



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Teton National Park
Moose, Wyoming

Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) Program

Guided Youth Day Hiking

Category Defined:

Guided Youth Day Hiking is an instructional and supervised non-overnight hiking activity provided to youths under the age of twenty-one. Day hike groups are limited to no more than 10 participants and two guides per group. Groups operate using specifically authorized trails in Grand Teton National Park (GRTE) and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway (JODR). These services must provide information about the area and its resources, instill conservation ethics, and increase environmental awareness in participants. Operators must adhere to all required safety practices.

Specific Statement of Appropriate Use:

Day Hiking provides a means through which youth visitors can enjoy and gain inspiration from the fundamental resources and values of GRTE and JODR. This activity provides a way for youth visitors to observe wildlife and cultural resources, experience wilderness character, have opportunities for solitude, view spectacular scenery, enjoy night sky resources, and listen to natural soundscapes.

Management Objectives:

Guided Youth Day Hiking adheres to the management objectives of GRTE and JODR. Backcountry travel is an important resource and value of GRTE because it provides access to outstanding experiences in an outstanding natural environment. “The service encourages backcountry use but recognizes the need to control and direct this increasingly popular activity to protect park resources and visitor enjoyment of them”.¹ Working with other organizations to extend the benefits of resource conservation and outdoor recreation is part of the NPS mission.

Operating Plan

Conditions of Use:

- Youth is defined as people under the age of 21. Non-youth participants are prohibited.
- Use limits – 120 youth participants per season, per operator, not including guides.
- Use areas – All officially maintained park trails designated by the official Grand Teton National Park Summer Map.
- Operating Season – June through September. Requests for trips outside the operating season must be submitted in writing to Grand Teton Business Resources or to grte_business_resources@nps.gov and reviewed. Snow travel is not allowed; therefore, the operating season will be shortened if conditions dictate.
- Only day hiking is allowed, no overnight backpacking. All hiking activities must begin and end at an authorized trailhead inside GRTE or the JODR on the same day. This activity does not authorize commercial operators to use the lands of GRTE or the JODR as a crossing permit to backpack outside the park or parkway boundaries.
- Groups are limited to 10 participants which may include up to two guides. Groups with 1-5 participants must have at least one guide, while groups of 6-10 must have at least two guides. Group sizes are limited to a

¹ Grand Teton Backcountry Management Plan 1990, Page 2. Quote taken from the Grand Teton National Park Statement, 1985.



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maximum of 12 total people. A guide is defined as a person over 21, serving in an official capacity as an employee or representative acting on behalf of an organization who shares responsibility for a group of youth.

- All trips must be submitted to the Grand Teton Business Resources office by email to grte_business_resources@nps.gov at least 24 hours before trips begin.
- Operators must conduct a basic safety briefing before tours begin.
- Groups must yield right of way to other users. Groups must not shortcut switchbacks and must follow best practices for mitigating backcountry resource impacts. Guides and participants must stay on maintained trails, and hike in single file on the trail. Hiking off-trail or creating unofficial social trails is prohibited.
- Guides and participants are prohibited from possessing or using alcohol and/or tobacco products and/or illegal substances while conducting trips.
- The name and employing company of all CUA representatives and employees, must be identifiable through the use of uniforms, name tags and logos while conducting tours. Commercially owned, leased and rented vehicles must be identifiable on the outside of the vehicle with a company name.
- A Risk Management Plan must be submitted by mail to the Grand Teton Business Resources office or email to grte_business_resources@nps.gov with all new and renewal applications. All Risk Management Plans must be reviewed before beginning operations in GRTE or the JODR. The Risk Management Plan must include the following elements (policy guidance is available upon request):
 - General information on the operator's documented Risk Management Program and designated personnel.
 - Equipment and general inspection information and/or schedule.
 - The classification of hazards and documented hazard mitigation strategies.
 - Documented plan for reporting and investigating employee/visitor accidents/incidents.
 - Public safety and awareness program relating to the communication of activity and resource related hazards.
 - Employee safety training information.
 - Emergency procedures and NPS accident/incident reporting
- Guides must be provided with adequate interpretative training.
- Training sessions for guides must include at a minimum; general safety guidelines/procedures, expedition travel policies, weather (including lightning hazards), how to deal with illness, safe backcountry travel techniques, map reading, bear safety, human-wildlife interactions, equipment maintenance, information on the Wilderness Act, and Leave No Trace principles.
- All guides must be currently certified in standard first aid and CPR and carry a first aid kit.
- CUA holders are prohibited from conducting activities in or from entering areas that could be considered residential in nature to include administrative areas, service areas, employee housing areas, lodging/cabin areas, in campgrounds and along campground entrance road. In park pickups are allowed at concessions lodging areas with prior written permission by concessions operations.
- All Commercial Activity on the Laurence S. Rockefeller Preserve is prohibited.
- The name and employing company of all CUA representatives and employees must be identifiable through the use of uniforms and name tags.
- All representatives and employees of CUA holders must conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.
- All business transactions must take place outside of Grand Teton National Park (GRTE) or the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway (JODR)