Pre-Orientation Program Wilderness Challenge – Frequently Asked Questions

What is Wilderness Challenge?
Wilderness Challenge is a five-day student-led wilderness pre-orientation program open to incoming (freshmen and transfer) Green Mountain College students. Wilderness Challenge enables students to experience local wilderness areas while creating lasting friendships with their peers. Groups consist of approximately eight incoming students and two or more student leaders trained in outdoor skills, group dynamics, and wilderness medicine.

What programs do you offer?
The 2015 Wilderness Challenge programs include backpacking, backpacking and yoga, backpacking and rock climbing, rock climbing camp, canoeing, and mountain bike touring.

I don’t have any experience, is that okay?
Yes! Wilderness Challenge is open to all interested participants. No previous experience is required.

Who will be my leaders?
All trips are led by trained and experienced student leaders from the Green Mountain Adventure Program (GreenMAP.)

What are the dates of Wilderness Challenge?
Wilderness Challenge will take place August 22-27, 2015.

What is the registration deadline?
Wilderness Challenge registration and payment deadline is August 1.

How much does Wilderness Challenge cost?
$250

How do I sign up for Wilderness Challenge?
Interested participants can sign up for Wilderness Challenge through their personal GMC URL.

How can I pay?
Students need to pay for Wilderness Challenge online at https://greenmtn.afford.com/
On this page, students need to click on “Make one-time payment” button. Students then need to type in their name and student id number. Students should add $250 in the Wilderness Challenge Registration fee category. Students can complete their payment information and submit. Students need to pay their Wilderness Challenge fee before participating in Wilderness Challenge.

If I can’t go can I get my money back?
Payments are nonrefundable after August 1.

When will I find out what Wilderness Challenge trip I am on?
You will receive an email from GreenMAP@greenmtn.edu confirming your trip within a week that your registration is received by the Green Mountain Adventure Program.

I have registered and paid for Wilderness Challenge, now what?
You will receive a registration packet via email from GreenMAP@greenmtn.edu. This registration packet will confirm which trip you are signed up for and include Wilderness Challenge itinerary, packing list, participant questionnaire, liability form, and medical form. You need to complete these forms and email them to GreenMAP@greenmtn.edu.
What should I bring?
Participants should bring items listed in their Wilderness Challenge packing list. Packing lists can be found in participants’ Wilderness Challenge registration packet and online at http://www.greenmtn.edu/GreenMAP/wc.aspx

When can I arrive?
Wilderness Challenge participants can arrive for Wilderness Challenge check-in between 8:00am and 12:00pm on Saturday, August 22. Students flying to Wilderness Challenge from out-of-state should book their flights to arrive at Albany International Airport or Rutland Airport before 8:00pm on Friday, August 21. Students taking a train to Wilderness Challenge from out-of-town should book their train tickets to arrive at Castleton Train Station before 9:00pm on Friday, August 21.

I am from out of state. Is there a shuttle from the airport or train station?
Yes! Three shuttles will pick up students from local public transit centers and bring students to Green Mountain College on Friday, August 21. First, a shuttle will leave from Albany International Airport at 8:00pm. Second, a shuttle will leave from Rutland airport at 8:00pm. Third, a shuttle will leave from Castleton Train Station at 9:00pm. Participants wanting to take a shuttle to campus should book their flights or train tickets to arrive at one of the public transit locales prior to the scheduled shuttle departure times. Students taking a public transit shuttle can move into their dorms Friday evening. Students can indicate if they need a public transit shuttle when they register for Wilderness Challenge through their personal GMC URL.

When can I move in?
Participants arriving to Green Mountain College on Saturday, August 22 can move in to their residence hall between 8:00am and 12:00pm after they check-in with Residence Life Staff. Students will be given their residence hall key when they check-in for Wilderness Challenge. Participants taking a shuttle to Green Mountain College on Friday, August 21 can move into their dorms on Friday evening. Students need to go to campus security, in the basement of Withey Hall, to obtain their key and meet with a Resident Assistant to move into their dorms.

When should my family say goodbye?
Families should plan to say goodbye and leave their students at 2:00pm on August 22. Families are welcome to stay for lunch between 12:00pm-1:00pm in the student dining hall located in Withey Hall. Family members that stay for lunch need to pay $8 per person for lunch. After lunch, families are welcome to attend the participant meeting 1:00-2:00pm in the Gorge located in the basement of Withey Hall.

Can I attend new student orientation?
Yes, and you are expected to attend! Wilderness Challenge will be wrapped up prior to new student orientation which begins Friday August 28.

If I am a Fall Sport Athlete can I participate?
It is fine with us, but check with your coach first! You will not be able to take part in athletic activities until the conclusion of the Wilderness Challenge Program.