



March 2026
6-8 Winterim Catalog

Guidelines and Procedures
Program Descriptions
Online Sign up



Winterim Guidelines and Procedures

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Winterim is a required weeklong experiential learning program that provides grade 6-12 Dawson students with the opportunity to explore a wide range of educational options outside of the classroom. The Dawson faculty has put together a selection of programs that offer our students unique and challenging opportunities. Winterim week is **March 9-13 for Grades 6-8. Winterim programs for Grade 9-12 will run from March 6-13.** Departure and return dates for Winterim will vary and often use the weekend before and/or after Winterim week.

SIGN-UP PROCESS

The Winterim catalogs and selection forms are posted on the portal resources page. It is important to read each description carefully so that you can make informed choices for your student(s). We encourage families to complete the Winterim selection form prior to registration, as it will be a helpful reference when entering selections and priorities during the online registration process.

Winterim registration is an online process that will begin on **Friday, October 10 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15.** The registration link will be posted on the portal resources page. **A parent or legal guardian must complete the online registration process for each student.**

Once your selections for Winterim have been entered and prioritized, you must enter a valid credit card to complete your registration. Once you complete the “checkout” process, your card will be charged a \$1.00 pre-authorization fee. When the card has been validated, your selection process is complete, and you will receive an email confirmation. Please retain this email as a record of your Winterim selections and **double-check it** to make sure you entered your choices in your desired priority order. Our online program will automatically assign each student to a Winterim based on their lottery number, their prioritized Winterim selections, and available space for each Winterim.

In early November, you will receive an email notification informing you of Winterim assignments. At that time, your credit card will be charged the full price of the assigned Winterim for each student you registered.

Note:

- We will pull lottery numbers for students not able to attend the lunchtime lottery (i.e., students studying abroad or who are sick).
- Students who miss the online Winterim registration deadlines will be placed in Winterims with remaining space, according to grade and priority numbers.
- Dawson reserves the right to deny access to certain Winterims for students with a history of disciplinary issues.

PAYMENT INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

As you review the Winterim offerings, please keep the following in mind:

- 1) You must use a valid credit card to complete the registration process.
- 2) Once you “checkout” of the registration process, you will **not** be able to revise your selections or priorities, so please carefully review your selections.
- 3) **At the close of Winterim selection at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, all selections are final. Students cannot change Winterim selections after this time. All fees are non-refundable.** Trip insurance is strongly encouraged and may be purchased from a third-party insurer. Parents may use whichever travel insurance company they choose, but please read the details and exceptions carefully. Two of our previous travel partners have recommended [Travel Guard](#). Two additional sites are: 1) [Squaremouth](#), which can be used to compare travel insurance plans, and 2) [Forbes](#).
- 4) If a student becomes sick during their Winterim trip and needs to return home, a parent or designated guardian must travel to the Winterim location to pick up the student at the parent’s expense.
- 5) Winterim is a required part of the Dawson curriculum. In the Upper School, students should expect mandatory culminating activities on the last day. Please make a note of Winterim dates as you schedule your family's plans for the school year and **refrain from scheduling appointments during this time**. Students will need to make up any missed Winterim time. Note that traveling programs often use weekends for travel.
 - a. 9-12 Winterim dates: March 6-13
 - b. 6-8 Winterim dates: March 9-13
- 6) Juniors who wish to petition for an independent college Winterim are required to spend Friday, March 6 with the Dawson College Winterim groups prior to heading off on their own tours, which must mirror the Dawson College Winterim. Upper school students (usually in grades 11 or 12) may also petition for a career-oriented Winterim with clear educational goals. Students can only be granted **one** petition in their Upper School career. Petitions may be obtained from the Director of Experiential Education, Maddy Scheer, and are **due by October 15, 2025**.
- 7) Winterim is an immersive experience during which students step away from their normal routines and often out of their comfort zones to experience deeper learning. As such, we will ask students to take a break from their smartphones to allow them to be more present and free from the pressures and distractions of social media for the duration of the program. Most Winterim leaders will ask students not to bring cell phones at all. Some Winterims will allow phones for specific times and purposes, depending on the unique aspects of each program. Faculty chaperones will carry cell phones for logistical and emergency purposes and share periodic updates when possible. Students are welcome to bring their own (non-Wi-Fi-capable) cameras should they choose.
- 8) Group ticketing is used for Winterim airline travel. Group tickets have strict regulations, and **ticket changes are not allowed**. Ticketing is planned so that all students start and end with the group in Denver. Families that request to have their

student dismissed from the end of a Winterim trip to join a family on vacation will be **required to meet and pick up their child. Students may only be released directly to a parent or legal guardian.** This arrangement may be permitted only if it does not compromise the supervision of the other students and does not violate group airline regulations. We do not allow mid-route transfers in connecting cities. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of meeting your child at the end of Winterim, you must contact the Director of Experiential Education, Maddy Scheer. Any such arrangement must be coordinated with the Director of Experiential Education and approved in writing. If this option is available, the student's return ticket will be forfeited, and the family will be responsible for the purchase of a separate return ticket.

- 9) Students who go on international Winterim trips are required to have medical coverage and must have a passport valid for at least six months after the return date of the trip. Families are encouraged to check with their medical provider to ensure that their student is insured for trips to foreign countries. Some foreign destinations require a visa for entry. Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for securing their own visas. We strongly recommend using a visa expediting service.

If you have any questions regarding the Winterim program or registration process, please feel free to contact Maddy Scheer, Director of Experiential Education (mscheer@dawsonschool.org), or check out our [FAQ page](#).

During the registration process, each grade level must choose and rank the following number of Winterims:

- **12th grade** must rank at least **four** choices
- **11th grade** must rank at least **seven** choices. 11th grade may choose just five if only choosing local programs.
- **10th grade** must rank at least **10** choices - at least **two** of the 10 must be local or drive-to. 10th grade can choose just five if only choosing local programs.
- **9th grade** must rank at least **12** choices - at least **five** of the 12 must be local Winterims. 9th grade can choose only five if only choosing local programs.
- **8th grade** must rank at least **four** choices
- **7th grade** must rank at least **eight** choices
- **6th grade** must rank all **13** choices - at least **four** of the 13 must be local (unless you are choosing only local programs; in this case, you should rank at least four programs).

*Follow these guidelines unless it is cost prohibitive. Do not register for any program that you are not able to pay for. Students receiving financial aid will receive aid on their Winterim tuition, as communicated by **Scott Schneider**.*

Winterim Selection Form: Grades 6-8

Use this form to help rank your choices for the Online Selection process. Register your student(s) online at your convenience between 8:00 a.m. Friday, October 10 and 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 15. Links to registration and directions can be found on the portal resource page.

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

During the registration process, each grade level must choose the following number of Winterims:

- **8th grade** must rank at least **four** choices
- **7th grade** must rank at least **eight** choices
- **6th grade** must rank all **13** choices - at least **four** of the 13 must be local (unless you are choosing only local programs, in this case you should rank at least four programs).
- We ask that 7th and 8th graders do not sign up for the same Winterim two years in a row.

Please Note: Some travel Winterims depart and return outside of the Mon-Fri Winterim programming dates. Please take note of this before registration.

LOCAL CHOICES

Choice # _____ AI Pioneers: An Interdisciplinary, Project-Based AI Intensive

Choice # _____ Culinary Chronicles

Choice # _____ Deep Gladness: Local Service and Discovery

Choice # _____ Frontrange Entrepreneurship and Product Development

Choice # _____ Good *Cold* Fun!

Choice # _____ STEAM Forward

OVERNIGHT CHOICES

Choice # _____ Boston Bound

Choice # _____ Face Your Fears

Choice # _____ Founding of America: DC& Philadelphia

Choice # _____ Freedom Road: A Journey Through the Civil Rights South

Choice # _____ Glorious Gators: Everglades Ecology & Explorations

Choice # _____ Space Academy: Huntsville, AL

Choice # _____ Utah Uncovered

AI Pioneers: An Interdisciplinary, Project-Based Artificial Intelligence Intensive

What do self-driving cars, Alexa, and iPhone's face recognition technology have in common? They are powered by modern advances in artificial intelligence. Whether you're interested in law, healthcare, art, or economics, AI is poised to transform every discipline and industry. Led by Stanford, MIT, and Ivy League alumni and graduate students, participants will explore the underlying concepts and motivations behind technologies such as computer vision, neural networks, and natural language processing.

In this course, students will first learn the foundations of machine learning and its applications. The first half of the program introduces AI's core technologies—applications, foundational concepts, and programming tools—through live lectures and coding labs. Students will learn how to write and execute Python code using Google Colab, explore different types of machine learning models, and apply those models to real data sets.

In the second half of the course, students will work on an instructor-led group project that applies AI to a discipline of their choice (e.g., music, healthcare, astrophysics, finance). They will utilize the programming skills developed in the first half to design and present their project.

Students in the AI Pioneers program will spend each day in the classroom during regular school hours, working on their laptops to practice coding, build projects, and collaborate with classmates. To be fully prepared, students must bring their own laptop and charger each day; headphones are recommended for certain labs and videos.

Educational Goals

- Build strong computational thinking skills by learning Python fundamentals and applying them in real-world coding projects.
- Develop an understanding of artificial intelligence by exploring how machines recognize patterns, make predictions, and solve complex problems.
- Apply AI for social good by designing projects that address challenges in healthcare, disaster relief, and assistive technologies.
- Grow ethical awareness and communication skills by reflecting on the impact of AI and presenting projects in a collaborative environment.

Instructor: Raina Yan & Inspirit AI Instructor

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 12 students

Cost: \$1,240

Dates: March 9–13, regular school hours

Boston Bound: A Time-Traveling Adventure

Get ready to dive into the history, culture, and energy of one of America's most iconic cities. Over the course of this Winterim, we'll retrace key moments in early U.S. history—from the Salem Witch Trials to the Revolutionary War—walking the same paths once traveled by figures like Paul Revere. Known for being one of the most walkable cities in the country, Boston will be our classroom as we navigate historic streets, modern neighborhoods, and cultural landmarks.

Along the way, we'll explore world-class museums, vibrant cultural districts, and the unique spirit of the city. A full day will be dedicated to exploring Cambridge, home to Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). We'll stroll through Harvard's historic campus and learn about the cutting-edge science and research taking place at MIT, discovering how innovation of the past continues to shape the future. Of course, no trip to Boston would be complete without a visit to Fenway Park, a hallowed ground for sports fans.

This program also introduces students to city living. We'll spend two nights in Salem before taking the train into Boston, where we'll stay for three nights. Each student will receive their own subway pass for the "T" as we navigate the city like locals. Students should pack comfortable walking shoes and rain gear, and don't forget a swimsuit—we'll cap off the week with a hotel pool party!

Educational Goals

- Discover the secrets of Boston's past by walking through 400 years of history.
- Analyze the perspectives of Bostonians across different time periods to see how a small colonial town grew into a modern city.
- Experience the many ways Boston continues to inspire, from legendary sports and world-class museums to leading research universities and diverse cultural life.

Instructors: Kristen Medler & Michael Greschler

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 14 students

Cost: \$2,420

Dates: Sunday, March 8 – Friday, March 13

STEAM Forward: Invent It! Turning Ideas into Solutions

This Winterim invites students to dive into a dynamic STEAM experience designed to spark curiosity and build connections between science, technology, engineering, art, and math—and the real-world challenges we face today.

Inspired by CU Boulder’s innovative Creative Technology and Design program, students will participate in hands-on workshops led by CU Science Discovery educators. Using the versatile micro:bit—a pocket-sized computer with endless possibilities—students will practice block-based coding and apply the engineering design process to create their own prototype inventions. From beginner coders to seasoned makers, every student will find opportunities to strengthen their skills in coding, electronics, and design thinking while bringing their imagination to life.

We’ll conclude the week on Friday with a visit to CU Boulder’s main campus. Students will tour historic landmarks, research labs, and museums; enjoy lunch in the CU dining hall; and explore the CU Bookstore. This culminating experience gives middle schoolers a unique opportunity to envision themselves on a college campus while engaging with CU’s vibrant culture of innovation.

On Monday through Thursday, all coding and design sessions will be held on our school campus during normal school hours. Students must bring their laptop and charger each day. Lunch will be provided on campus. On Friday, students should wear comfortable walking shoes, bring a small backpack with a water bottle, and may bring optional spending money for the CU Bookstore. Please check the weather to ensure students are prepared for rain or cooler temperatures.

Educational Goals

- Engage in hands-on learning by exploring tactile, immersive experiences that make STEAM concepts tangible and relatable.
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through project-based activities that encourage analysis and innovation.
- Foster collaboration and communication by working in teams and sharing ideas during group projects and discussions.
- Connect STEAM concepts to real-world applications by examining how they intersect with everyday life and future careers.

Instructor: Elizabeth Perez

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 12 students

Cost: \$465

Dates: March 9–13, regular school hours

Culinary Chronicles

Calling all foodies! Do you love to cook, try new foods, and explore the stories behind what we eat? This Winterim invites students to step into the exciting world of food—learning not only how to prepare delicious dishes, but also how food businesses run and how culinary traditions shape culture.

Over the week, students will roll up their sleeves in the kitchen, making dumplings and even cooking on a food truck for the Dawson community. We'll meet professionals across the food industry, from restaurateurs to factory workers, and see what it takes to bring food from farm to table. Highlights include touring a pasta factory, exploring the iconic Celestial Seasonings plant, experiencing a traditional tea ceremony on Pearl Street, and sampling gourmet chocolates. Students will also learn the craft of food reviewing, practicing their own critique after dining at a local restaurant.

No matter your dietary needs, this program is designed to be inclusive and delicious—every student is welcome!

Educational Goals

- Explore the cuisines and food traditions of different cultures.
- Learn and apply a variety of cooking techniques.
- Gain insight into how professionals across the food industry run their businesses.
- Develop critical food reviewing skills by analyzing and writing reviews after dining experiences.

Instructors: Lindsay Urban & Nick Malakhov

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 12 students

Cost: \$460

Dates: March 9–13, regular school hours

Deep Gladness: Local Service and Discovery

What does it mean to serve others? In this week-long service trip, students will put their hands and hearts to work, exploring the place where our “deep gladness meets the world's deep need.” We believe every person has a unique passion for making a difference, and this trip is designed to help students discover theirs.

Throughout the week, students will engage in meaningful service projects with local organizations addressing issues such as food insecurity, animal welfare, and housing instability. Participants will roll up their sleeves and tackle projects that help the community while enriching their own understanding. Service will be paired with reflection: students will use Harvard University and Project Zero's Visible Thinking Techniques to process and discuss their experiences.

Students will also have the opportunity to hear from leaders who have dedicated their lives to serving others. We are excited to meet with Boulder Mayor Aaron Brockett on Wednesday to discuss housing instability and homelessness, along with other guest speakers who will share inspiring journeys in service.

Lunches will be more than just a meal—they will provide a chance to connect with the neighborhoods we are serving, as we dine at local restaurants.

By the end of the week, students will not only have a deeper understanding of community needs, but also a plan for action. Together, we will design and propose service initiatives for the entire school, deciding as a group which project to bring to life.

This is more than a service trip; it's an invitation to discover your heart for serving others.

Educational Goals

- Explore a variety of local service opportunities to discover a personal passion for helping others.
- Practice empathetic thinking and collaborative problem-solving.
- Learn how to use creative and theatrical techniques to understand and address community needs.
- Develop a plan to translate personal commitment into a school-wide service initiative.

Instructors: Mr. Gaffga & Mr. Jacobsma

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 12 students

Cost: \$160

Dates: March 9–13, regular school hours

Front Range Entrepreneurship and Product Development

Do you have amazing ideas for starting a business or developing a new product? This Winterim invites students to explore the world of entrepreneurship right here on the Front Range—and possibly in Denver. We'll visit local for-profit and non-profit businesses to see how ideas come to life, learning from people running real-world enterprises. Each day, we'll also dine at local restaurants to explore one of the largest industries and employers in the country: food service and entertainment.

Students won't just observe—they'll put their own ideas into action. We'll begin by improving existing products or services, then move on to designing something entirely new. Using creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving, students will develop, market, and pitch their original product or service ideas by the end of the week.

Educational Goals

- Explore commerce, finance, and how businesses of different sizes operate.
- Apply advanced and creative thinking to improve existing products or services.
- Imagine ways to make the world better by developing completely new products or services.
- Learn how to develop, market, and pitch a product or business idea.

Instructor: David Sutton

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 12 students

Cost: \$300

Dates: March 9-13, regular school hours

Face Your Fears

What's so scary about Colorado? We live in a state known for its snow-capped mountains, sunny days, fantastic winter sports, and healthy inhabitants. So why is it also such a popular setting for stories of mystery and horror?

Students on this Winterim will investigate this question by visiting the cities where four mysterious stories take place: Mark Stevens' *Antler Dust*, Cynthia Swanson's "Pieces of Everyone, Everywhere," Carter Wilson's "Grave Mistake," and Stephen King's *The Shining*. While in these places, students will walk in the footsteps of the characters from these stories. They will explore whether the images of the settings that the books create in the mind's eye match reality—and see if any of the "haunted" hotels we stay in really do have ghosts. Students will also create their own writing as the group works to compile an anthology of mysterious prose to be distributed at the end of Winterim.

During the week, students will have a conversation about writing spooky stories set in Colorado with at least one published author. Other activities will include exploring caves and experiencing unique thrill rides at Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, swimming in the Glenwood Hot Springs pool, investigating the haunted history of historic graveyards and parks throughout Colorado, and touring the Stanley Hotel in search of ghosts.

This trip includes three overnight stays: one in Glenwood Springs on Monday night, one in Boulder on Tuesday night, and one in Estes Park on Thursday night. Students will travel by mini bus during Winterim.

Please note: The mature subject matter of some of the literature we examine may make this Winterim a better fit for older students.

Educational Goals:

- Explore the concept of "place" in literature through reading, writing, and discussion.
- Reflect on Colorado by comparing personal impressions with those expressed in the books.
- Learn about writing and publishing through discussion with a published author.
- Produce original writing in a variety of unique locations.
- Consider what scares different people and why, and possibly face some fears of their own.

Instructor: Cinnamon Lopez & Neyda Moulrier

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 12 students

Cost: \$1,075

Dates: Monday, March 9 – Friday, March 13 (overnight stays on March 9, 10, & 12)

Founding of America Winterim – Philadelphia & Washington, D.C.

Prepare for an extraordinary journey back in time and into the heart of American democracy! Our *Founding of America* Winterim trip is a six-day adventure designed to ignite a passion for history in every middle school student. We'll begin in the cobblestone streets of Philadelphia, where the air hums with the echoes of revolution. Students will stand in the hallowed halls of Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed, and feel the weight of history as they gaze upon the iconic Liberty Bell. But it's not all history—we'll also embrace the city's modern spirit with a tour that includes the famous LOVE Park and the triumphant Rocky Steps, offering a perfect blend of past and present.

From there, we'll travel by train to the powerful and inspiring Washington, D.C. Here, students will confront history face-to-face at the National Archives, home to the very documents that define our nation. The journey continues with a walking tour of the grand memorials, where students will be moved by the stately beauty of the Washington Monument and the profound inscriptions at the Lincoln Memorial. Throughout the trip, students will have the chance to explore a variety of Smithsonian museums, from the awe-inspiring Air and Space Museum to the thought-provoking Museum of American History. They will also experience local culture by using public transit to get around and exploring the vibrant neighborhoods of Georgetown and The Wharf. The trip culminates with a visit to the solemn Holocaust Museum and an exploration of the memorials dedicated to giants of American progress, such as Martin Luther King Jr. This is more than a field trip; it is a chance to connect with the very soul of America and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Instructor: Chris Lyskawa & Carolyn Hein

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 14 students

Cost: \$2,595

Dates: Sunday, March 8 - Friday, March 13

Freedom Road: A Journey Through the Civil Rights South

On this five-day journey through the South, students will explore powerful stories of the Civil Rights movement while experiencing the culture, music, and energy that make these cities special. The trip begins in Atlanta at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park, where students will see Dr. King's childhood home and learn how his dream of nonviolence took root. In Birmingham, the 16th Street Baptist Church highlights the courage of young people who stood up for justice, reminding us of the important role youth played in history. In Selma, students will walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and visit the National Voting Rights Museum, connecting with the bravery of marchers who fought for the right to vote. Then it's on to Montgomery and a stop at the Legacy Museum, where students will reflect on the journey from slavery to freedom and the work still to be done. The journey ends in Memphis, where students will take in the sights and sounds of Beale Street and explore the Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum, celebrating how African American music shaped American culture. Throughout the week, students will see how the determination of ordinary people created extraordinary change. This trip is a powerful experience that combines reflection, inspiration, and discovery, showing how history, culture, and community connect in the ongoing path toward freedom.

This trip is an adventure on the road, as students travel together by motorcoach. Participants will stay in four different cities (Atlanta, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Memphis) in comfortable hotels with two to three students per room. Most drives are less than two hours, with the longest being a five-hour trip between Montgomery and Memphis. With walking tours, museum visits, and city explorations, the journey keeps everyone on the go, providing hands-on experiences at each historic site.

Educational Goals:

- Analyze key events, places, and figures of the Civil Rights movement to understand how ordinary people used nonviolent action to create lasting social change.
- Explore African American heritage through music, community, and storytelling.
- Reflect on the importance of voting rights, equality, and justice to make connections between past struggles and our own roles as engaged citizens.

Instructors: Melissa Carter and Beth Gaffga

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 16 students

Cost: \$3,170

Travel Dates: Monday, March 9 – Friday, March 13

Glorious Gators: Everglades Ecology and Exploration

Have you ever seen an alligator in the wild? Do you know what an alligator feels like, sounds like, or tastes like? After joining us on *Glorious Gators*, your answer to all of these questions will be a resounding yes!

During this trip, students will explore mangrove forests, wetlands, and waterways, observing alligators, wading birds, dolphins, and other fascinating wildlife. Along boardwalks and trails, students will learn about the plants and animals that make this region so special, as well as the challenges these ecosystems face today. During the week, participants will hike through the Everglades, visit the Gator Farm and Zoo Miami, and spend a full day with a naturalist guide exploring the region's wildlife and habitats via boardwalks, trails, and an airboat.

Students will stay in a fully fenced house with plenty of amenities on the outskirts of Miami. Rooms will be shared, and some students may need to share beds or sleep on inflatable mattresses. With activities spread across South Florida, students should expect a fair amount of driving each day. This is not a beach vacation—students should be prepared for long days outdoors, humidity, and plenty of bugs!

No previous ecology experience is required—just curiosity, energy, and a willingness to explore.

Educational Goals:

- Explore the unique habitats of the Everglades.
- Understand the environmental threats facing this special place.
- Learn the natural history of the alligator and other key species.
- Build skills in observation, ecological thinking, and environmental awareness.

Instructors: Nicole Finan and Liz Bender

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 12 students

Cost: \$1,960

Dates: Sunday, March 8 - Friday, March 13

Good Cold Fun

Everyone's heard the phrase "good clean fun," but really—how much fun can it be if you don't wipe out just a bit? Good *Cold* Fun makes good on its name with the promise of a GREAT time in cold climates. During this Winterim, students will participate in some of the best activities that Colorado winters have to offer, and the skills they learn can be used for many winters to come. Activities include snowshoeing, cross-country skiing (don't worry—there will be a day of lessons for those unfamiliar with this Nordic sport), ice skating, and, to wrap it all up, a day of tubing in Rocky Mountain National Park—this is not your average sled hill! From Eldora to Estes Park, this promises to be a week of winter action.

Students should be prepared for plenty of time outdoors. This means bundling up in cold-weather gear and embracing fun but challenging physical activities. There will be ample instruction, so even beginners will be under excellent guidance. All that is required is a positive attitude and a willingness to seek adventure.

Educational Goals:

- High-altitude winter weather preparedness.
- Learning safe practices for challenging outdoor environments.
- Acquiring and improving winter activity skills.

Instructors: Claire Rako and Erin Billet

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 12 students

Cost: \$475

Dates: March 9 - 13, regular school hours

Space Academy: Huntsville, Alabama

Students will join this Winterim trip as Space Academy trainees. We will fly into Huntsville, Alabama, and take a shuttle to the Huntsville Space & Rocket Center, where each student will experience what it is like to be an astronaut, including the physical and mental training required to complete a space mission. Students will even get to bunk in a model of the International Space Station!

The training activities are based on NASA astronaut programs, with a focus on teamwork and leadership skills. Students will learn astronaut techniques using equipment adapted from NASA's training program and will cultivate teamwork, leadership, and decision-making skills through simulated missions. The week concludes with a graduation ceremony on Friday, where group and individual awards will be given based on performances during the week.

The Space Academy curriculum includes:

- Launching missions to the International Space Station, the Moon, or Mars.
- Training like an astronaut on the 1/6th Gravity Chair and the Multi-Axis Trainer.
- Designing, building, and launching a team rocket.
- Learning team-building skills on the two elements at the Space Camp Challenge Course and in one of the water facilities.
- Developing and using creative thinking skills to problem-solve during an engineering design challenge.
- Hearing inspiring stories about commercial pioneers like Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX.

Educational Goals:

- Train like a NASA astronaut to solve technically challenging anomalies in order to complete a space mission.
- Practice clear communication through aquatic team-building activities and leadership training at the Space Camp Challenge Course.
- Develop and apply engineering skills to construct an ablative shield during the Thermal Design Challenge.
- Cultivate teamwork, leadership, and decision-making skills through simulated missions.
- Learn about aerospace career opportunities.

Instructors: Katie Terry and Greg Hansen

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 16 students

Cost: \$2,525

Dates: Sunday, March 8 - Friday, March 13

Utah Uncovered: A Backpacking Adventure

Uncover the incredible scenery of Bears Ears National Monument while backpacking through southwest Utah's majestic canyons. This adventure incorporates all the elements of a longer backpacking trip in a condensed timeframe.

At the start of the trip, students will learn how to pack a backpack with all the necessities for a multi-day journey. Each day, we'll hike with our gear on our backs, moving deeper into the canyons and setting up new campsites along the way. Nights will be spent under the stars—sleeping beneath tarps or in lightweight tents—offering a true backcountry experience. Along the route, students will explore archaeological sites, practice orienteering with a map and compass, and occasionally hike along shelves high above the canyon floor, where the views are unforgettable.

With the support of our Kent Mountain Adventure Guides, students will gain confidence in the outdoors while keeping the trip fun and rewarding. Participants will also have the chance to show off their culinary creativity by cooking backcountry meals together and will learn basic "Leave No Trace" principles to help keep these wild places pristine.

After five days in the backcountry, we will stop at Glenwood Hot Springs to relax on the way home. Students who want to challenge themselves, experience the thrill of backpacking, and spend a week in beautiful desert canyons will not want to miss this trip. No backpacking experience is necessary—just a sense of adventure!

Educational Goals:

- Develop backpacking skills and practice "Leave No Trace" camping.
- Learn map and compass navigation and wilderness cooking skills.
- Explore ancient Pueblo culture and ruins along the route.

Instructors: Pete Devlin, Becca Spence, and Kent Mountain Adventure Guides

Open to: Grades 6–8

Limit: 8 students

Cost: \$1,535

Dates: Sunday, March 8 – Friday, March 13