



# Welcome!

San Juan Nature Academy  
Outdoor Explorers Program



*San Juan Mountains  
Association*

EXPLORE ♦ LEARN ♦ PROTECT





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**ALPINE INTERNATIONAL**  
PREPARATORY ACADEMY



**Who are We?**

# Meet our Instructors:

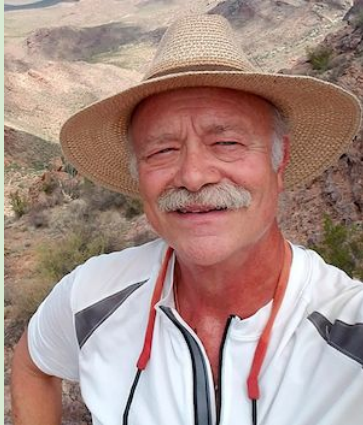
- **Adriana Stimax (she/her),**  
Education Director
- **Sage Cramer (she/her),**  
Education Specialist
- **Thomas Fritz (he/ him),**  
Education Specialist
- **Courtney Lane (she/they),**  
Education Specialist





# Outdoor Explorations Program/AIPA

- The Outdoor Explorations Program (OEP) is a partnership between the Nature Centers and Historical sites throughout Colorado and Alpine International Preparatory Academy. OEP combines place-based natural science with experiential learning, community-building, and self-discovery. The staff ensures your child grows in their knowledge of ecology while gaining skills in teamwork and outdoor activities in safe and supportive settings. The program is conducted year-round in the outdoors. Activities, experiments, challenges, service projects, explorations, and fun help your child build nature knowledge, self-awareness, and outdoor skills.
- OEP is a tuition-free program supplementing your curriculum with a conceptual understanding of ecology and practical applications of outdoor skills in our unique settings and social development. We have age-appropriate options for children ages 5-17 or K- 12<sup>th</sup> grades. (There is a tuition option)



- Jay Zarr
  - Director of Experiential Learning & Outdoor Exploration Programs
  - Alpine International Preparatory Academy





# Logistics:

- Wednesdays: 8:30-3:30 pm
- Starts September 4th- Ends May 28th
- Off: 11/27, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1, 3/19
- Overnight for whole family on last day: 5/28-29
- 2 groups - upper and lower elementary
- Free!\*







## LOCATIONS

Every other week at  
the Nature Center

One close trail to  
Durango and one  
farther field trip each  
month





# Curriculum

Establish goals in each of the 3 core program areas to work toward:

1. Outdoor skills and stewardship
2. Leadership/teamwork/social emotional skills
3. Natural science/place understanding - standards based







# 2023-2024 Monthly Topics

\*topics for 2024-2025 year will be similar

## September: Adventure Skills and Respecting Nature

- LNT
- Outdoor living skills

## October: Nature's Bounty

- Foraging and sustainable harvest
- Plant life cycles

## November: Rock Cycle

- Weathering, erosion, and deposition
- Types of rock and their formation

## December: Fire Ecology

- Wildfires and land impacts
- Fire skills

## January: Surviving and Thriving in Winter

- Heat transfer and animal adaptations
- Snow pits and shelter building

## February: Snow and Water Science

- Water cycle and watersheds
- Snow structure and snowflakes

## March: Ancestral Puebloans

- History of the ancestral people
- Archeology

## April: Web of Life

- Food web and energy flow
- Community food web

## May: Biodiversity

- Living things grow and change
- Plants, pollinators, and microclimates



# Outdoor Skills Offered:

- Adventure skills and Respecting Nature (LNT)
- Hiking and Camping Skills
- Basic First Aid
- Hydration and nutrition
- Wild Food/Plant ID
- Snowshoeing
- Woodcraft Skills
- Shelter Building
- Basic Hitches and Knots
- Local Animal and Plant ID
- Map Reading & Navigation
- Social and Emotional Skills
- \*New to this year- Archery\*



# Community Engagement & Field Trips:

- Fish Hatchery with Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- Gleaning with The Good Food Collective
- Farm to Table Composting
- Tierra Vida Farms
- SOIL Learning Lab
- Canyons of the Ancients Monument
- Aztec Ruins National Monument
- Ice Fishing with Go Fish Durango!
- La Plata Open Space Conservancy– Conserved Properties
- Exploration of the San Juan National Forest





# Tentative Day Schedule

8:30 drop off

8:45 load-up and head to the day's location

9:15 arrive and parent drop off of those not in the van

9:30 morning circle

9:40 morning lesson/ activity part 1

10:15 snack

10:30 Morning lesson/ activity part 2

12:00 lunch

12:25 free play

12:40 group game

1:10 Afternoon electives (nature journaling, themed game or craft, self-exploration, hike, skill building, etc.)

2:30 Afternoon circle and snack

3:00 Pick-up at location then head back to Durango

3:30 pick-up in Durango





**Transportation:**  
sign ups monthly  
\$20 for the month  
26 spots for  
students in the van





# Additional Perks

- 2 additional free courses from Alpine International Preparatory Academy (see options below)
- Chromebook provided if needed

## Course Offering

## K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Core Subject Offerings

Language Arts  
Mathematics  
Science  
Social Studies

*\*All Core Subjects have two semesters (A/B)*

### Elective Offerings

Art Development  
Music – Recorders  
Keyboarding  
Scratch Coding  
Arts and Crafts  
Health  
Physical Education



# Coming Up:

## **Open House/Information Day**

July 29th 10:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.  
at our Nature Center (61  
County Road 310 Rivers End  
Rd) right outside of Durango

## **Parent/Instructor Meet & Greet Night**

Monday August 26th at the  
Public Lands Center

**Start Date: September 4th**





# Contact Info:

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Sage Cramer: [scramer@sjma.org](mailto:scramer@sjma.org)







Questions?