



Become a Summer Trip Leader! 2-Week Trip in June or July 2024

How To Get Involved:

- Fill out Leader Application (scan QR code or use link: www.tfaforms.com/302227%20)
- Further Questions? Email jmerino@thewoodsproject.org



What Current Leaders Say:

I see the positive growth of the students in their ability to deal with challenges while having new experiences and also having fun

Don't be overwhelmed, TWP is not going let you flounder! No matter your skill set, we need your help. It is an extremely rewarding experience and I have never walked away thinking it was a waste of my time or energy.

Communities of color don't often take advantage of outdoor opportunities for various reasons. On my trip to Olympic National Park, I noticed the minimal numbers of people who looked like me. TWP is on the frontlines of challenging these social barriers.

Can you describe the summer trip in 3 words?

Left in Awe

This is an experience that makes you grow- you see yourself at your best and worst while trying to lead young minds- there's not much out there that will push you like this while letting you enjoy amazing sites and a couple of good laughs. Honestly it's one of those experiences you just won't regret.

Just do it! Get out on a weekend trip and experience this amazing program. I was hooked after one trip and I am now training for my 7th summer trip.



Summer Trip Dates* and Locations:

Olympic National Park, Washington	June 16- 28, 2024 June 23- July 5, 2024 June 30- July 12, 2024
Donner Pass/Desolation Wilderness, California	June 26 - July 9, 2024 July 5 - July 18, 2024 July 15 - July 28, 2024
Breckinridge/White River National Forest	June 21- July 4, 2024

Summer Leader Time Commitment

- Weekend Trip in Spring
- Two-week summer trip
- Summer Leader Training- May 18-19 or June 1-2
- Wilderness First Aid Training (required for Olympic location)- June 8-9

Frequently Asked Questions

What is The Woods Project?

The Woods Project is a nonprofit organization that prepares students for college and beyond by developing life and leadership skills through wilderness exploration and education. We achieve our goal through an after-school program, weekend outings and a 2-week summer trip. Our focus is on working with low-income students, and we partner with many different schools in the Houston area.

What is my role as a volunteer leader?

As a volunteer, your role is to supervise and mentor the students and to always be aware of safety concerns. A primary goal of The Woods Project is to develop student leadership and initiative, and, to that end, we ask our leaders to teach and not do; to show the students how to do a task and then step back. When a student has a question, we encourage them to think through possible answers as opposed to feeding them the solution. Guide, but let them earn success with the activity, whether it is doing the dishes, cooking breakfast, setting the hiking pace, etc. As a volunteer leader, you will be responsible for the students from before breakfast until bedtime. You will also be expected to help with after-dinner programming—night hikes, s'mores, scary stories, games, etc. The primary expectations we have of volunteers is that they come on our trips with an open mind, a desire to be outdoors and a desire to interact with a great group of people.

I don't know much about camping/outdoors? Can I still volunteer for summer trips?

Yes! Definitely! Our volunteers range from having never spent a night in the woods to others that have hiked the Pacific Crest Trail. All skills and abilities are welcome and encouraged to participate. If you enjoy working with students and like the outdoors, we can use your help!

What if I don't have my own camping gear?

We provide all necessary gear for both weekend and summer trips at no extra cost. This includes tents, sleeping bags, platypus, backpacks, sleeping pad, hiking socks, boots, etc., so need to worry! Contact us directly if you have any specific questions on gear needs.

Do I have to pay?

The Woods Project pays for your trip, including airfare, food, lodging, and permit costs.