



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

LOCATION

Advanced Explorer Backpackers often hike above tree line on 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.**

TRIP LEADER

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

REGISTRATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Registration is available on our website www.widji.org. 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 Backpack trips require a \$50 non-refundable deposit at the time of registration. The remaining balance for the trip is due in four installments. Other payment plans can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Center. Families are welcome to cancel their registration for a full refund with the exception of their deposit before May 15. We do not grant refunds after May 15. Exceptions may be made in the case of documented illness, injury or family emergency and for campers who opt to withdraw because their scholarship award doesn't meet their financial needs.

Scholarships are available for qualified campers and can be applied for by following these steps.

1) Review Widjiwagan's Scholarship page: https://www.ymcamn.org/camps/camp_widjiwagan/about/scholarships.

This page contains a link to the YMCA Scholarship Application and information on volunteer credit opportunities.

Advanced campers are invited to participate in our volunteer credit program to earn a discount on their session.

2) Complete the Initial YMCA Scholarship Application online or by paper form: <https://www.ymcamn.org/scholarships>.

The initial application considers your annual income and the number of adults and dependents in your household.

Scholarships are awarded to align with your individual circumstances. This initial application applies to all YMCA programming including Camps. You will receive an email notification from the YMCA Customer Service Center indicating the initial scholarship amount available to you.

3) If the initial scholarship award does not meet your family needs, we encourage you to reply to that email with a request for an "exception" and indicate Camp Widjiwagan as your program of interest. You will receive a follow up email asking for a narrative explaining your need for additional assistance that will include the following questions:

- Are there any additional circumstances that we should be aware of and take into consideration? Please include unusual expenses or debts that affect your monthly budget as well as any financial changes that may have happened over the last two years.
- If applicable; please have your camper share why they want to attend camp this summer.

Widjiwagan's Camper Services Committee will receive and review these requests in an anonymous format and consider additional scholarship awards. Please note, committee review can take up to 14 business days. You will be notified of the outcome via email. We recognize that advanced trips stretch the financial resources of many families. The Widji Administrative Team and Board raise funds annually to ensure that these capstone experiences are accessible. We encourage enthusiastic, committed campers to register and apply for a scholarship. The majority of families who apply for a scholarship receive some assistance.

RISK MANAGEMENT

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 potential risks by arriving at Camp mentally and physically prepared for a trip that will be challenging at times. Your camper's counselor and the Widji administration will provide guidance about trip preparation during the planning process this winter and spring.

CAMP WIDJIWAGAN

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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WIDJIWAGAN
YMCA WILDERNESS ADVENTURES