

Will's Hope Pre-Application for 2025 Veteran & Other Participants' Programs

Thank you for stepping forward and, if you participate, agreeing to voluntarily comply with our requirements so that your experience and the experience of your program mates are enhanced during this immersion outdoor program.

The purpose of the Pre-Application is to ensure that veterans and others interested in the Will's Hope (WH) Programs are aware of the requirements, time commitments, pre-requisites, cost and have the motivation, time, funds and interest to participate. For out of state veterans, you are required to attend the Orientation, and complete a hike while in Colorado Springs; and travel with the group from Colorado Springs to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). We want potential participants to have a clear picture of ground rules, commitments and other requirements and agree to these program requirements via this Pre-Application (and the application) prior to moving forward with the application/recruitment process.

It is important for group dynamics & maximizing individual benefits, from the Will's Hope Program, that individuals follow-through on their interest in & attendance in Will's Hope preparatory activities as well as the GYE program. After 1 April there are no refunds for someone that changes their mind without a valid emergency. If there is a family emergency, after you have agreed to attend & have been accepted, we will work with you on a reasonable/mutually satisfactory solution.

We allow each participant to self-certify that they can benefit from the Will's Hope Program as well as self-certify that they have a disability (ies). The disability may be a diagnosed or undiagnosed condition. Given the broad nature of experiences we anticipate there are many potential participants that have disabilities without a diagnosis. This year we will have qualifying hikes that are go/no go for a prospective participant to ensure that veterans are able to do the daily physical activities in the GYE. Exceptions are on an individual basis and at the discretion of Will's Hope.

Prior to completing this Pre-Application, please review the "**Will's Hope Summary of Programs for Veterans & Other Qualifying Individuals**" that is on the Will's Hope website (www.willshopeopportunities.org) on the veterans' page (once you are on the website click on the button at the top of the page that says "Veterans +"). Please also review "**Will's Hope Voluntary Ground Rules for Participations by Military Veterans, Active Duty, First Responders, Public Safety, Healthcare Personnel and other Participants, Staff & Self-Assessments**" that is also on the website on the same page. These documents are a description of participant commitments, ground rules and the spirit and intent of the program.

A potential participant should look at the opportunity to participate in a Will's Hope Program as an exciting event that stimulates your mind and will stretch you in a good way if you allow yourself to maximize the experience. We do not expect participants to be experts or even knowledgeable of many of the activities they will experience at Will's Hope. The goal is to expose you to a wide variety of subjects and activities and when combined with the group's interaction it usually opens doors for reflection, self-development, self-healing, gaining passions, and many other attributes.

It is very, very important that you can dedicate the time required for pre-trip events (hike, orientation, etc.) as well as the time with the group during the programs. Participants are exposed to many opportunities which may impact each individual differently. Some opportunities will be more valuable to person A while person B will value different opportunities. Regardless of your interests it is important that you are an active participant. By active participation we mean you participate with the group during activities, at meals & at other times. In the past, participants that are glued to their phone or use the phone excessively; are pre-occupied with a personal situation or other similar distractions will not reap the maximum benefits the program offers. Will's Hope provides the opportunities; the individual participant is responsible to take advantage of the opportunities. If you can stay "**in the moment**" & **stay focused** throughout the Will's Hope experience you will more than likely be significantly surprised at what you get out of the program.

Will's Hope **is not just a trip** or a visit to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. **If you only desire a "trip" or a "tour"** we can give you names of guides and other information so that you can plan your own trip or tour.

Each WH group is unique & the contributions of every participant are critical to the success of each program. The program uses professional guides and experts in many fields and subject matter. As a participant you will see & do things that less than 1% of all the visitors to the GYE ever get an opportunity to do.

Please contact us to discuss the program requirements and to request a Pre-Application. We will email a blank Pre-Application for you to complete after we have discussed details and both the participant and Will's Hope are mutually in agreement.

Please fill out the next page and return it to the address below by USPS mail or hand carry it. **Please do not submit an unsolicited Pre-Application.** Once we have your Pre-Application we will conduct interviews, etc. prior to release of the application.

Please return page 2 of the Pre-App (the next page) by **14 Feb 2025 (military veterans and all others):**

Will's Hope
320 Cheshire Ct
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
719-210-5625
willshopeinfo@gmail.com

Will's Hope Pre-Application for 2025 Programs

Please, please be very, very legible and print, if possible.

Please select which program you are interested in: Men 23 May-1 Jun 2025 Other program, if available

Name: _____ Best contact #/cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Home or best Mailing Address: _____

Please put a check mark or "x" in the appropriate box below:

1. Are you able to hike 3 miles with an elevation gain of 600 feet? Yes No
2. If you are a smoker there are areas where smoking is absolutely forbidden. Smoking in some of these areas could put the Will's Hope Program at risk, jeopardize future contracts, result in Will's Hope losing the ability to operate in certain areas, void insurance policies & increase costs.
2a. Are you a smoker? Yes No
- 2b. If you are a smoker, will you have ceased smoking, or refrain from smoking throughout the program and abide by any restrictions? Yes No N/A
3. Do you agree to refrain from using offensive or obscene language throughout the program? Yes No
4. Do you agree to voluntarily comply with the **"Will's Hope Voluntary Ground Rules for Participation by Military Veterans, Active Duty, First Responders, Public Safety, Healthcare and Other Participants, Staff & Self-Assessments"?** Yes No
5. Have you carefully read the **"Will's Hope Summary of Programs for Veterans & Other Qualifying Individuals"** document and agree that you will make the required commitments and meet other requirements? Yes No
6. During the program are you able to be "in the moment" or "in the present" and avoid personal distractions (e.g., excessive use of your phone) or other distracting behavior that interferes with group activities or may cause you to leave the group during a group activity? Yes No
7. Are you able to have a medical professional give you a physical exam and complete the Will's Hope physical exam document? Yes No
8. If horse riding is part of the program, do you understand that anyone over 250 pounds will not be able to ride? Yes No
9. Do you agree to participate in group activities such as hikes, & seminars, etc.; & to do several individual presentations to your peers while being video recorded? Yes No
10. Do you have a sponsor that is going to help with the required fees? Yes No
11. Do you agree to pay the required fees if you don't have a sponsor and pay at least \$200 if you have a sponsor? Yes No
12. Is it a financial hardship on you to pay the required fees?
(Will's Hope makes no commitment to helping anyone financially as we have very limited funds or none at all) Yes No
13. Do you agree to actively participate in program activities? Yes No
14. Do you agree to help with various common tasks such as cleaning dishes, periodic cleaning of the cabin/restrooms, vans, etc.? Yes No
15. Do you understand that if an individual must leave the program early, for any reason, the individual is responsible for all costs related to transportation and other expenses? Yes No
16. Do you understand that if you cancel at the last minute (i.e., after 1 April) there will be no refunds? Yes No

Your signature below attests that if you are accepted you will meet Will's Hope requirements & want to voluntarily participate in the program. Thank you!

Signature: _____ Date: _____