Ages 5-11
2026 Summer Day Camp Theme Descriptions

Our Day Camp is divided into three different age groups:

- **Yampatykes** – Ages 5-6 - $425/week
- **Nature Explorers** – Ages 7-8 - $425/week
- **Routt Finders** – Ages 9-11 - $450/week - Our Routt Finders have an overnight at a local campground on Thursday night. Dinner, dessert, and breakfast are provided. Pick-up on Friday is at noon. If conditions allow, we will be working with Friends of the Yampa and CMC to offer rafting for this group on Mondays in June.

Week 1 –June 8-12 - Yampa River: From Source to Steward
Join Yampatika for an unforgettable week on the water! This hands-on camp takes kids from curious explorers to confident river stewards. Campers will explore the Yampa and its tributaries at different locations, learn about the importance of a healthy river, and how they can help take care of it. By week's end, every camper will leave with a new appreciation for keeping our waterways healthy and wild!
Week 2 – June 15-19 - Creatures of the Night
Explore the wild world that comes alive after dark! Kids will discover bats, owls, mountain lions, and other nocturnal creatures while learning how they hunt, hide, and thrive at night. Creatures of the Night invites students to explore the fascinating adaptations, behaviors, and ecological roles of nocturnal wildlife found in Northwest Colorado.
Week 3 – June 22-26 - Secrets of the Forest
Campers will explore the hidden wonders of the forest, learning about different tree types and the habitats they create. They'll discover how forests grow, survive, and even recover from fire. Through hands-on adventures, kids will leave with a deeper appreciation for the magic and mysteries of our wooded world!
Week 4 – June 29-July 3 - Environmental Engineers
From Beaver's to Bird's to Spiders and even Humans lots of creatures build homes and change the surrounding environment to suit their needs. Come and learn about how these cool organisms build their homes and affect the world around them.
Week 5 – July 6-10 – Kid vs. Wild A
Back by popular demand! Come and battle the elements with the assistance of a Naturalist. Learn how to survive in the wilderness and what is important for you to have fun and stay safe while going outside. Join us as we learn about fire and shelter building, knot tying, Leave No Trace, hiking, and how to survive when we go outside! **Please note that we are doing two separate Kid vs. Wild Sessions this Summer. They will be identical, so please only sign up for one of them!**
Week 6 – July 13-17– Kid vs. Wild B
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Week 7 – July 20-24 - Pollinator Party
Get ready to shake, wiggle, and buzz! Kids will explore the secret lives of bees, butterflies, bats, and more while learning why they're so important. Learn about and interact with local pollinators as Naturalists will help campers learn about their important function and the awesome adaptations that help them do their cool jobs!
Week 8 – July 27-31 - Wetland Wonders
Discover the magic of wetlands! Kids will explore ponds, marshes, and streams while learning about the birds, plants, and animals that call these watery habitats home. Hands-on activities, outdoor adventures, and nature exploration make this week a splashy, exciting journey into the world of wetlands!
Week 9 – August 3-7 - From STEM to Petal
Why do trees stand tall? How do plants make a tasty meal from the sun? How did humans get the plants we now buy in the grocery store? Join Yampatika Naturalists for an exciting exploration into the magical world of plants. We'll use the principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and watch them come alive in plants!
Week 10 - August 10-14 - Inspired by the Wild
Turn the outdoors into a masterpiece! Kids will spot shapes and patterns in leaves, flowers, and trees, paint with natural materials, and create art inspired by the landscapes around them. A week full of creativity, exploration, and nature-inspired fun awaits, where every leaf, stick, and stone becomes part of the adventure! **This week, due to an expected lack of staffing, we will only be offering Yampatykes and Nature Explorers groups. There will be no Routt Finders Group this week.**

Ages 12-14
2026 Wilderness Rangers Backpacking

Our Wilderness Rangers will be focusing on building up their skills and exploring the different areas where they will be going each week. Specific locations must be confirmed with the Forest Service and won't be set until late Spring/early Summer.

Wilderness Rangers 1 – June 22-26
Wilderness Rangers 2 – July 6-10
Wilderness Rangers 3 – July 13-17
Wilderness Rangers 4 – July 27-31

Each Wilderness Rangers group will consist of 2 days of day camp from 9-4 and then a 3 day and 2-night backpacking adventure. We will be back ready for pick up by 4 pm on Friday afternoon. The cost of each 5 day session will be $515.00 and that will contribute to staffing, equipment, and meals while on trail.

To help focus on Positive Youth Development, we will focus on building five core competencies with each group of Wilderness Rangers:

1. **Savvy:** Our participants will gain knowledge and skills about how to safely be in the wilderness including use of gear, LNT, and relevant outdoor skills.

2. **Environmental Connection:** Participants will learn more about the environment they are spending time in, how things are connected, and how their actions can affect their environment.

3. **Emotional Intelligence:** Emotional Intelligence will help participants gain a better understanding of themselves and how they impact those around them. We aim to build up our emotional intelligence by exploring our emotions and learning how to share them.

4. **Peer Learning:** Participants will have to work together to create a successful experience. They will explore effective ways of participating in a team including assigning roles, group problem solving, and learning how to best support each other.

5. **Confidence:** Adventures can be exciting but also challenging. As part of our program, participants will learn how to overcome obstacles and solve problems as they arise with the goal of better preparing them to handle whatever life throws at them with resilience and poise.

Yampatika will have plenty of gear available for loan for participants. For any questions about gear, more information about what these weeks will look like, or any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Camp Manager, Reece Wells at reece@yampatika.org or at our office at 970-871-9151.