

Colorado Challenge Information Letter
Colorado Challenge 2016
June 18 – June 26, 2016

History

Colorado Challenge began over 30 years ago. A small band of leaders and students from Central Michigan Youth for Christ traveled to Quaker Ridge Camp in Woodland Park, Colorado for a week of forests, faith, and fellowship. Over the last three decades, Colorado Challenge has grown to incorporate a variety of different church and para-church organizations from five states in the Great Lakes region. Approximately 300 high school students attend camp each summer. God has been faithful to meet us on the mountain each and every year.

Who Are We

We are a loose association of youth leaders who work with students in a variety of ways throughout the Midwest. We are youth pastors, teachers, coaches, and foster workers.

Purpose

No matter what we do in preparation throughout the year and during the week (or occasionally two) we spend in Colorado each summer, we do not claim authority over this camp or ministry. The vision, purpose, and ministry belong solely to Jesus Christ who affords us the privilege of being his vessels during this adventure. We humbly strive to be faithful to his direction and leadership.

We believe God has given us a unique picture of the Word; one that is not often communicated to the community of believers. We believe in “Big” Jesus; a Christ who was present at the foundation of the world and through whom all things have been created and have been made new.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

- John, Chapter 1, verses 1 through 5

We believe that “Big” Jesus is more concerned with our hearts than with our efforts to “manage” our sin. We don’t believe we can become better believers by trying harder. We believe Jesus Christ has overcome sin and death. We believe in life by the Spirit; the indwelling presence of our Lord. It is by this presence that we are blessed with the ability to be faithful, to hope, to love, to have strength and courage, and to know our true identity.

We believe that life by the Spirit affords us a life of tremendous freedom; a life no longer bound by the law but instead unleashed by the presence of Jesus Christ in our hearts. It is by this presence that we are made holy.

We believe in family, community, and friendship. We believe that each person’s unique spiritual experience enriches the Body. We believe in cultivating the Body of Christ through teaching, worship, sharing adventures, eating and playing together.

We believe in whitewater rafting.

We believe in rappelling and rock climbing.

We believe in hiking 14,000 foot mountains.

We believe young adults need to know the true person of Jesus Christ and in turn discover their own true identity.

We believe you should be a part of this adventure.

Adventures

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Lodging

If we're going to travel all the way to Colorado each summer, we figure we'd better take advantage of the beautiful and unique environment that is the Rocky Mountains. This region has a vast array of opportunities for fun and adventure. Additionally, many of the activities we participate in are great teaching tools and community builders.

Many activities are available on site at Quaker Ridge Camp (see contact info below). In-camp activities include horseback riding, mountain biking, high ropes adventure course, low ropes initiative course, paintballing, fly fishing, hiking, tie-dye, basketball, volleyball, swimming, etc.

Several of our adventures are a bit more challenging and require us to travel. Cross Bearing Adventures (see contact info below) serves as our rappelling and rock-climbing outfitter. Our rappel site is located in Cheyenne Canyon and our climbing site is located in Garden of the Gods, both located just to the west of Colorado Springs. You can find out more about Cheyenne Canyon at www.discover-colorado-springs.com and more about Garden of the Gods at www.gardenofthegods.com.

Finally, on Thursday during our week in Colorado, we will travel to Buena Vista to raft Brown's Canyon on the Arkansas River with Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting Company (see contact info below). Brown's Canyon is a great trip for rafting beginners, but is challenging enough to excite even veteran rafters. The rapids we traverse are primarily class III, which is considered moderate.

It should be noted that while many of these activities include inherent risks, safety is always at the forefront. The staff members of Colorado Challenge, Quaker Ridge Camp, Cross Bearing Adventures, and Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting Company are well trained and experienced.

Students will be housed in dorm type lodges; six to ten people in a room. Each participant will have a bed and will need to bring sleeping bag (or twin bedding). You can see lodging on the Quaker Ridge website. The rooms range from hotel style with private bathrooms, to rooms with community showers, and a few rustic rooms with a detached bathhouse. There will be an adult leader in each room.

Transportation

All transportation will be provided and is included in the cost of this trip. We will be taking vans provided by Mobile Ministry Solutions and Eaglecrest Ministries.

Costs

\$350 if registered by January 1 (\$400 by March 1, \$500 after that). A non-refundable \$50 deposit is required and the balance will be due April 15

Departure

6 AM, Saturday June 18 from Haven Reformed Church. Arrive back home Sunday, June 26 around 5:00 PM.

Deadlines

All forms are due Sunday May 1.

These can be turned in to the office at Haven Reformed Church or to Mr. Spotts at the high school.

Forms can also be found and downloaded online at www.havenchurch.com under youth ministries or at www.coloradochallenge.org. All health forms and information will be completed online (see link on the Colorado challenge website).

Daily Schedule (sample)

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Here's what a typical day looks like at Colorado Challenge:

7:00 AM	Colorado Challenge Staff Meeting: All staff will meet in the great room of Clark Lodge.	5:30 PM	Barbeque Dinner Outside and Square Dance Hay Rides provided by Quaker Ridge: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
7:45 AM	Breakfast	8:00 PM	Chapel Session
8:45 AM	Morning Camp Devotions	9:30 PM	Snack Shack Open: Snacks and beverages available for purchase Basketball and volleyball courts open.
9:00 AM	In-Camp Options Activities: Rappelling, Climbing, Low Ropes, High Ropes, Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Paintball	11:00 PM	Small Group Time in Cabins; Curfew
12:00 PM	Lunch	12:00 AM	Lights Out; Soldier's Mountain Camp-out Departs
1:00 PM	In-Camp Options Activities: Rappelling, Climbing, Low Ropes, High Ropes, Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Paintball		

Medical Info:

All medical info will be done online this year. Go to app.campdoc.com. You will log in with your email and create a password. You will choose [Hamilton](#) as your group and fill in your medical info and history.

Key Contacts

- Quaker Ridge Camp and Conference Center
30150 N. Highway 67
Woodland Park, CO 80863
(719) 687-9012
www.quakerridgecamp.org
- Cross Bearing Adventures (Rappelling and Climbing Outfitter)
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 574-5342
www.crossbearingadventures.org
maccba@msn.com
- Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting Company
Box 850
Buena Vista, CO 81211
(719) 395-2158
www.noahsark.com
flood@noahsark.com

224 Cambridge Ave.
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 403-1321
ndavis@lackswheel.com

- Scott Davis – Hamilton Area Contact
4691 Oak Street
Hamilton, MI 49419
(616) 990-7774
scott@havenchurch.com

Kevin Spotts – Hamilton Area Contact
Hamilton High School
(616) 610-4135
kspotts@hamiltonshools.us

- Nadene Davis - Camp Administrator

COLORADO

challenge

scholarships
available

2016!

June 18 - June 26

WOODLAND PARK, CO



Camp, Hike, Raft, Ride, Run, Rappel,
Shoot, Jump, Climb, Praise, Dance, Eat,
Sing, Create, Jesus, Bears, Sky, Sleep.

Cost: \$350 per person*

*This registration price includes transportation, lodging, food, and all activities for the week
if registered by Christmas Dec. 25

Registration

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Cell #: _____ Carrier: _____

\$50 Deposit Paid

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

He-man and She-woman Activities

You'll get a chance to do some pretty cool stuff. Outdoor kind of things where you can get dirty and not even have to shower (but we would prefer that you did).

Climb stuff, jump off stuff and ride stuff. Sleep outside, nap inside, walk side by side.

Make stuff, break stuff, and eat stuff.

Say stuff, hear stuff, sing stuff & dance some too!

Shoot something, hug someone, love all



**Music Folks Like-
Adam Locker Band**

**Teachers Like: Jeff Klein
check out
www.walktheway.net**

Located in the Pikes Peak National Forest, Quaker Ridge Camp is the setting for Colorado Challenge. This week is not only filled with great fun and activities, but the presence of Jesus is known and felt as we share the week with 300 high school students from all around the midwest. This is the best deal for the best week you'll ever have... guaranteed! Do everything you can to get there.

**100% HAYM Approved
www.quakerridgecamp.org**

You are part of
300
friends from the Mid-West
making plans for
The Best Week Ever!