



2021 CAMPER APPLICATION



Go Beyond Nebraska is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, full scholarship program that enables young people from across the Omaha and Council Bluffs area to develop confidence, build respect, and discover their full potential.

Founded in 1978 in Omaha, for over 40 years we have been bringing young people together from across our community to head west to our incredible Wyoming camps. We focus on fortifying lives through nature, extraordinary outdoor experiences, challenge and adventure, supportive counselors, specialized curriculum, and building positive relationships.

All Go Beyond programs are delivered free of charge.

Our program is open to youth 13-15 years old. Older participants may be placed in advanced programming based on their experience and interest.

Go Beyond does not discriminate on any basis including race, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or economic status.

Expeditions of 8-12 campers take on life-changing adventures: hiking in Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Rocky Mountain National Parks; rafting the Snake River or Cache la Poudre; rock climbing in Vedaawoo or Wind River; horseback riding through the Centennial Valley; and camping under the stars.

www.gobeyondne.org



APPLICATION OVERVIEW

1. Application Information, Experience/Interest, and Short Answer. *To be completed by potential camper.*
2. Parent/Gaurdian Short Answer. *To be completed by parent/gaurdian or close relative.*
3. Letter of Recommendation. *To be completed by unrelated adult. (Teacher, school counselor, religious leader, mentor, etc.)*

In about one page, we'd love to hear from an outside source why our camp could be beneficial to the candidate. Outside input is always welcome and helpful, benefits our service to our campers, informs our counselors, and helps the camper have the trip of a lifetime!

Could the candidate use a "boost" or "break" in life? Is the candidate facing life, school, peer, family or other challenges? Have you seen successes for the camper that may otherwise have been missed? What qualities would the camper bring to camp and the group? ALL are welcome and our goal is to create life-changing experience for any young person who could benefit from our program.

APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 1, 2021

Candidates will be notified on a rolling basis.

email to: ian@gobeyondne.org

call or text: (c)218.750.0784

mail to:

Ian Kimmer

Go Beyond Nebraska

PO Box 641609

Omaha, NE 68164

Campers and parents/guardians/etc. may request an interview anytime with our staff to receive or provide more information regrdng our program, activities, staff, peers, locations and curriculum.

2021 CAMP AND PROGRAM DATES

BY JUNE 20 - CAMPER/PARENT/GAURDIAN MEETING with Go Beyond staff.

In-person and socially distanced, or remote as needed.

JUNE 26-27 - ORIENTATION WEEKEND

Omaha-area overnight retreat for campers, counselors, and volunteers to meet and prepare.

Transportation will be available. Details to follow.

JULY 10 - 20

Girls Camp

Alpine Mountain Camp

Northwestern WY, ID and MT

8-12 campers, 3-4 counselors,

1-2 junior counselors

JULY 26 - AUGUST 2

Boys Camp

Centennial Ranch

Southcentral WY and northern CO

8-15 campers, 3-4 counselors,

1-2 junior counselors



WHO IS GO BEYOND CAMP FOR?

Camp is for everyone! Inclusive of every background, amount of outdoor experience, and level of confidence - we make mountain adventure possible for you. All activities are designed for beginners, but we give you the opportunity to push yourself through hiking mountains, whitewater rafting, rock-climbing, camping in the backcountry, and more.

That said, if you have safety or health concerns, please just check in with us! We want to be sure you'll be safe and ENJOY your time at camp!

WHY DO I HAVE TO APPLY?

Go Beyond is a scholarship program, which means it is 100% FREE to all campers. We want to make sure our campers value the opportunity and experience. Some campers are nominated by recruiters, mentors, school partners, and other nonprofit organizations. No matter where a camper comes from, we want to be fair in our selection. The application process gives a camper the opportunity to tell us WHY they should receive the scholarship and makes sure everyone has put the same effort in.

HOW DO I KNOW IF CAMP IS RIGHT FOR ME?

We think camp is for everyone, even if you are not "outdoorsy", but it's important that the camper decide that they WANT to be at camp, or they might not have as much fun. It's ok and common for campers to be nervous or scared about going away from home, being with a new and different group of people, and taking on this incredible adventure. It's important, though, that you are excited for this as well! If you have questions, just ask! We want all of our campers and parents to feel prepared for the challenges camp will bring because we know those challenges will come with lifelong memories and incredible accomplishments.

COVID?

We are following guidance from the CDC, state and local Nebraska and Wyoming health departments, and the American Camp Association in all decision making. The pandemic is an evolving situation, but as of March 10, 2021, we believe we will be able to safely travel to Wyoming this summer. Requirements and guidance will be communicated with campers and families each step of the way.

WHERE DO WE SLEEP?

Both of our camps in Wyoming have cabins equipped with electricity, running water and bunks. Showers are available, but only 1 or 2 times per camp. We spend 1 or more nights outside in tents or open-air camping as well.

WHAT DO WE DO AT CAMP?

Each day is a mix of activities. Some will be physically harder than others like rock climbing or hiking in the mountains, and some will be more leisurely like soaking in hot springs or swimming in an alpine lake. Some will be exhilarating like whitewater rafting, some will be quiet and reflective like looking up to the stars around a campfire. We play games, make crafts, write journals, learn about the science and history of our places, and we explore. Days are structured to be full of planned activities with healthy amounts of down/free time. Every camper and family will receive a full itinerary prior to the trip.

WHO GOES TO CAMP?

Each camp is made up of 8-12 campers from the same gender identity around the same grade/age from across the diverse Omaha community. To the best of our ability we build groups so no 2 campers in any group know each other well prior to camp. Each trip is led by 3-4 staff: adult counselors/leaders with youth service and/or outdoors skills, many of whom are professionals like teachers and youth-service leaders. Most trips are joined by 1-2 junior counselors, a high school or college-age Go Beyond alumni, who gain leadership and job experience and could be the next generation of counselors (open to all camp alumni). All counselors are background checked and trained in First Aid/CPR with additional training in outdoor safety and youth service. Background-checked volunteers such as camp cooks may be on-site, and many activities are through professionally licensed companies who lead our adventures (like rock-climbing and whitewater rafting).

HOW DO WE GET TO CAMP?

We drive in vans! Transportation to camp is part of the program, no special arrangements are needed. It is about 8-9 hours to our Centennial Ranch, and then an additional 7 hours to our Alpine Mountain Camp (we stay one night in Centennial at the beginning and end of our Alpine trips). It sounds long, but the scenery is incredible, and we have fun along the way with games, journaling and getting to know each other.

DO I NEED TO BUY ANY SPECIAL EQUIPMENT?

Not at all! We don't want you to have to purchase any fancy gear for camp! Sturdy sneakers and a day backpack are great for most adventures - and if you need any clothing or a pack for camp, please let us know! We want to make this possible for you! All specialty gear is provided by outfitters or Go Beyond. Sleeping bags are also available upon request. A full suggested pack list will be provided at orientation or before.

DO I HAVE TO HIKE? CAN I JUST DO THE THINGS I WANT TO DO?

Campers must participate in all activities. Go Beyond is about pushing yourself and discovering what you are capable of doing; you can't learn if you don't try! With some activities like rock climbing we only ask that you try (and maybe try again!) but other activities require full participation, specifically hikes. All hikes are introductory level. While some hikes can still be challenging, all can be conquered with the right attitude and perseverance.

MY PHONE?

Part of the adventure is letting go of the phone! It'll be alright...even good!...We promise. Everyone else has gotten through without it! - We don't keep our phones around at camp because they ruin the camp experience! They are a barrier between you and your fellow campers, counselors, nature, our adventures, and yourself. However, we recognize the unique challenges of 2020-2021's pandemic and are considering options including potentially one or two times for our campers to check in with home. Our counselors will all have phones for emergencies and we will provide social media updates on our trips for our families back home to follow along.

WHAT IF I WANT TO COME HOME AFTER I GET TO CAMP?

This is a big adventure and we are traveling far from home together! That can be hard at times but it's SO important to push through to the end! Your fellow campers will be feeling very similar things and your counselors will completely understand, and we're all here to get each other through! We don't want anyone to give up. ONLY in the case of an emergency or disciplinary situation will special arrangements be made but transportation home may be at the cost of the parent.

Print and complete the following pages (pg 5-9) for your application to Go Beyond!



Applicant information.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Birthday _____ Gender Identity: Female ☐

Male ☐

Trans Female ☐

Trans Male ☐

Non-binary ☐

Prefer not to answer ☐

Hispanic, Latina/o, or Spanish Origin? Yes ☐

No ☐

How would you describe yourself?

Native American or Alaskan ☐

Asian ☐

Black or African American ☐

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐

White or European American ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

Multiple _____

Other _____

Any other identity information important
for us to know:

Current School _____

2021-2022 School
(if different)

Current School Counselor _____

WHICH CAMP ARE YOU APPLYING FOR? (circle or otherwise mark your choice)

Girls

Alpine Mountain Camp

July 10 - 20, 2021

Boys

Centennial Ranch

July 26 - August 2, 2021

Parent/Gaurdian information.

Name _____

Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Email _____

We will communicate by phone, email and mail so please update us of any changes.

Please describe any language assistance you may need. _____

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Optional information used in anonymous grant reporting and program design.

Household income _____

Does the camper qualify for free/reduced lunch? _____

Applicant experience/interest. To be filled out by applicant!

Because Go Beyond is always about trying new things and learning about yourself!!



	How often have you participated in:			How interested are you in trying:		
	<i>Never</i>	<i>1-2 times</i>	<i>3 or more times</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Not sure/ Kind of</i>	<i>Can't wait</i>
Tent camping						
Backcountry camping						
Whitewater rafting						
Horseback riding						
Rock climbing indoor or outdoor						
All day hiking						
Plant and animal science						
Geology and paleontology						
Star gazing						
Fire building						
Hiking up mountains						

Have you ever...	Traveled outside of your city?	_____
	Traveled outside of Nebraska?	_____
	Been away from family for more than a week?	_____
	Been without technology for more than a day?	_____

Short Answer. Two or more complete sentences.

To be filled out by applicant!

What do you do after school? Do you have any hobbies or play any sports?

Short Answer Page 2. Two or more complete sentences. To be filled out by applicant!



What is your favorite subject in school and why?

What would your family and friends say is the BEST thing about you? Do you agree? Why?

What would your family and friends say is something you could work on? Do you agree? Why?

What do you do when you get frustrated or angry? Do you have a way of working through these emotions?

How do you feel about not having access to technology?

How might you help a new friend at camp get through their tough moments or feelings?

Short Answer Page 3. Two or more complete sentences. To be filled out by applicant!



Why are you interested in attending a Go Beyond camp? THREE TO FIVE COMPLETE SENTENCES.

What is one thing you'd like to learn at camp? (About yourself, nature, a new skill, anything!)

What activity are you most excited to participate in at camp?

What, if anything, makes you nervous about camp? (being away from home, rock climbing, new people?)
How can your counselors help you through it?

What is one thing about yourself we'd never be able to guess by looking at you?

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself or about what you hope to get out of camp?

Parent/Guardian Short Answer.

To be filled out by Parent/Guardian.



We want to know all we can about your potential camper! Being a young adult is a difficult time, and in order for us to best assist in their experience, it's critical for us to know how we can help them through this extraordinary adventure.

Why are you interested in your youth attending Go Beyond camp?

What do you hope your potential camper will learn or gain from their time in our program?

What motivates your camper?

How does your camper handle challenges?

Do you have any concerns about them attending camp?

What can our counselors do to support your camper while at camp?

What else would you like us to know? Use the back of the page if needed. As well, before orientation our staff will meet with you 1:1 to learn more about your camper, you, and answer questions you may have. You are also encouraged to contact us anytime with updates, helpful information, or any questions at all! The better we know each other, the better the trip will be for your potential camper!