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## Advanced Explorer Backpack Information

### Destinations

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Backpackers often hike above tree line on more rugged terrain. Recent groups have traveled to the Beartooth Mountain Range in Montana and the Willmore Wilderness Area in Alberta, Canada. Advanced Explorer backpackers are on trail approximately 28 days. **A passport is required for all AE campers.**

### Trail Counselors

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Trail Counselors are chosen from among Widji's most experienced and advanced staff. All Widji Trail Counselors are certified as Wilderness First Responders and hold current Wilderness Water Safety or Lifeguarding certifications. In addition, AE Backpack Counselors have demonstrated excellent judgement, leadership and interpersonal skills.

### Registration

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#### **Registrations must be received by 5:00pm on January 4 2019 to be included in our camper lottery.**

Registration is available on our website [www.widji.org](http://www.widji.org). Space is limited in all sessions due to permitting restrictions and staff availability. Once a session is full, we usually cannot expand it. Please contact the Customer Service Center at (612) 230-9622 for help with online registration, particularly if you have forgotten your username password or both. Advanced Explorer trips require a non-refundable deposit of \$200 to be paid in full at the time of registration. The remaining balance for the trip is due in three installments on March 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup> and May 15. Other payment plans can be arranged by contacting our Customer Service Center at the number listed above. Families are welcome to cancel their registration for a full refund with the exception of their deposit before May 15, 2019. We do not grant refunds after May 15<sup>th</sup> except in response to documented illness, injury or family emergency. **Financial assistance is available.** Please check our website at [https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/camp\\_widjiwagan/about/scholarships](https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/camp_widjiwagan/about/scholarships) for campership information.

### Planning for Advanced Explorer Backpack Trips

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As a part of the registration process, we ask that campers describe their goals for their trip on the *Advanced Explorer Addendum*. We create trail groups according to campers' strengths, experience and availability. We encourage campers to make new friends and challenge themselves to work with diverse leadership styles and personalities. Consequently, **we do not honor friend requests due to other group considerations.** We will announce AE Backpack trail groups by the end of April. Your camper's counselor will provide guidance about trip preparation in conjunction with the Widji administration after trail groups are announced.

### Risk Management

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As with all other Widji trips, there are inherent risks associated with travel in remote and at times unpredictable environments. Risks include but are not limited to: rugged terrain, river currents and isolated travel. We train our staff to identify and mitigate these risks as much as possible and to respond when an incident occurs. However, we cannot guarantee that your camper's trip will be accident free. All groups carry a satellite phone with them and a list of numbers to call if they need help. We ask that AE Backpack campers help mitigate these risks by arriving at Camp mentally and physically prepared for a challenging trip. Please contact Kathleen Floberg, Wilderness Program Director, at [Kathleen.floberg@ymcamn.org](mailto:Kathleen.floberg@ymcamn.org) with questions related to risk management.

### Session Dates and Fees

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| <u>Session Dates</u> | <u>Session Length</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| July 15-Aug 20       | 37                    | \$4,940     |

#### CAMP WIDJIWAGAN

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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