“This was definitely one of the best, if not the best, experiences I’ve ever had. I went in knowing nothing about camping and came out feeling confident in the skills I learned and the friends I made.”

- Steph Tubman ‘08 (WA participant ’04 and former OE student-staff member)
All first-year students are welcome to participate.
Partial to Full Scholarships are available.
No previous outdoor experience is needed!

Wilderness Adventure (WA) is an ideal way to begin your Colgate experience. The thousands of incoming students who have gone on WA trips during the last 20 years can attest that WA eases the transition into college life and is a fun and memorable part of the Colgate experience.

What Is Wilderness Adventure?

Led by two highly trained Colgate students, you will bond with fellow first-years before entering orientation and the academic semester. Our trip options include backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, caving, rock climbing, tree climbing, a local environmental–themed trip, and a schooner trip (sailing). Groups work together to accomplish daily tasks of wilderness living and become a self-sufficient community throughout the week. Days may be challenging, but are rewarding as connections to the natural world and friendships are made. All trips are substance-free.

Of course WA will be fun, but why else should I sign up?

* Build lasting friendships with other first years and upperclassmen
* Gain a sense of personal accomplishment
* Learn about life at Colgate
* Once in a life time chance at adventure with other Colgate first years
* Learn basic skills of backcountry or ocean travel and living
* Practice Leave No Trace skills to reduce impact on the land
* Learn about the natural and cultural history of your trip area
* Enjoy a week immersed in nature

Who are the trip leaders?

Upper-class student-staff members of the Outdoor Education program lead each Wilderness Adventure trip. All staff have completed an extensive nine-month training program that focuses on risk management, leadership, teaching, and technical outdoor skills. Staff are certified in CPR and Wilderness First Responder, a 72-hour backcountry medicine course. Throughout the trip, you’ll notice their innovative teaching styles, compassion for others, competence in the wilderness, and enthusiasm for sharing their Colgate experience. OE Staff have diverse interests and areas of study such as art history, physics, philosophy, geology, history, environmental studies and more. They are musicians, singers, writers, and artists. Staff are involved in a variety of environmental, political, and social groups on campus such as Students for Environmental Action, Green Strides, WRCU and the ALANA Cultural Center. These are people you’ll be glad to get to know!

How do I register?

See the attached Registration Form for prices, dates and deadlines. Trip descriptions and more information on scholarships, equipment needed and answers to burning questions can be found at the Wilderness Adventure Link at: www.colgate.edu/outdoored