



# EAGLE'S NEST FOUNDATION

*Experiential education for young people, promoting the natural world and the betterment of human character.*

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in having your teen participate in our Hante Wilderness Instructor and Leadership Development (W.I.L.D.) course. This course is designed for teens who have just graduated from high school. Our aim is to provide these young people with specific, targeted training to assist them in furthering a path in wilderness and adventure instruction.

W.I.L.D. is a unique and exciting Hante program. Participants on this course will have the opportunity to be certified as Wilderness First Responder (WFR) which entails successful completion of an extensive nine day course\*. The WFR course will be followed by several long, intense days in the field developing the technical and emotional leadership skills of wilderness instruction. Due to the demands of this unique course, we try to ensure that participants are well qualified for this opportunity and ready to take on the responsibility and challenges that the WILD program will entail. It is a privilege to be accepted to this course. When selecting participants for this course we look at the applicant's answers to the questions on the Hante questionnaire, their goals and expectations for the trip and finally their past experience on Hante, the Outdoor Academy, or in a similar activity.

Enclosed you will find two questionnaires—one for you and one for your teen—to complete and return to us. These questionnaires will aid us in getting to know your child and in preparing him or her for the course. These questionnaires are designed to give us more insight into your child's emotional outlook and readiness for Hante. **The application process is not complete until both of these forms are returned to us.** Once we receive them, we will review them and make decisions on acceptance on a rolling basis.

Thank you for your honest and caring responses. We look forward to a very real and personal understanding of your teen. Please contact us with any questions you may have.

Best,

Paige Lester-Niles  
Camp Director

Kaitlin Tripi  
Hante Director

\* Eagle's Nest cannot guarantee that all participants will become WFR certified. All participants must meet the demands of the course, pass a final written exam, and pass all practical exams as established by the set curriculum.

## General Hante Course Description

For over 30 years, Eagle's Nest has been leading teenage participants on wilderness courses in remote areas. Hante is a wilderness and leadership program for teens who are interested in seeking greater challenges, forging new trails, forming tight friendships and embracing the beauty of the natural world around them.

Hante courses are fun and rewarding as they foster growth in the participant. They are also challenging as participants travel through rugged terrain in remote areas. Participants on Hante trips must come to the expedition in good physical condition and be emotionally prepared to take on an adventure that will challenge them; the preparedness of the participant is vital to the success of the trip.

During the Hante, each participant will be responsible for carrying his or her own gear. Participants will sleep outdoors, usually under tarps, in conditions that can range from hot and buggy to cold and rainy. They will be responsible for cooking and cleaning up their own meals and for caring for themselves and their belongings. During this Hante, participants will take the Wilderness First Responder course, during which they will learn how to deal with medical emergencies in a wilderness setting. At the end of the course they will take practical and written tests on the material they learned.

Participants who are motivated to develop their leadership skills, to build wilderness skills and who are in good physical and emotional condition are well suited to a Hante experience. Applicants who are dealing with behavioral or motivational issues should consider another program.

*I have read all of the material about the Hante Adventures and have a good understanding of the trip for which my child is applying. I understand it will be physically and mentally challenging for my child. I have informed Eagle's Nest of any physical or emotional issues that could hinder my child's full participation in this Hante or hinder the group experience. I agree to help my child prepare for his or her course by ensuring that he or she has everything he or she needs (i.e. appropriate clothing, medical forms, etc.) as requested by Eagle's Nest. I will help my child to be successful on this trip by encouraging him or her to physically prepare for his or her course. I understand that the removal of a camper from the field, for either behavioral or medical issues, can be extremely difficult both logistically and emotionally. Eagle's Nest uses all the information provided by parents and applicants to reduce the likelihood of these situations occurring. I understand that if a participant is removed from a Hante he or she will be sent home immediately and that I will be responsible for the cost of transporting him or her home from the course.*

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Wilderness Instructor and Leadership Development—Parent Questionnaire

**Hante Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Completing this form:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. What do you hope for your child to gain from this experience?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Being aware that the W.I.L.D. is a challenging program designed to provide participants with the opportunity to develop skills for wilderness instruction, what do you feel will be the greatest challenge for your child? How will he or she respond to those challenges?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Please describe any previous experience in backpacking, extended traveling, leadership, etc.?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. W.I.L.D. is designed to be a leadership development course in which participants will learn through taking on leadership roles. Participants will be held to a very high standard of responsibility. Do you feel that your child is ready for this experience? What specific leadership skills do you want your child to work on?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Are there any problems with your child's behavior at home or at school? Do you have any concerns about your child's behavior? Has your child ever been expelled or suspended from school or from a program similar to this one?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Has your child experimented with tobacco, drugs, or alcohol? If so, what is his or her current involvement? Please know that Eagle's Nest follows a zero tolerance policy concerning drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Do you feel your child is physically fit enough to meet the strenuous physical demands of this Hante course? What concerns or reservations do you have, if any?

## Wilderness Instructor and Leadership Development—Participant Questionnaire

Dear Prospective Participant,

We are very excited to learn you are interested in developing your skills in wilderness instruction and leadership. The Wilderness Instructor and Leadership Development course will be an intensive three weeks in which you will participate in a nine day extensive Wilderness First Responder course followed by several field days devoted to learning and practicing the ins and outs of successful wilderness leadership.

During the three week course you will be challenged on every level. The days will be long and full of information. As a participant on WILD you will be responsible for much more than participants on other Hante courses. You will also be held to high standards of responsibility and personal motivation. Not only will you have the opportunity to be WFR certified\*, but you will also gain a tremendous amount of knowledge regarding your personal leadership styles and learn instructional techniques, all while forming lasting friendships within the community of your fellow participants and instructors.

In order for you to begin this journey, we need for you to take time to consider the course for which you are applying. This questionnaire will help you begin your preparations and give us a chance to get to know your goals and expectations for this Hante. **Please complete and return this questionnaire promptly.** Your application is not complete until you do so. Please answer the questions honestly. We rely on this questionnaire to learn more about you and your readiness for this program.

\* Eagle's Nest cannot guarantee that all participants will become WFR certified. All participants must meet the expectations of the course, and pass all final written and practical exams.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read all of the material about the Hante School and have a good understanding of the trip in which I would like to participate. I understand that while it will be a wonderful trip, it will be physically and mentally challenging. I am ready to work hard, learn new skills, and make new friends. It is my decision to apply to participate in this Hante.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the name of one teacher, coach, or adult who you are not related to as a possible reference. In addition, please include their phone number and email address.

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why are you interested in the W.I.L.D. course?

2. What are your expectations for this course?

3. We feel it is important to set goals, and it feels wonderful when they are accomplished. We'd like to know, what are some of your goals for this experience? Please be specific.

4. Hantes are designed to be challenging, both physically and mentally, and W.I.L.D. will be no exception. How will you act when faced with such challenges? How will you prepare to face these challenges? How have you faced similar challenges in the past?

5. Have you participated in any other Hantes, Added Adventures, or similar wilderness programs? Which Added Adventures or Hantes? Please describe your experience.

6. What strengths do you think you will bring to the group and the course?

7. You WILL need to be in very good physical condition to complete this trip successfully. W.I.L.D. participants will be backpacking with big loads and hiking long distances in rugged terrain. Do you feel that you are in good physical condition? What will you do to prepare for this trip?

8. Do you use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products? Do you realize that these will not be a part of your Hante experience and their use will result in immediate expulsion, without refund, from Eagle's Nest?

9. On this course, emphasis will be on leadership development, both, in and out of wilderness. What specific aspects of leadership do wish to work on? Explore? Be challenged in?