

fish for change



Connection - Education - Conservation - Exploration



Colorado, USA



CONNECTION Connection is the heart of our student programs. Students from around the world connect with one another in new environments. Relationships are the foundation of our service projects and fishing.



EDUCATION Fish for Change students are immersed in all elements of education, as both students and teachers. Students learn from guides, instructors, local officials, scientists, and conservationists. Students also teach English in the local schools, and pass on fly-fishing knowledge to local students. Students are constantly engaged and growing in the hierarchy of education, in other words, becoming leaders.



CONSERVATION Fish for Change students engage in local conservation projects that produce real change in real time. Students work with local people on issues including waste management, recycling-based community art projects, reforestation, scientific research, and the protection of local fisheries.



EXPLORATION Fly fishing is our lens for exploration. We study and practice all aspects of the infinite world of fly-fishing, especially as it relates to the local area. In addition to fly-fishing, students engage in other forms of local adventure tourism including snorkeling, diving, paddle boarding, indigenous culture exploration, and more.



Fish for Change is a nonprofit organization that offers international fly fishing programs. Our mission is to use fly-fishing as a platform to make the world a better place by uniting a diverse group of students in wild fisheries where they engage in a variety of initiatives that promote

Connection, Education, Conservation, and Exploration

Throughout the course of the program, students integrate with local communities and work together on local and global initiatives, including community development projects, mangrove restoration, education based projects with local children, community art projects, trash clean ups and more.

Program Dates

Tuition: \$2,700

(all inclusive except for flight, gear, trip insurance and tips)

Itinerary

Day 1

Meet at Grand Junction Airport no later than 2pm

Shuttle to Black Canyon Rim Campground

Fly Fishing introduction and preparation for next day launch

Day 2

Hike into the Gunnison Gorge and launch the Gunnison River

Guided Fly Fishing, Rigging For Rescue

Reading and Writing the River

Day 3

Black Canyon Float / Camping

Guided Fly Fishing

BLM presentations in the canyon: history, land geology and conservation

Reading and Writing the River

Day 4

Black Canyon Float / Camping

Guided Fly Fishing, CPR / First Aid Certification

Reading and Writing the River

Day 5

Black Canyon Float / Camping

Guided Fly Fishing, CPR / First Aid Certification Rigging for Rescue

Reading and Writing the River

Friday July 23

Shuttle back to Grand Junction Airport - arrives at airport at 11:00am

Service Projects/ Activities

Throughout the course of the program students work on service programs and community development projects

Location:

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison River

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area encompasses Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, Flat Top-Peach Valley, and Gunnison River Recreation Area. The river cuts a wide path through the breathtaking sandstone and black granite canyon. The area, known for its exceptional and challenging whitewater boating, also features world class gold medal trout waters. The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness offers a wild and pristine backcountry experience, with its unique black granite and colorful sandstone double-canyon system carved by the Gunnison River. Fourteen miles of the Gunnison River flow through this wilderness area, offering diverse and abundant recreation opportunities. The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness now contains a total of 17,700 acres and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. All of the Wilderness is in the state of Colorado. In 1999 the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness became part of the now over 109 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System.

BLM

The Bureau of Land Management is an agency within the United States Department of the Interior responsible for administering public lands. With oversight over 247.3 million acres, it governs one eighth of the country's landmass. Students engage with the BLM in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River learning about it's diverse landscape ranging from adobe badlands to rugged pinyon and juniper-covered slopes.



Rigging For Rescue

Students will learn the introduction and fundamentals of rope work. Throughout the course of the program students will immerse and explore the topics and techniques for effective rigging for rescue. Hands on learning in the heart of the canyon will give students a glimpse into the professional world of safety and rescue.

First Aid / CPR Certification

Students will become CPR and First Aid Certified. Not only will they learn the skills but they will also be immersed in Wilderness First Aid learning about Risk Management..



Instructors

This program is led by Fish For Change founder and Colorado guide Steve Brown along with Colorado Paramedic / Fireman Joe Hemelt.



Accommodation

Accommodations will be sleeping in tents throughout the duration of the program. From camping at the trailhead at the beginning of the trip to setting up camp along the river. Students will learn camp set up, partake in cooking, breakdown and general camp operations. The last night we will set up at the Pleasure Park which is also the home of Gunnison River Expeditions .





The Fishery and how to prepare

Target Species: Rainbow, Brown and Cutthroat Trout

Flies: Check out Guide Flies Dry / Dropper Box (www.guideflies.com) or gear list below or email us and we can help you out! Guides will also have a selection of flies.

Boat: Inflatable rafts where students will also row

Terrain: Freestone River bottoms, alpine and mountainous

Weather: Hot and dry in the day with cool evenings.

Guides: Our team of guides are passionate, fun, and will work with you one on one during your time on the water.

Cast: We can help you learn so no casting experience needed!



Travel Information

Airport: Grand Junction International Airport

Saturday Arrival: Make sure your international flight arrives in Grand Junction before 2:00pm.

A Fish For Change Representative will meet students at airport or if local will coordinate meeting location.

Group will board a private shuttle van from Gunnison River Expeditions and head to campsite.

Parent/ Guardian will be notified when students arrive safely between 4pm and 6pm

Saturday Departure:

Arrive to Grand Junction Airport by 11am

Trip Leaders will help students to check into their flights and secure travel needs.

Make sure your international flight departs Grand Junction after 1pm

Students will have access to their phones and service for contact with parent/ guardian but during their time in the canyon there will be no service.



Packing List:

Fishing Gear

Rods: 6 weight rods

Reels: Any quality reel with a good drag system and at least 100 yards of 30lb backing

Lines: Freshwater floating line

Leaders:
9ft 8lb

Tippet: We recommend bringing 5, 6, 8, 10, and 12 pound tippet

Flies: Check our Guide Flies website to buy a custom fly box

Other: pliers, clippers, sun gloves, dry bag.

If you are missing items of gear, please notify our team.

Personal Gear

Keep in Mind

Upon reaching basecamp you will be given a dry bag backpack which you will transfer your personal gear to. The lighter you pack the better!

4 long sleeve shirts (quick dry, sun protection with a hood is recommended)

4 quick dry pants

2 shirts

2 shorts

Pajamas

1 lightweight rain jacket

1 bathing suit

Bufs (sun protectors for your face)

Toiletries

Bug Spray Sunscreen

Camera

Headlamp

Sunglasses

Hat

Close toe sandals and or wading boots

General Considerations

Gratuities:

\$300 total is recommended. Guides average tip is \$25 USD per day / per angler and is given to the guide at the end of each day.

Time Zone:

Mountain Standard Time Zone

Laundry:

Laundry will not be available

Communication:

Student Programs are a phone free zone. Students will have access to their phone for photos throughout the course of the week, but no access to WiFi. Reach out to info@fishforchange.org

Family and friends can also follow along on the daily instagram stories @fishforchange and blog [https://www.fishforchange.org/ blog](https://www.fishforchange.org/blog) to keep up on students adventures.

Water Bottle:

Bring a water bottle as we purify water on the river.

Emergency Contact Info

Emergencies: info@fishforchange.org or

All other questions: Heather Harkavy - Director of Operations, heather@fishforchange.org

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