotional, educational, and altruistic elements to the trips in the following manner:



Social Element

Participants will be broken into team helping each day with a different set of duties. Teams will take turns helping with camp setup, boat loading, kitchen setup, dishes, and campfire fun. Collaborating and contributing to the group effort will be an essential part of the trip. Teamwork will be encouraged through the paddling of boats both in flat and whitewater.

Emotional Element

We encourage and support students to go beyond their comfort zone and support each other through the challenges of a wilderness trip. From taking on the bigger rapids, hiking up a steeper incline or through a slot canyon, or doing more of their share of camp chores. Learning to adapt to new experiences and supporting each other in adventure leads to a closer knit group and a greater understanding of other's perspectives and diversity.

Educational Element

Sharing of the geology, flora and fauna, as well as "*Leave No Trace*" curriculum will be an essential part of the trip. Aligning with the National Park Service's mission to preserve the natural and cultural resources we seek to share the unique features that make this place worth preserving for generations to come.

Altruistic Element

In our shared experiences on our trip, we encourage compassion, empathy, and support. We strive to leave the camp cleaner than how we got it in order to demonstrate how our impact affects others' impact, illustrating the importance of thinking beyond ourselves.

HEAR FROM PREVIOUS GROUPS

Nothing is more important to us than the satisfaction of our guests! Below are just a few of the 3,000 positive messages we've received from our other school and youth groups we've worked with on review sites Google & Trip Advisor.

Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions: *We were very happy with everything that we experienced with Mild to Wild. The professionalism and enthusiasm from educating our team on the different levels and rivers to the guides being able to adapt to working with 20+ ten year olds, and knowing exactly what everyone needed and maintaining the schedule we needed. Rafting isn't a normal part of our curriculum here but it was probably one of the better trips we did in 2019, and hope that we can include it into the curriculum in 2020 and on.*



Aspen Community School: *Amazing. The guides were supportive, hilarious, patient, accommodating, and provided so many opportunities for the kids to understand the river, river safety, desert camping etiquette, and overall how to have an amazing river experience. They made sure that there was plenty of food, play time and games. The kids were exhausted from all of the wonderfulness from the trip! Thank you Grace, Sam and Eric!!!*

Girl Scout Troop on a 3-Day San Miguel Trip: *Our Girl Scout Troop had a blast on our 3 day rafting trip. Our guides, Emma, Nickel and Mike, were amazing. They were fun, knowledgeable and made our trip so fun. Our group ranged in age from 12 to 46. Everyone had a great time.*

