

How to Enroll a Student on an Expedition Program



Who to Contact:

All correspondence regarding student enrollment should be directed to the Wilderness School Enrollment Office. [email: bonnie.sterpka@ct.gov or phone (860) 653-8059 or (800) 273-2293].

Wilderness School Website:

The Wilderness School website contains a great deal of information on the Wilderness School programs. The youth and family should familiarize themselves with the website.

Watch the Expedition DVD:

The Wilderness School Expedition DVD ([DVD Presentation](#)) is available online for all prospective Wilderness School applicants and is **required** for 20-Day and 5-Day Expedition applicants prior to beginning the application process. The [DVD](#) may also be received on an individual disk by contacting the Enrollment Office as above.

Complete a Telephone Pre-Screening:

All potential applicants are **required** to be screened against the Wilderness School [Enrollment Policies](#) (Policies are posted on this website) by a telephone pre-screening with the Enrollment Office. Parents, Referring Agents, Social Workers or providers may call to complete the Telephone Pre-Screening. This should be completed prior to completion of application materials. At the end of the Telephone Pre-Screening there will be a better understanding of the best option for the youth.

Referring Agent:

All applicants will work with a Referring Agent to enroll. Referring Agents can be social workers, youth counselors, juvenile justice workers, mental health providers, mentors, school teachers, counselors or coaches. Referring Agents should assist in determining student

appropriateness by sharing information with the Wilderness School on the Pre-Enrollment Interview Form. Referring Agents also help the applicant with setting goals and understanding the Student Contract Agreement. Referring Agents assess:

- The applicant's understanding of the program and motivation for attending the course
- The transition and relationship between the Expedition and Follow-Up Program
- A review of the Student Contract, Basic Expectations (Behavioral Policies, Basic Safety Rules and Rules for Participation), Procedures for Student Removal From Course for Behavioral Policy Violations, and Contract Agreement
- The applicant's medical history, including physical difficulties presenting potential problems on the course.
- The applicant's behavioral history, including history of sexual offense, violent offense, severe emotional disturbance, running away.
- Psychiatric history and current medications
- Court history
- Substance abuse history
- The applicant's developmental appropriateness

Application Requirements:

Please complete the required application materials. To ensure enrollment in a desired 20-Day or 5-Day Expedition course date, Referring Agencies and families should submit Application Materials as early as possible.

- [Student Application, Medical History and Tuition Agreement](#)
- [Consent and Waiver](#) or [DCF Consent and Waiver \(for DCF Committed adolescents\)](#)
- [Authorization for Disclosure of Information](#)
- [Physician's Medical Examination](#)
- [Doctors' Orders for all medications](#)
- [Student Pre-Enrollment Interview Form](#)
- [Student Contract](#)
- Copies of health insurance and prescription drug cards
- Medical updates as required
- Additional application materials as required
- Court or police records, social service and/or psychiatric evaluations, or psychiatric statement of competency as required

When courses are fully enrolled, new applicants will be placed on an alternate list in the order that Application Materials are received. Agencies and families will be notified as space becomes available.

Orientation Programs:

Attending an Orientation Program is **required** for acceptance to a 20-Day Expedition. 5-Day Expedition applicants may attend an orientation as requested by the student, family or agency; or as deemed necessary by the Enrollment Coordinator.

Orientation Programs take place at the Wilderness School base camp and are intended to provide an opportunity to gain hands-on experience of courses at the Wilderness School. Orientations will include discussion, group adventure activities designed to introduce applicants to Wilderness School programs and expectations, an introduction to the wilderness setting, as well as direct experiences involving course equipment and food. Instructors spend time individually with each applicant to review the Student Contract and to assess motivation and readiness for the expedition. Applicants should be prepared to demonstrate an ability to

respond positively to instructor supervision, safety procedures, peer interactions and environmental factors such as weather, insects and terrain.

Student Acceptance:

Applicants will be accepted to the Wilderness School 20-Day Expedition Program upon successful completion of the Orientation Program. 5-Day applicants will be accepted at the completion of the screening process. Letters of acceptance will be issued to the applicant, family and Referring Agent.



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