

Will's Hope Pre-Application for 2023 Veteran Programs

The purpose of the Pre-Application is to ensure that veterans that are interested in Will's Hope 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, complete a hike while in Colorado Springs for the Orientation and travel with the group from Colorado Springs to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). In the past we have had a number of veterans cancel at the last minute which has cost Will's Hope a significant amount of money, wasted resources as well as leave unfilled slots. We want potential participants to have a clear picture of expectations and agree to program requirements via this Pre-Application (and the application) prior to moving forward with the application/recruitment process.

It is important for group dynamics and for maximizing individual benefits from the Will's Hope Program that veterans follow-through on their interest in and attendance at 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 that develops and interferes with your attendance, after you have agreed to attend and have been accepted, we will work with you on a reasonable and mutually satisfactory solution.

We allow each veteran 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 veterans 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.

Prior to completing this Pre-Application, please review the **"2023 Will's Hope Summary of Programs for Veterans"** 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 "Click here veterans"). Please also review **"Expectations of Veteran Participants, Staff and Self-Assessment"** that is on the website on the same page. These documents are a broad description of program requirements.

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 will allow yourself to maximize the experience. We do not expect veterans 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. Veterans are exposed to many opportunities which may impact each veteran differently. Some opportunities will be more valuable to veteran A while veteran 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 and at other times. In the past, veterans 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 will provide the opportunities; the individual veteran is responsible to take advantage of those opportunities. If you can stay "in the moment" 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. Each group is unique & the contributions of every participant is 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 and 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.**

Please return page 2 of the Pre-Application (the next page) by **16 Jan 2023** or until all slots are filled to:

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

Will's Hope Pre-Application for 2023 Veteran Programs

Please, please be very, very legible and print, if possible. If we cannot understand your writing this may affect our ability to effectively communicate with you which may affect having a slot for you.

Please select which program you are interested in: ☐ Women Veterans 22 May-3 Jun 2023 ☐ Men Veterans 13-25 Jun 2023

Name: _____ Best contact number/cell phone _____

Home or best Mailing Address: _____

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

Are you able to hike 3 miles with an elevation gain of 600 feet? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a smoker? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Note: Will's Hope is a non-smoking program and smokers must agree to stop smoking in order to participate.

If you are a smoker, will you have ceased smoking or refrain from smoking throughout the program?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Do you agree to refrain from using offensive or obscene language throughout the program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you agree to meet the spirit and intent of the "Expectations of Veteran Participants, Staff and Self-Assessment" document?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you reviewed and understand the "2023 Will's Hope Summary of Programs for Veterans" document?
☐ Yes ☐ No

During the program are you able to be "in the moment" and not have distractions, not have other distracting situations (e.g., excessive use of your phone) or other distracting behavior that interferes with group activities or causes you to leave the group in the midst of a group activity?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you agree to have a medical professional give you a physical exam and complete the Will's Hope physical exam document?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If horse riding is part of the program, do you agree that your weight will not exceed 250 pounds?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you agree to participate in group activities such as hikes, & seminars, etc.; and on video giving an individual presentation to your peers & giving your comments on what you learned from the program & how the program helped you, etc.?
☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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

Do you agree to actively participate in program activities?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you agree to help with various common tasks such as cleaning dishes, periodic cleaning of the cabin/restrooms, etc.?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you agree that if you become non-compliant with Will's Hope requirements that you may be asked to leave the program and go home and all costs associated with this will be borne by the individual participant?
☐ Yes ☐ No

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 you will meet Will's Hope requirements

Signature: _____ Date: _____