

**54th ANNUAL FRONT RANGE UU NINTH GRADE TRIP
PRELIMINARY 2017-2018 TRIP SCHEDULE**

Classes/Retreats:

October 15	Boulder	1:00-3:00 PM	Class
November 3-5	Greeley	Fri 8:00 PM - Sun 10:00	Retreat
December 3	Jefferson	1:00-3:00 PM	Class
January 19-21	Jefferson	Fri 8:00 PM - Sun 10:00	Retreat
February 4	1 st Universalist	1:00-3:00 PM	Class
March 3-4	Boulder	Sat 9:00 AM - Sun 10:00 AM	Retreat
April 20-29	1 st Universalist	8:00 AM Friday	54th 9th Grade Trip
May TBD	TBD	Sat PM to Sunday noon	Recognition Service

The 53rd Ninth Grade Trip, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist churches and fellowships of Cheyenne, Ft. Collins, Greeley, Boulder, Boulder Valley, Denver, Golden, Littleton, Parker, and Colorado Springs is an educational trip to the Hopi and Navajo reservations. The trip happens in mid April each year and lasts for ten days. The first and last days are spent traveling to get from Denver to Durango and then back again. The remaining days are spent as follows:

- Hopi Mesas - We will spend three days on the three mesas of the Hopi people. During our time there we will visit Hopi villages and possibly see the Kachinas dance. Watching a Kachina dance is one way for us to observe and respect an important element of the Hopi religion.
- Flagstaff - Visits to Sunset Crater, Wupatki Ruins and the Walnut Canyon Ruins provide further insight into pre-historic cultures and geology of the area.
- Ganado/Hubbell's Trading Post – Part of a day will be spent touring the oldest still operating trading post and Hubbell's home. In addition, demonstrations in Navajo weaving and a talk on Navajo rugs are often available at this stop.
- Canyon de Chelly/Chinle - One day is spent at Canyon de Chelly visiting various sites including White House ruins and Spider Woman Rock. One night is spent at Chinle Elementary School.
- Navajoland - Two days are spent at the Tohaali Navajo School, experiencing the life of a Navajo student. Ninth grade trippers attend school with Navajo students.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Mitch Pingel at 303-579-9868, or mitch@uu9gt.org.

Much of this information is available on the trip website at www.uu9gt.org.

Dear PARENTS & TRIPPERS:

This is a review of items covered at the Orientation, for those of you who could not make it, and for ALL of us to have a copy at hand for a refresher. **THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL!**

1. Each church has a PC (Parent Coordinator) who assists with carpooling, food the Tripper needs for fundraisers, scheduling changes, and anything else that comes up.
2. YOU, as parents, do not have to drive every time, every where. Parent Coordinators from each church should arrange carpools to and from classes, retreats and other trip events.
3. Classes and retreats are an important part of the Trip and ALL should be attended. If you miss a class, whether on a Sunday or at a retreat, you have to make it up but this cuts into your spare time at retreats. You have to make up all classes before you can go on the Trip. Just a tip: It is lots more fun to attend all classes, retreats and fundraisers and see the group on a regular basis.
4. For the Trip (to turn the wheels on the bus, special events, park permits, etc.) we need to raise at least \$9000 at fundraisers.
5. In addition, each tripper will need to pay a trip fee of \$350, for retreats and for room and board on the trip. \$150 is due by the October class; the second installment of \$100 is due by the January retreat; the final installment of \$100 is due by the March retreat. There is an additional \$25 charge for vegetarians and vegans, due to increased food costs for their needs, and due with the first payment. We'll also cheerfully accept one big check up front. Make checks payable to: **UU 9th Grade Trip**. Trip fees should be sent to: **Mitch Pingel, 275 Main St, Broomfield CO 80020**
6. Because the 9th Grade Trip includes all classes and retreats, as well as the trip itself, it is expected that a tripper will attend them all. If a situation arises that makes attendance at a specific event impossible, please contact Mitch at mitch@uu9gt.org or 303-579-9868.
7. More on money. A Tripper could go on the Trip without any money and all basic needs would be covered. However you probably want money for some of the neat things we can purchase down the road. Saving money for basic trip fees and for extras can begin NOW! Babysitting, snow removal, paper routes, all would work. Even if money is not tight at home, help out with your expenses.
8. It is nice to have a work shirt to embroider for the first retreat. It is not mandatory but is a trip tradition. Each youth must have a travel cup with a lid that follows you to events and down the road.
9. PARENTS: Those of us involved in the Trip feel that it is a VERY IMPORTANT experience for your son/daughter. We hope that participation is not used as a threat. Example: "If your grades are not up you can't go." When a Tripper can't go at the last minute, it is hard on them, as well as on the other Trippers. Our experience is that we bring back to you a more enjoyable, RESPONSIBLE young adult and you reap the benefits.
10. But what about missing school? We give you letters to give to your principals. In the past we discovered that school staff feel this trip is very worthwhile and are willing to let Trippers have time to go. There is also information on the trip website about managing the trip as a student, as well as information about how the trip benefits students in the IB program.
11. TRIPPERS: if you cannot attend a class or other function, ALWAYS let Mitch AND your PC know, because when numbers of bodies or food are needed that includes YOU! Send your food with your carpool: we need your food for fundraisers even if you are unable to attend.
12. ONLY ONE mailing will be sent to each household--share ALL information.

QUESTIONS?? Call Mitch Pingel at 303-579-9868 (mitch@uu9gt.org) or your PC, MRE or DRE.

Ninth Grade Trip Covenant:

Trippers, parents and responsible adults agree to abide by the following rules:

1. Curfews and other rules and ordinances of the churches and areas visited will be observed.
2. Single sex sleeping rooms will be designated at the motels on the Trip. There will be at least one RA of the same sex in each room. Aside from motels, the group will not be split by genders and will sleep co-ed. No sharing sleeping bags at any trip function.
3. We will teach Navajo and Hopi mores, and we will make clear the appropriate Tripper behavior we expect.
4. Once the trip plans are firm, they will not be changed except for some unforeseen emergency.
5. No smoking or other tobacco use, illegal drugs, or alcohol. If anyone does smoke they need to figure out how to do without for the retreats, classes, and the ten days down the road. Not only is it illegal for minors to purchase tobacco, it is forbidden in many of the places we visit.
6. No weapons (implements of harm).
7. No sexual activities as defined by the values of our hosts.
8. No stealing.
9. No one may leave a class or retreat site without the permission of a Trip Coordinator; Trippers leaving the site must be accompanied by an adult.
10. Everyone must go down the road with hair color in the normal human range, and styled appropriately to be acceptable to the elders in the Indian communities we visit. No visible piercing, except for ears.

Guidelines to preserve and enhance the Trip community:

1. Every person has inherent worth and dignity. We expect that all Trippers and RAs will honor each other by listening with respect; by treating each other with kindness, justice, and compassion; and by creating an environment that is physically and emotionally safe. Participants should have consideration and respect for the physical and emotional well-being of the community, hosts, and place of gathering. Inappropriate or offensive behavior is not conducive to building community. We avoid abusive language and verbal game playing towards ourselves and others.
2. Every person is expected to behave in ways that facilitate their own physical and emotional well-being. Even seemingly minor personal abuses, such as not drinking enough water, getting inadequate sleep, or ingesting excessive amounts of caffeine can impact the way that individuals interact with the group, and can pose safety risks. Participants are expected to be respectful of the group by caring for their own bodies.
3. Participants will respect and observe the Navajo and Hopi mores.
4. Trippers are expected to participate in all Trip activities and work toward the common goals of community-building and learning about ourselves and others. Participation includes attending the orientation, all four retreats, three classes, and, of course, the ten-day ninth grade trip. If a conflict arises it is the tripper's responsibility to contact the Trip Coordinator(s) to make arrangements for make-up work. It is the Tripper's responsibility to turn in all completed make-up work to Coordinator Mitch Pingel. All work must be turned in before the trip departs.

5. We expect parents to support the trip by attending an orientation, making sure that trippers can attend all trip functions, supporting the trip and UU goals, and helping, as needed, with fundraisers. Parents will also contact the Trip Coordinator (s) if unavoidable conflicts make it impossible for their tripper to participate in required trip events.
6. We do not allow electronic devices including cellular phones, CD players, iPods, MP3 players, radios, electronic games, or amplifiers at any trip event. Any of these items will be collected by the RAs.
7. Should a Tripper bring to a class or a retreat, or on the Trip itself, an item deemed by the RAs to be inappropriate because it disrupts the group function, it will be collected by the RAs. This would also apply to an appropriate item being used inappropriately.
8. The Trip Coordinator and the RAs will discuss inappropriate behavior problems directly with the Tripper. If it seems necessary, this "First Counsel" will be documented and signed as an acknowledgment of the concern. If the behavior does not change, the Trip Coordinator and the RAs will meet with the Tripper and his/her parents to discuss the problem/concerns. These steps are defined to help us problem solve and deal with conflict in a respectful manner.

Any participant, youth or adult, who fails to comply with these rules will be sent home at their own expense and will not be permitted to continue their participation in the Ninth Grade Trip. If this occurs while on the Trip, the Tripper will be sent by public transportation to Denver. Tripper's parents will be consulted prior to sending a Tripper home.

Your signature on the permission slip indicates that you understand the behavior expectations, rules and consequences for the Ninth Grade Trip and agree to abide by this covenant. Failure to disclose any or all medical/behavioral/legal issues may result in the immediate removal of the participant and bar further participation in the Ninth Grade Trip. (All participants - youth and adults - must sign.)

SPECIAL NOTE FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

The trip rules are established to align with the mores and traditions of the native cultures we visit. Consequently, the behaviors required of trippers may be different than those of your family, school, YRUU Cons, and church groups. As a parent, I recognize the need for these differences and give my support to the trip adult leadership in maintaining the trip appropriate behaviors. I also understand that there are required homework assignments and required weekend classes and retreats and will work with my tripper to ensure that the requirements are met.

Your signature on the permission slip indicates that you understand the behavior expectations, rules and consequences for the Ninth Grade Trip and agree to abide by this covenant .

PARENTS MUST READ

By KATE JONUSKA and SPECIAL TO THE DENVER POST
PUBLISHED: February 13, 2015 | UPDATED: April 24, 2016

The glows give them away every time, says Matt “Sully” Sullivan.

“At night, you see the kid curl over and try to hide that ambient lighting, but it leaks everywhere,” says Sullivan, assistant camp director of Camp Chief Ouray for the YMCA of the Rockies. “You wait until they’re done, and they roll back over, and you’re standing right there saying, ‘Give it here.’”

Sometimes the device under the covers is a tablet, MP3 player or video-game system, says Sullivan, “But it’s the phones, hands down, we see the most of.”

Like most outdoorsy, sleep-away camps across the county, Camp Ouray’s technology policy requests that kids leave their devices at home, and it’s not surprising that campers push back. When looking into how such camp policies are formed and work in action, however, what’s more surprising is who’s most likely to break the rules (hint: It’s not always the kids) and the interesting ways technology is used behind the scenes to keep parents more involved.

Parental warning

While the kid may be the one caught with a screen in the dark, it seems the trouble with no-tech policies often stems from campers’ parents.

For the kids at Tomahawk Ranch, operated by the Girl Scouts of Colorado, co-director Monica “Obi Joe” Gray says the girls find their no-technology policy is a natural transition, as their rules are usually similar to policies in place at schools. And for those seeking to thwart those policies, the environment itself is usually deterrent enough.

“For one, we still don’t really have service,” says Gray. “With some girls who do bring their phones, within two days or less, it doesn’t work anyway. There’s not power or outlets to charge them, and so they have to give up and move on with camp life.”

Though Tomahawk Ranch hosts about 200 girls per week in the summer, Gray can think of only two occasions when campers couldn’t handle leaving their technology — or perhaps its sense of connectedness — behind. In fact, most camp professionals find it’s campers’ parents that have a harder time letting go.

“The kids are dependent on the technology, sure, but it’s also the parents,” says Sullivan. “Numerous times parents will give kids their cellphone and slip (it) into their bag and say, ‘Text me at night. Give me that quick update.’ They’re not used to being out of the loop.”

For Miriam Shwartz, co-director of Jewish Community Center’s Ranch Camp, that parental paradox is all the more frustrating because her camp prides itself on building values.

“In fact, some parents go as far as giving a dummy device that staff members can find, a second one so the child has a back up,” she says. “They know they’re breaking rules and asking their child to break rules, and they’re OK with that. It’s hard to talk about honesty and why rules are in place and the good of the community when parents are willing to go to those extremes and make campers their accomplices.”

The real why of the rules

These parents usually have good motives, wanting only to keep in touch with their child, but defying no-screen rules can actually also work against many of the valuable experiences camp cultivates, including working on face-to-face communication and safely test-driving independence.

“I hear so often now how parents are texting their kids constantly, trying to make sure they’re OK and where they’re at,” says Shwartz, who thinks keeping in touch can ruin the freedom of camp. “For some campers, this is truly the first environment in their life where they’re given the opportunity to make decisions without the input of a parent. It becomes such an important piece of growing up and maturing, having this ability to make decisions and have failures and build resistance.”

In other words, being out of touch is good for child development.

“Sometimes communication can increase homesickness,” says Beth Markham, youth programs director for Walking Mountains Science Center camps. “We want them to live in that moment and learn the importance of doing that and saving their stories and experiences for their friends when they get back home.”

Devices are also status symbols at camp, she says.

“We do have to be careful about the kids that do have those things versus those that don’t,” she says. Ideally, camp should be egalitarian. “We don’t want anyone to feel left out. We want for all the students to have access.”

The rules are designed to prevent isolated or isolating use of technology rather than general technical development. So no screens doesn’t mean no high-tech activities. For instance, Tomahawk Ranch offers a digital-photography and photo-editing classes and sometimes uses iPad astronomy applications during evening events.

They’re using newer technologies to show how much fun traditional outdoor activities can be, and in the end, the latter activities are still a big draw for modern kids, who soon learn to live without their devices and perhaps to live a little better with fellow humans.

“When kids come to camp, we want to make sure they’re unplugging . . . because they’re missing a lot of interpersonal, face-to-face interaction in their everyday lives,” says Sullivan. “At camp, they get a chance to look up and work on other skills that kids need today, like communication, collaboration and creativity.”

NINTH GRADE TRIP

Permission slip, Medical Information and Permission to Treat

This permission slip covers ALL gatherings: classes, fundraisers, retreats as well as the TRIP.

I hereby give my permission for _____ to attend all Ninth Grade Trip events whether traveling in the Bus or in private vehicles. I understand that the Trippers will be under competent adult supervision. All Trippers must be at least 14 years of age on or before the first day of the Trip. I understand that the Tripper's participation in the Trip is voluntary and that such participation potentially involves risks and obligations that are impossible to predict but which are beyond the scope of those normally associated with traditional church functions. These may include but are not limited to, the risk of loss or damage to personal property, and the risk of sickness, personal injury or death while participating. I exempt the churches, their employees and authorized volunteers from all claims arising from the student's participation in the Trip unless caused by actions for which the church would otherwise be liable under Colorado law. I also understand that any Tripper who does not abide by group rules may be returned home after the parent or guardian is notified. If this occurs while on the TRIP, the Tripper will be returned to their home city, at parent's expense, by way of public transportation.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

PLEASE RETURN this form immediately to: Mitch Pingel, 275 Main St, Broomfield CO 80020.

Mitch can be reached at (303) 579-9868. Make checks payable to "UU 9th Grade Trip."

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name _____ Birthday _____
Parent/Guardian _____ Best Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail (parent) _____ (youth) _____
Church Affiliation (No abbreviations) (Is "FUC" Foothills or 1st Universalist?) _____

EMERGENCY NUMBERS for both day and night and for both parents:

Name _____ Day _____ Evening _____ Cell _____
Name _____ Day _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

If parents are not available, please contact:

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Physician _____ Phone _____
Medical Insurance Co. _____ Ins. # _____

HEALTH HISTORY (check appropriate spaces)

Allergies: _____ Other: _____
____ Hay Fever ____ Asthma ____ Penicillin ____ Insect stings ____ Diabetes ____ Seizures
____ Other drugs (name) _____

S/he has the following health problems OR OTHER legal/medical/behavioral/activity issues _____
_____ and will be carrying the following medicinal drugs _____.

Failure to disclose any or all issues may result in the immediate removal of the participant from the trip list. I authorize any Responsible Adult to give first aid to my Tripper and to obtain emergency medical care by a Doctor or hospital if needed, and we cannot be reached. I agree to pay for expenses incurred.

[vegetarian vegan] Other dietary issues (specify) _____

I HAVE RECEIVED, READ AND UNDERSTAND THE BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AND THE RULES FOR THE NINTH GRADE TRIP AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE TRIP COVENANT.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Tripper

Date