



Teen Trips FAQ

1. **How long are the trips?**
 - a. The trips are typically one-week long and follow a Sunday- Friday format. More high risk trips are 8-10 days due to location.

2. **Where do the trips leave from?**
 - a. All trips leave from Pittsburgh, PA. Depending on individual trips, supplemental pick up points will be added along the way for families who may live closer to the trip location (Ex: Morgantown, WV). Other locations may be offered as pre-pickup before traveling to the main pickup point in Pittsburgh (Ex: Cleveland OH or Erie, PA).

3. **Can my son/daughter fly to a pickup point?**
 - a. Yes! We recommend campers who choose to fly, to fly into Pittsburgh International Airport.

4. **Who oversees these trips?**
 - a. Brad Powell, the previous Adventure Programs Director at Camp Fitch YMCA now operates Powell Adventures, LLC. Brad opened the business to continue the program instead of seeing it fail due to YMCA leadership. All trips will be overseen by Brad and if possible by the help of one or two Trip Leaders, who are typically above the age of 21 and possess wilderness first aid skills.

5. Who can go on these trips?

- a. Teens ages 12-17 can go every trip offered. 10 and 11 year-olds can attend only those trips where whitewater paddling is safe to do so.

6. For Zip Lines, what are the weight restrictions?

- a. Most outfitters require the camper to be above 75 pounds and below 250 pounds.

7. What do you do on these trips?

- a. Each trip varies. Most trips feature a day of hiking and paddling. Depending on which trip you choose, some have rock climbing, mountain biking, or both. Each individual trip also has an activity unique to the region it visits. For example there is a cave in Tennessee that we visit on Grayson Highlands while shopping in a small town in an option on Legends of Lehigh.

8. Are the trips coed?

- a. Yes, all trips are coed. The makeup of each trip can vary depending on enrollment. All trips have an undecided final maximum that fluctuates during enrollment. Spots will always be increased, not decreased. The two variables that determine this are the vehicles we take and the staff hired. If there is a situation where the final numbers have all of one gender and only one enrollee of the other gender, parents will be contacted two weeks prior before the trip runs to see if they would like a full refund or to continue the trip. (Example: 9 boys, 1 girl). Typically the trips tend to even out.

9. Where do the campers sleep?

- a. Campers sleep in one-person tents for child safety and bullying prevention. On some trips, cabins will be used and genders will be split up in each room with a counselor of the same gender sleeping in or near the cabin. If facilities do not accommodate well, the Trip Leader (counselor) may have to sleep in an adjacent room near the campers' room.

10. How should I pack for the trip?

- a. Packing lists specific for each trip will be emailed no less than a month before the trip you are signed up for. Typically, the best way to pack is to have a backpack with a sleeping bag and pillow inside it and everything else inside a large or two medium plastic tubs. These items will be stored in a trailer that will be attached to a vehicle. Campers can bring up to two plastic tubs for luggage.

11. What does my child eat while on the trip?

- a. Trip Leaders will cook hot meals for breakfast and dinner most of the time on two burner camp stoves. Campers are encouraged to help make the meals. Meals range from mac n cheese to chicken fajitas. Lunches are typically always cold and on-the-go to be eaten while paddling, hiking, etc. Due to some logistics, meals will be eaten out at a restaurant. In these situations, camp pays for all meals. However, if your child decides they want a second meal at the restaurant, they will have to pay for it on their own.

12. Should I give my child money to purchase souvenirs and/or snacks at gas stations?

- a. Yes, all trips will feature multiple gas station stops. During these stops, campers can buy drinks and snacks, depending on their behavior and Trip Leaders' discretion. These stops are earned, not expected, and can be taken away due to bad behavior. Trip Leaders are not responsible for lost money. This is a 'growing up' opportunity for the child and they should learn or know by now how to keep track of their belongings and money. It is suggested that the campers keep up with their own valuables by bringing a 'bus bag' to keep things in. If parents wish to send their child with a pre-paid card (not a bank card), Trip Leaders will give campers the option of allowing them to hang on to the card in a pocket-binder that will stay in the vehicle with the Trip Leader. Campers will still need to hang on to cash. Powell Adventures, LLC will not be held liable for any lost money and will not be expected to pay back the amount lost.