

'27 PRACTICUM CATALOG

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH

SPRING BREAK ■ MAY ■ SUMMER

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PARENT AND STUDENT GUIDE

Practicum is a chance to learn beyond the classroom through real places, people, projects, and challenges. As you choose, consider what you want to explore, how you want to grow, the travel commitment, and the estimated cost. Academic experiences emphasize investigation and making connections; Advocacy experiences emphasize service and learning alongside partners; Adventure and Wilderness Experiences (AWE) emphasize outdoor skills, challenge, and community. Every experience includes participation, reflection, and opportunities to connect faith with learning.

Read the description and Students Will list for a picture of the experience. The listed activities are planned highlights, not a daily schedule; exact sites, partners, and activities may change with availability, weather, safety, and final arrangements. Prices are estimates. Look closely at whether an experience is local, overnight, domestic, or international, and at the full travel window before selecting your preferences.

2027 PRACTICUM DATES AND CALENDAR CHANGES

Please note these dates when comparing options:

- Spring Break experiences may travel between March 19 and March 28, 2027.
- May Practicum experiences begin immediately after finals on Thursday, May 20. There is no separate preparation day this year. Local day experiences meet Thursday, May 20; Friday, May 21; Monday, May 24; and Tuesday, May 25. Extended experiences may also include Saturday and Sunday, May 22-23.
- Local May experiences include four programmed days. Overnight trips may use the weekend within the May travel window.
- The Practicum Assembly is Wednesday, May 26, at 1pm.
- Commencement is Thursday, May 27.

Additional Practicum Experiences

FRCS also plans a Washington, D.C. Practicum for 8th graders and a New York Arts Practicum for senior high students. While loosely grouped with Practicum, these experiences are organized separately from Practicum and are therefore not described in this catalog; look for separate details and selection information from experience leaders.

PRACTICUM POLICIES FOR 2026/2027

Practicum is a required element of the FRCS junior/senior high curriculum and is a requirement for graduation. Parents and students should review these policies carefully when deciding which Practicum experience is best for the student and your family.

DECISION

Practicum is designed for all students grades 7-12. Parents and students are encouraged to pray and discuss together which options are the best fit for the student, considering cost, interest level, physical activity, and any medical needs.

Practicum options are organized into three categories:

- **Academic:** extending classroom learning into real-world experiences
- **Advocacy:** serving others through educational awareness, discipleship, and community care
- **AWE (Adventure/Wilderness Experiences):** building resilience, character, and awe of God in creation

PRACTICUM INFORMATION NIGHT

A Practicum information night is scheduled for **Thursday, October 8**, from **6-7pm** in the Wiersma Center. At this gathering, we'll discuss all Practicum experiences, answer questions, and help families make informed choices.

We *strongly recommend* that any family considering a Practicum **costing more than \$500** plan to attend this event. Your presence ensures that you and your student can make the clearest and most confident choices possible before submitting your form.

FORM DEADLINE

The Practicum “top choices” form is due **Tuesday, October 20, 2026**. Forms turned in after this date are considered late. Late forms are assigned *after* all others, in the order they were received. Students who do not turn in a form will be contacted and, in agreement with their parent, assigned to a Practicum group with available space. Scan the code to complete the form.



ASSIGNMENTS

Practicum assignments are made by the Practicum Committee based on three factors:

1. Grade level (12 → 11 → 10 → 9 → 8 → 7)
2. Spring sports athletic schedules
3. Timelines of submission

Families should rank Practicum options in order of preference. Please select different options for each choice. Repeat choices will be nullified. Final placement is based on both preference and availability.

Minimum numbers apply: If a Practicum does not reach the minimum student requirement, it may be cancelled. Students who expressed the preference for that experience will be reassigned to their next available choice.

All practicums and their listed activities are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances, changes beyond our control, or acts of God.

Students assigned to a Spring Break or Summer Practicum will **NOT** participate in a May Practicum and will not have regular school obligations during the May Practicum week.

After the form deadline, the Practicum Committee will review choices and notify families when assignments are finalized. The assignment notice will include the deposit due date and payment schedule. Practicum leaders will share any required forms and preparations for the experience.

SPRING SPORT ATHLETES

We understand that the spring sports season presents unique scheduling challenges due to the potential for playoffs, tournaments, championships, and unpredictable travel needs during May Practicum week. Because of this, we highly encourage spring sports athletes who are interested in intensive, overnight, or international Practicum experiences to give special consideration to Spring Break or Summer Practicum options **first**.

This recommendation helps ensure that students can fully participate in both their athletic commitments and Practicum without conflict. To support this, **spring sports athletes are given scheduling priority** for Spring Break and Summer Practicum experiences when placement decisions are made, as we recognize the potential for late-season or postseason activity conflicts.

As part of the Practicum selection process, families are asked to indicate whether their student participates in a spring sport. This information allows the Practicum Committee to plan accordingly and help students avoid potential scheduling conflicts.

While we **cannot guarantee placement** in a Spring Break or Summer Practicum for every spring sports athlete, we will make every effort to prioritize them in conjunction with high school seniority when assigning trips.

For student athletes choosing a May Practicum, we strongly recommend selecting **local or day-based options**, as these provide the most flexibility should a playoff or championship opportunity arise. This approach minimizes potential conflicts while still allowing students to engage meaningfully in the Practicum program.

FEES AND PAYMENTS

Prices listed in the catalogue reflect the best estimates based on current travel rates.

Non-refundable deposits are required for any Practicum option costing **\$500 or more** to secure a student's spot. These deposits allow leaders to make necessary reservations in a timely manner and secure beneficial rates for group travel.

To remain eligible to participate in Practicum, a student's FACTS tuition account must remain current throughout the school year, with all tuition and fees due paid in full. Tuition payments may not be placed on hold or deferred during the spring semester because of a student's participation in Practicum. Students and families must also be current on tuition and fees before final Practicum assignments are made.

If a family's account is not current at least **four weeks before the Practicum departure date**, the student will not be permitted to participate. Families are responsible for ensuring their accounts remain current to avoid any disruption to their student's Practicum eligibility or participation. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Finance Office as early as possible.

Payment schedules are sent by Practicum leaders once rosters are finalized. Payment timing is based on the **scheduled date of the Practicum**. For example:

- **Spring Break:** \$500 deposit is due two weeks after assignments are finalized, with the remaining balance due by early January.
- **May:** The \$500 deposit is due two weeks after assignments are finalized, with the remaining balance due by early March.
- **Summer:** The \$500 deposit is due two weeks after assignments are finalized, with the remaining balance due by early March.

All Practicum payments will be charged to each family's **FACTS account** on the specified payment dates. When a charge is posted, families will receive an invoice notification, and the amount will be **auto-drafted from the account 10 days after the charge date**.

If payments are not received by the specified deadlines, the student may be reassigned to a less expensive, local Practicum option to ensure the school does not incur unpaid expenses.

WITHDRAWALS AND CANCELLATIONS

If a student needs to withdraw after placement, or if FRCS cancels a Practicum, families should contact the Practicum leader and the Finance Office promptly. They will explain any applicable refunds based on the circumstances and costs already committed for that experience.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

International Practicums (e.g., Africa, Germany, Belize) have specific eligibility requirements due to the nature of the trip. Considerations include:

- Age and maturity
- Christian testimony
- Previous cross-cultural experience
- Behavior in school and extracurricular activities

Leaders and administration will review these considerations and may request interviews or conversations with students to ensure readiness for these opportunities.

A valid passport is required for all international Practicums.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Practicum is a graduation requirement and students are expected to fully participate.

Absences for medical or family emergencies must be communicated to the Practicum leader and school administration in advance when possible.

Students are expected to follow all school behavior expectations during Practicum, as described in the Family Handbook. Inappropriate behavior may result in dismissal from the trip and additional school consequences.

STUDENT JOURNAL EXPERIENCE

The Student Experience Journal is an important part of every Practicum. Students use it to prepare for their experience, record what they learn, and reflect on their growth in academics, advocacy, adventure, and faith.

Journal work is required and contributes to the student's overall Practicum grade. Practicum leaders will share the specific prompts, deadlines, and grading expectations for their experience.

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their journal work, including any reflections due after the Practicum ends.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Parents must update medical and emergency forms prior to Practicum.

Medications will be handled according to school policy, and leaders will carry emergency contact information for all students.

Activity levels vary; families should take the student's physical ability level into account when evaluating the Practicum catalogue.

If students have a medical condition that may require an intervention (ex: diabetes, seizure disorder, fainting), please consider whether Practicum Experiences at altitude are in their best interest. If accommodations need to be made to attend the Practicum of choice, please check in with the school nurse to be sure this is communicated with the chaperones so we can care for your student well.

COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT

Practicum leaders will provide detailed itineraries, packing lists, and trip information in the months leading up to the experience. Parents will receive reminders and updates in advance directly from trip leaders, and the Director of Student Experiences, Jeremy Wall, is available to offer support and help answer any questions about any trips.

If cost, a medical need, or a schedule conflict may affect a student's ability to participate, families should contact Jeremy Wall as early as possible to discuss available options before reservations and payment deadlines.

FINAL NOTES

Practicum is a distinct element of FRCS, designed to grow students as Christian scholars, servants, and adventurers. Each experience—whether local, national, or international—provides opportunities for discipleship, leadership, and encountering God in new ways. We encourage families to prayerfully engage this process with both excitement and responsibility.

JUNIOR HIGH PRACTICUM EXPERIENCES

Academics, Advocacy and AWE:

Junior High practicum options intentionally combine Academics, Advocacy, and AWE rather than asking students to choose only one area of emphasis. These experiences introduce students to the full vision of Practicum through a balanced combination of hands-on learning, meaningful service, outdoor adventure, cultural engagement, reflection, and play. Whether students are exploring Colorado, camping in the Southwest, or encountering the history and institutions of Washington, D.C., the goal is to help them see that learning can happen anywhere and that they have an active role within a community.

Because Practicum is also a formative experience, Junior High students are encouraged to practice curiosity, responsibility, cooperation, perseverance, and appropriate risk-taking. They will learn to care for themselves, support their peers, listen to perspectives and stories different from their own, and reflect on how faith shapes the way they learn, serve, and engage God's creation. These shared experiences are designed to strengthen grade-level relationships, build confidence and independence, and prepare students for the more focused Academic-Based, Advocacy, and AWE opportunities available in Senior High.

Experience options are listed alphabetically.

COLORADO CAMPING: GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK

Focus: Academics, Advocacy, AWE

Location: Great Sand Dunes National Park

Lead Faculty: Jeremy Wall

Estimated Price: \$250

Activity Level: 3 (active): Expect hiking and play on steep, shifting sand; camp chores; and prolonged sun exposure.

Dates: May 20-25; Leaders may use the weekend of May 22-23 for the overnight itinerary.



At a Glance

Camp near Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, where the dunes, Medano Creek, and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains create a memorable setting for adventure and field learning. Students will help run camp, hike and play on the dunes, examine how wind and water shape

the landscape, and practice safe, low-impact travel. Sand sledding or sandboarding and creek exploration depend on equipment, weather, and seasonal water conditions.

Experience Highlights

- Plan and pack for an overnight trip, then set up camp, cook meals outdoors, and share responsibility for camp chores.
- Hike onto the dunes and try sand sledding or sandboarding.
- Explore Medano Creek if seasonal conditions allow and learn how its water helps shape the landscape.
- Take a hike in the park while practicing navigation, weather awareness, hydration, and outdoor safety.
- Learn about the park's ecology and the people with longstanding connections to the San Luis Valley.
- Experience the night sky, reflect with their group, and practice *Leave No Trace* throughout the trip.

COLORADO DAY EXPERIENCES

Focus: Academics, Advocacy, AWE

Location: Various spots around the Front Range (Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs)

Lead Faculty: To be confirmed

Estimated Price: \$175

Activity Level: 2 (moderate): Expect a trail hike; city and zoo walking; and a service activity across four day trips

Dates: May 20, 21, 24, and 25 (Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday)



At a Glance

Each day introduces a different side of Colorado. Students will explore Denver, hike near Boulder, visit the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, and serve with Movement 5280. The mix of city, outdoors, wildlife, and service gives junior high students a chance to try several kinds of Practicum learning while traveling together as a group.

Experience Highlights

- Explore downtown Denver and attend a Colorado Rockies game, noticing how the city brings together history, community, and sports.

- Hike near Boulder's Flatirons, prepare for trail conditions, and practice staying together as a group.
- Visit the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo to observe animals and discuss habitats, conservation, and care for creation.
- Serve with Movement 5280, learning about its work and joining a project shaped by the organization's needs.

SENIOR HIGH: ACADEMIC PRACTICUM EXPERIENCES

Learn, Experience, Connect

Academic-Based Experiences are designed as an extension of the FRCS classroom, giving students opportunities to pursue meaningful questions through hands-on, cross-curricular learning. Experiences may center on STEM, history, social sciences, humanities, culture, or the arts, but each invites students to move beyond simply receiving information and instead observe, investigate, create, discuss, and make connections in authentic settings.

Through museums, historic places, performances, field studies, cultural immersion, conversations with experts, and other memorable experiences, students practice Christian scholarship and learn to engage ideas with curiosity, discernment, and humility. The goal is not only to deepen knowledge during Practicum, but also to foster wonder, develop new interests, and help students recognize learning as a lifelong way of understanding God, themselves, and the world.

Experience options are listed alphabetically.

COLORADO TECHNOLOGY: BUILD, CODE, CREATE

Focus: Academics: Technology, Engineering, and Innovation

Location: Denver Metro

Lead Faculty: Coree Snyder

Estimated Price: \$250

Activity Level: 1 (light): Expect mostly indoor project work, tours, and ordinary walking or standing

Dates: May 20, 21, 24, and 25 (Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday)



At a Glance

Students will spend the four local days exploring how ideas become useful technology. They will try coding, robotics, electronics, or digital design; meet people working in Colorado's technology and engineering fields; and work in teams to build and improve a prototype for a real problem. The final presentation gives students a chance to explain what they made, how they tested it, and whom it could help. Specific tour sites and project tools will depend on partner availability.

Experience Highlights

- Try a hands-on coding, robotics, electronics, or digital-design challenge, then use what they learn in a team project.
- Tour a Colorado technology, aerospace, university, or makerspace setting.
- Visit a Colorado technology company, aerospace setting, university lab, or makerspace as partners are confirmed, and ask professionals about their work.
- Use design thinking to identify a real problem, brainstorm solutions, and test ideas.
- Choose a real problem, sketch several possible solutions, and test a prototype with feedback.
- Discuss AI, privacy, bias, safety, and the responsible use of emerging technology.
- Present a final prototype or technology concept.

GERMANY (SPRING BREAK)

Focus: Academic Humanities

Location: Various sites in Germany

Lead Faculty: Sierra Downs

Estimated Price: \$3,200-\$3,500

Activity Level: 2 (moderate): Expect substantial walking and standing during city visits, museums, and transit days

Dates: March 19-28 (spring break)



At a Glance

Students will use historic cities, churches, museums, and memorials to investigate Germany's religious, cultural, and political history. The trip connects Reformation history with the experiences of World War II, the Holocaust, the Cold War, and modern German life. Daily discussion will help students handle difficult history thoughtfully and compare what they read with what they see. Specific cities and sites depend on the final route.

Experience Highlights

- Visit Berlin landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin Wall sites, and Checkpoint Charlie as the itinerary allows.
- Visit Reformation sites associated with Martin Luther and discuss how those events changed church and society.
- Navigate historic cities such as Frankfurt, Marburg, or Heidelberg using public transportation.

- Engage German art, architecture, food, and literature.
- Spend time in museums and memorials connected to World War II, the Holocaust, and the Cold War, followed by guided reflection.

HAWAII - STEM (SPRING BREAK)

Focus: Academic STEM

Location: Hawaii

Lead Faculty: Cara Matthies

Estimated Price: \$3,200-3,500

Activity Level: 3 (active): Expect outdoor field days with walking on uneven volcanic or coastal terrain and optional supervised snorkeling

Dates: March 19-28



At a Glance

Hawai'i will be a field setting for studying ocean life, volcanic geology, native and invasive species, and conservation. Students will record observations, learn from the islands' history and culture, and participate in a partner-led stewardship project. Coastal access and snorkeling will be supervised and depend on weather, water conditions, and the final itinerary.

Experience Highlights

- Conduct a supervised coastal field study and observe marine life through snorkeling when conditions allow.
- Study volcanic landforms and lava landscapes in the field, using sketches or notes to explain how the islands formed.
- Identify native and invasive species during field visits and record observations in a field journal.
- Engage Hawaiian history and culture with humility and respect.
- Join a partner-led conservation, restoration, or shoreline-stewardship project.

STORIES OF THE WEST

Focus: Academic Humanities

Location: Local day trips

Lead Faculty: To be confirmed

Estimated Price: \$250

Activity Level: 2 (moderate): Expect walking and standing at historic sites and museums, with some uneven streets or trails

Dates: May 20, 21, 24, and 25
(Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday)



At a Glance

Students will investigate Colorado and the American West by standing in historic places and asking whose stories they tell. A possible Leadville day would pair a walk through its mining history with a historic train ride, if the final itinerary and bookings allow. Other days may explore museums, trails, historic districts, or cultural sites. Students will compare primary sources and multiple perspectives, including Indigenous communities and people who arrived later, and turn what they learn into a short story, exhibit, or podcast.

Experience Highlights

- Explore a Colorado historic district, museum, mining site, trail, fort, or railroad setting and connect what they see to events studied in class.
- On a possible Leadville day, investigate the town's mining history and ride a historic train if it is included in the confirmed itinerary.
- Analyze firsthand accounts, maps, photographs, artifacts, and other primary sources.
- Compare the perspectives of Indigenous communities, pioneers, miners, ranchers, railroad workers, and entrepreneurs.
- Experience western transportation, art, architecture, food, music, or traditions.
- Explore how mountains, rivers, plains, resources, and climate shaped settlement and development.
- Consider both the achievements and difficult consequences of western expansion.
- Discuss how the stories we preserve and the voices we include shape our understanding of history.
- Create a short podcast, digital story, or exhibit connecting the historic West to Colorado today.

SENIOR HIGH: ADVOCACY PRACTICUM EXPERIENCES

Stewardship, Service, Cultural Engagement

Advocacy Experiences are an extension of the FRCS discipleship and service programs and are rooted in Jesus' command to love God and love our neighbors. Students engage in stewardship, service, discipleship, and cultural learning in both local and global settings. These experiences invite students to encounter people and communities with humility, listen carefully to their stories, recognize strengths as well as needs, and learn from established partners already doing faithful work.

The purpose is deeper than completing a service project. Students are challenged to grow in empathy, cultural awareness, responsibility, and their understanding of justice and compassionate action. Through relationship, reflection, and meaningful participation, students consider how their gifts can serve others and how cross-cultural engagement can shape them into thoughtful advocates and culture makers for Christ.

Experience options are listed alphabetically.

BELIZE (SPRING BREAK)

Focus: Advocacy

Location: Belize

Lead Faculty: Carey Holms

Estimated Price: \$2,500-3,000

Activity Level: 2 (moderate): Expect walking, active games or service, and time outdoors in warm conditions; final projects may vary.

Dates: March 19-28



At a Glance

Students will serve alongside a local Belizean church through FRCS's partner, Praying Pelican Missions. Depending on the church's plans, the team may prepare children's activities, help with sports or outreach, and join a community or construction project. Students will learn about Belizean culture through relationships, worship, food, and daily life, with group prayer and reflection throughout the trip. A visit to Caye Caulker and reef snorkeling are possible closing activities if included in the final itinerary and conditions permit.

Experience Highlights

- Experience Belizean culture, history, food, worship, and daily life.
- Grow in community and discipleship through daily prayer, reflection, and team responsibilities.
- Prepare and lead age-appropriate art, sports, children's, or youth activities with guidance from the local church.
- Join Sunday school, church gatherings, outreach, or a partner-identified project as the local church directs.
- Debrief on Caye Caulker and snorkel the reef if the final itinerary and conditions allow.
- Consider cross-cultural service experiences as an integral part of what it means to follow Jesus.

EAST AFRICA: SERVICE AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Focus: Advocacy: Stewardship, Service, and Cultural Engagement

Location: Kenya or Rwanda

Lead Faculty: To be confirmed

Estimated Price: \$3,500-4,500

Activity Level: 2 (moderate): Expect walking, group activities, and possible hands-on service; demands depend on final itinerary

Dates: TBD (approximately 10-12 days in late May or early June 2027; exact destination, dates, partners, and itinerary are still being developed)



At a Glance

Students will travel to either Kenya or Rwanda through John DeYoung's established relationships in East Africa. They will learn directly from local leaders and participate in service, school, church, sports, or youth activities that partners identify. Shared meals, worship, and conversations will help students understand daily life and reflect on cultural humility and responsible global engagement. The country, partners, activities, and route are still being developed, so the highlights below are possibilities rather than confirmed stops.

Potential Experience Highlights

- Learn directly from local leaders about the culture, history, food, worship, and daily life of Kenya or Rwanda.

- Complete service projects identified and led by trusted local churches, schools, ministries, or community organizations.
- Spend time with students and families through education, sports, church, or youth activities.
- Learn about the opportunities and challenges facing local communities.
- Grow in cultural awareness, flexibility, empathy, and discipleship.
- Discuss ethical global missions and what it means to serve alongside rather than for a community.
- Explore significant natural, cultural, or historical locations as the itinerary allows.

Final Note

Spiritual growth and discipleship are core to this trip, with daily devotionals and reflection included. Passport required.

THRIVE CARE

Focus: Advocacy

Location: Metro area

Lead Faculty: Collin Sutherland

Estimated Price: none

Activity Level: 2 (moderate): Expect active service such as yard care or painting, with standing, bending, and some lifting; tasks will vary

Dates: May 20, 21, 24 and 25 (Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday)



At a Glance

Students will build on FRCS dGroups' existing relationship with Thrive Care homes. Thrive Care will identify larger projects that could improve the homes, such as yard work, landscaping, painting, organizing, or minor upkeep appropriate for students. Students will also take part in residents' daily activities, listening and spending time together. This is a chance to see how practical improvements and ongoing relationships can support the people who live there.

Experience Highlights

- Serve in Thrive Care homes already connected to FRCS dGroups.
- Work on a larger project chosen with Thrive Care, such as yard care, painting, organizing, or suitable minor upkeep.

- Help care for shared outdoor or indoor spaces through supervised tasks suited to the home's needs.
- Join residents in games, meals, creative activities, or daily programming.
- Develop meaningful relationships through consistent, respectful engagement.
- Learn how advocacy can improve people's homes, experiences, and quality of life.
- Explore how faith calls us to serve others with dignity, compassion, and humility.
- Develop a practical idea for continuing the FRCS–Thrive Care partnership after Practicum.

SENIOR HIGH AWE OPTIONS

Adventure, Character, Community

AWE Experiences are an extension of the FRCS Adventure and Wilderness Experiences program and use outdoor activity, travel, and challenge as purposeful settings for formation. Students encounter the beauty and complexity of God's creation while developing practical outdoor skills, confidence, perseverance, and a greater understanding of stewardship. Experiences are designed to stretch students appropriately through Challenge by Choice, inviting healthy risk while honoring personal readiness and maintaining strong safety expectations.

Adventure becomes a setting for character and community development. Students learn to prepare well, solve problems, lead and follow, respond to changing conditions, and support others through shared challenges. Through activity, reflection, worship, and time in creation, AWE Practicums help students grow in resilience, recognize their dependence on one another, and discover that difficult and joyful experiences can become powerful opportunities for spiritual and personal growth.

COLORADO HUT TREKKING

Focus: AWE

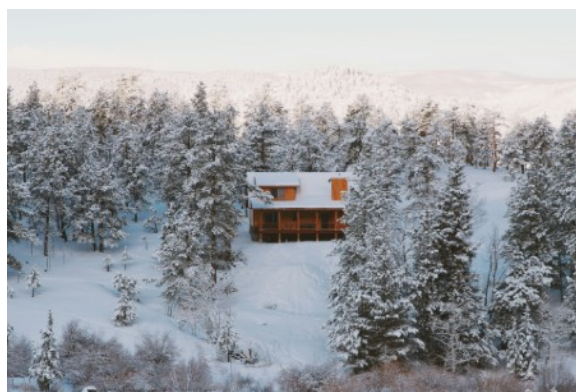
Location: Colorado

Lead Faculty: To be confirmed

Estimated Price: \$250

Activity Level: 4 (strenuous): Expect mountain trekking on uneven terrain at altitude while carrying personal and shared gear to a remote hut

Dates: May 20-25 with extended itinerary over the weekend (May 22-23)



At a Glance

Students will travel on foot to a remote hut in Colorado's 10th Mountain Division Hut System and share the work of a backcountry trip. They will pack and carry gear, navigate mountain terrain, prepare food, manage water, and care for the hut while learning to adjust plans for weather and group needs. The physical challenge and time away from everyday comforts create space for leadership, worship, reflection, and community. The specific hut, route, and number of nights will be confirmed by leaders.

Experience Highlights

- Carry personal and group gear while trekking through Colorado's high country near treeline.
- Travel to and stay in a remote hut within Colorado's 10th Mountain Division Hut System.
- Practice navigation, *Leave No Trace*, backcountry safety, and rapid response to changing mountain weather.
- Plan and prepare meals, manage water, complete hut chores, and make group travel decisions.
- Develop perseverance, confidence, leadership, and teamwork through physical challenge.
- Experience sunrise, sunset, and uninterrupted time in Colorado's mountain landscape.
- Create intentional space for reflection, worship, meaningful conversation, and wonder.

CYCLING AND HIKING

Focus: AWE

Location: Variety of local trails

Lead Faculty: Rob Stadick

Estimated Price: \$150

Activity Level: 3 (active): Expect cycling and hiking on several days with sustained effort and changing trail conditions

Dates: May 20, 21, 24, and 25

(Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday)



At a Glance

Students will discover nearby Front Range trails by alternating cycling and hiking days. Each outing brings a new landscape or route, from greenways to foothill trails, and a practical skill to practice: checking a bike, planning water and mileage, using maps, or adjusting to weather. This option suits students willing to be active on multiple days and help the group travel safely together. Final routes and distance will reflect conditions and the group's readiness.

Experience Highlights

- Ride Front Range greenways, scenic routes, and beginner-friendly trails.
- Hike through a variety of foothill, canyon, forest, and mountain environments.
- Discover accessible outdoor destinations students can revisit with friends and family.
- Use maps and weather information to plan daily mileage, water, clothing, and turnaround times.
- Practice bike fit, braking, shifting, hand signals, trail etiquette, and group-riding safety.

- Complete a pre-ride inspection and learn basic maintenance, including fixing a flat tire.
- Grow in endurance, confidence, perseverance, and responsible risk-taking.
- Build camaraderie through shared effort, daily challenges, and memorable outdoor experiences.

FLY FISHING

Focus: AWE

Location: Various outdoor locations around Colorado

Lead Faculty: To be confirmed

Estimated Price: \$250-300

Activity Level: 2 (moderate): Expect standing, walking along waterways, and some wading on slippery or uneven ground

Dates: 20, 21, 24, and 25 (Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday)



At a Glance

Students will learn fly fishing by practicing casts and knots before applying those skills on Colorado water. They will study aquatic insects, choose flies, read pools and currents, and practice ethical catch and release under supervision. The experience combines patient skill building with river safety and care for healthy habitats. Fishing sites and conditions will determine the daily plan.

Experience Highlights

- Practice casting, knot tying, equipment setup, fly selection, and safe wading.
- Observe aquatic insects and connect entomology to fly choice.
- Read currents, pools, and shoreline structure while fishing Colorado creeks, rivers, or lakes.
- Practice catch-and-release techniques, fishing ethics, water safety, and habitat care.
- Spend meaningful time in creation and community.

REDWOODS CALIFORNIA

Focus: AWE

Location: Northern California

Lead Faculty: Melissa Meleski

Estimated Price: \$1,700-2,200

Activity Level: 3 (active): Expect regular hikes and extended time on forest trails, beaches, and uneven coastal terrain

Dates: May 20-25



At a Glance

Students will travel to Northern California to hike among coastal redwoods and explore how forest, river, lake, and ocean ecosystems connect. The trip may include old-growth trails, beaches, tide pools, and coastal overlooks, with field observations and conversations about conservation. Students will share travel and lodging responsibilities while making time for worship and reflection. Specific parks, hikes, and coastal access will depend on the final itinerary and conditions.

Experience Highlights

- Hike beneath old-growth coastal redwoods and compare several forest environments.
- Explore beaches, tide pools, and coastal overlooks where ancient forests meet the Pacific.
- Investigate coastal, forest, river, and lake ecosystems through field observations.
- Learn about redwood ecology, conservation, biodiversity, and responsible stewardship.
- Develop perseverance through rewarding hikes and extended outdoor activity.
- Share responsibility for travel routines, meals, camp or lodging care, and team challenges.
- Create intentional space for reflection, worship, community, and wonder in God's creation.