

Catalog of Common BVICO Outings

Boulder Valley ICO is equipped to lead an array of outings, so our leaders and client agencies should in no way understand this list to be exhaustive. If you have an outing idea about which you're passionate, let's see if we can make it happen. Photos from many of our outings can be seen [here](#).

Many of the listed outings involve fishing. Our program focuses on a minimalist form of fly fishing called Tenkara because it's less expensive and easier for kids to learn, but we can also teach Western fly fishing.

(E)=easy, (M)=moderately difficult, (D)=difficult, (A)=awesome destination

Half-Day Outings

Outing	Notes (and who has run this outing before)	Best Times
After-school fly fishing on Boulder Creek (E)	Closest fishing locale and reasonably good fishing for small groups of 5 to 10. Michael, Drew	Fall and spring are ideal
Animal tracking hike(s) in Gregory Canyon (E)	Best offered in conjunction with a short class on tracking and two associated outings. On the first outing, we place a motion-sensing camera. On the second outing, we retrieve the camera and captured images. Michael, Drew	Year-round. Yak-tracks needed for winter as the trail gets icy.
Birding at Walden & Sawhill Ponds (E)	Typically run on International Migratory Bird Day, we attempt to identify as many migratory birds as possible. Michael, Deb	May
Fly fishing at Walker Ranch (M)	More scenic location accessible by a 1-mile hike but requires small group size of 3 to 8 Michael, Drew	March to mid May and/or July to October
Fly fishing at Sawhill Ponds (E)	Good fishing for sunfish and enough room for larger groups of 10 to 15. Michael	From May to late September
Dayhiking in Boulder Open Space (M)	Depending on the time of year, the focus of the outing can be ecology or games. Michael, Drew, Deb, Dave	Spring is best but any time of year can work
Map & Compass Skills Workshop (E)	Best done in two sessions. The first session focuses on how to use map and compass. The second session is a game where competing teams attempt to locate hidden objects by following a bearing. Michael	Fall or spring
Night Hike in Indian	We hike to an abandoned cabin, where we tell	Fall

Peaks Wilderness (E)	scary stories while drinking hot chocolate. Michael, Dave, Deb, Drew, Grant	
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Single-Day Outings

Outing	Notes	Best Times
Lost Lake Fishing (M)	Leaving from the Hessie Trailhead, we hike about 3 miles to Lost Lake for decent fishing and good scenery. The trailhead is usually crowded but a shuttle service is available on weekends from Nederland High School. Michael, Deb	June to October
Fishing the Cal-Wood Pond (E)	Cal-Wood's stocked pond is an ideal location for those just learning to fish. Arrangements to access need to be made through Cal-Wood. Michael, Drew	June to October
Fishing at The Loch (M)	Permits for timed-entry to RMNP are required but the scenery and fishing is great. Michael	Late June to late September
Fishing and hiking in Walker Ranch (M)	A hike of roughly 5 miles, roundtrip takes one though good fishing areas and lovely scenery. The fishing is somewhat challenging, so this is not ideal for beginning anglers. Michael, Drew	March to mid May and/or July to October
Snowshoeing in the Indian Peaks Wilderness or Moffat Tunnel Area (M)	We typically build a snow cave or snow tunnels about 1 mile from the trailhead. Lots of hot chocolate and snow ice cream. Michael, Drew, Deb, Dave	January to March
Dream Lake Snowshoeing (M)	A short hike from the Bear Lake trailhead leads to areas suitable for the backwards snowshoe race and belly sledding Michael, Drew, Deb, Dave	January to March

Camping & Service Outings

Outing	Notes	Best Times
Mission: Wolf Service Outing (E)	Typically a 3-day car-camping and volunteer service outing. Participants meet wolves face-to-face. Michael, Deb, Caroline	June to September

Pumphouse Fly Fishing and Camping (E)	A two-hour drive to easy camping, hiking, and fishing along the Colorado River. Michael	April to May, weather permitting or July to October
Lavern M. Johnson Park Camping and Fishing (E)	This semi-urban park in Lyons offers bathrooms and other amenities while still providing a place to enjoy fishing and very light hiking. Michael	June to September
Crane Migration Camping (E)	Car camping in Kearney provides a good point of observation for the migration. Michael	March

Backpacking*

Outing	Notes	Best Times
Abyss Lake Backpacking (E)	An easy 2-mile hike leads to a campsite alongside Scott Gomer Creek with some fishing and lovely fall foliage. A great outing for those new to backpacking. Campfires usually allowed. Ideally, a 2- or 3-day outing. Drew, Michael	July to October. Labor Day Weekend or Columbus Day Weekend are possible.
Waterdog Lakes Backpacking (E)	A 3-hour drive provides access to a steep but short, 2-mile hike to a lovely lake that provides outstanding scenery and fishing. Ideally done as a 3-day outing with a one-night stay at the Nicholson cabin in Hartsel, 2-hours from Boulder. Michael	July to September
Needles District Backpacking (M)(A)	Mind-blowing, other-worldly scenery and the Joint Trail make for one of the best outings we offer. Usually a 4-day outing. Dave, Dave, Dave!	Thanksgiving Break or 4-day BVSD break in Spring.
Snowy Range Backpacking (M)	Relatively easy hiking, good fishing, and lovely scenery make this a favorite. Campfires usually allowed. Ideally, a 3- or 4-day outing. Drew, Michael	July to October
Mount Zirkel Wilderness Backpacking (M)	With 4WD vehicles, it's possible to skip the ascent by driving to Buffalo Pass, about 3.5 hours from Boulder. Great fishing and scenery at Lake Elbert. Ideally a 4-day outing. Michael	July to September
Diamond Lake Backpacking (M)	A 3-mile hike from the Fourth of July Trailhead leads to a lovely lake with good fishing and great scenery. No campfires. Must be calendared by January 2nd to have any chance of getting the needed permits. Group limited to total size of 12. Ideally a 3-day	July to October

	outing. Michael, Drew	
Beartooth Wilderness Backpacking and Yellowstone N.P. (M/D)(A)	A 10-hour drive provides access to relatively easy hiking, amazing scenery, and outstanding fishing. On the return trip, we drive through Yellowstone National Park, stopping along the way to see Old Faithful. Ideally, we stay in the Granite Creek area that night so we can enjoy the Granite Creek Hotsprings. Ideally a 7-day outing. Michael	Best done on the last week of July or first week of August
Tetons Backpacking (M/D)(A)	Starting with an aerial tram ride out Jackson Hole, we access the backcountry of the Tetons without the huge ascent with fully loaded packs. Great fishing and lots of wildlife. Best done with 4 days in backcountry. Can arrange to stay at Granite Creek and hotsprings at the end. Ideally a 6- or 7-day outing. Michael	Mid-july to early August

* Why the big trips? In our experience, there is great value in nearby nature but there is also something transformative and empowering about outings that take people well away from their comfort zone. Moreover, our big trips visit places with scenic value powerful enough to break through habitual modes of thought. Longer trips also change the cadence of life enough that participants can become truly present. That is, big trips can almost compel a connection to nature that nearby nature cannot.