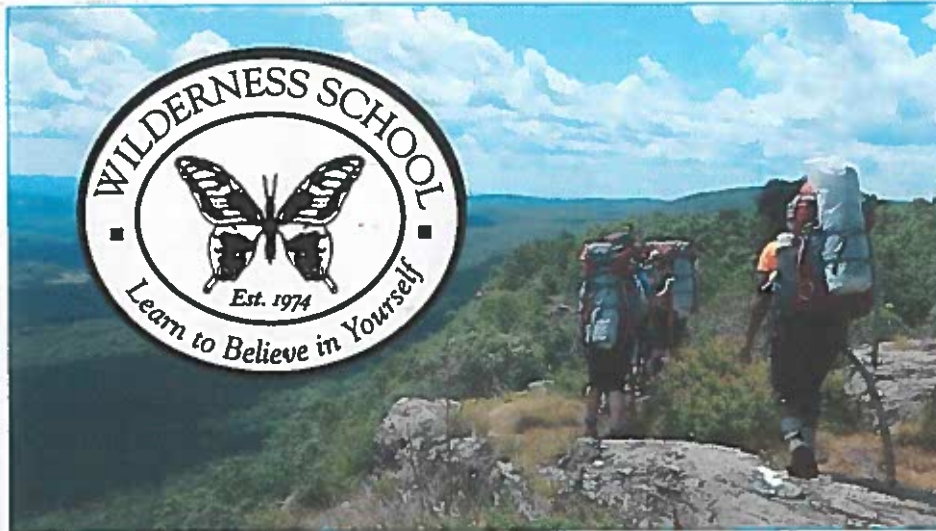


WILDERNESS SCHOOL: 2020 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT



The Wilderness School provides intensive experiential programs to Connecticut youth ages thirteen to seventeen and to other children and youth with special needs. The program is supported by the State of Connecticut, Department of Children and Families (DCF). We are currently in our forty-Seventh year of operations.

The Wilderness School base camp is located in East Hartland, Connecticut in the north-central part of the state. The program course area follows the Appalachian Trail corridor of the Taconic and Berkshire Mountain ranges of Connecticut and Massachusetts, as well as the adjoining areas of the Housatonic River Valley. In the summer, students attend 20-Day, 7-Day and 5-Day Expedition courses in groups of ten with two or three Instructors and with the support of several base camp staff. The Wilderness School also conducts numerous 1-3 day programs and summer camp functions for groups seeking adventure education services.

The Wilderness School is a prevention, intervention and transition program intended to assist our students to develop self-esteem, internal locus of control and interpersonal skills. Designed as journey experiences, our programs are considered therapeutic for the participant. Wilderness School activities are not viewed as an end in themselves, however, but as a tool in the service delivery of community youth agencies. Each student must pass through an Orientation phase of the Wilderness School prior to attending an Expedition course. Students who attend 20, 7, or 5-Day courses are then eligible to participate in a fall through spring Follow-Up Program. Those attending 1-3 day programs may elect to apply for Expeditions.

Wilderness School 20-day Expeditions include backpacking, a high ropes course, rock climbing, canoeing, service learning, a solo experience, a "marathon" run, and graduation, as well as small group process and individual counseling. Program 7 and 5-Day Expeditions include backpacking or canoeing and one or more selected special activities. 1-3 Day courses feature adventure based activities intended to introduce students to Wilderness School programs and opportunities for continued participation. Students are referred to the Wilderness School by many types of agencies, including DCF facilities, area offices, adolescent programs and prevention services, community youth service bureaus, school systems, child guidance clinics, independent living programs, residential facilities, and juvenile justice programs. Our student population is diverse and representative of varied ethnic and racial backgrounds.

