

Custom trips with The Wild Institute

Chris has guided women's wilderness trips since 1984 and brings these decades of experience to your adventure—mindful of keeping the fear to fun ratio high on the fun side; knowledgeable and intuitive in helping groups bond; instructive and encouraging as you try new skills; and deeply respectful of the land and water where we travel.

The Wild Institute offers custom trips to dozens of destinations that range from weekend outings to weeklong excursions. You decide the length of time, activities, location and accommodations that best suit your group, and we'll help make it happen.

We specialize in women's trips and on occasion have put together mixed trips for families or friends. Previous custom Wild Institute trips have included:

Friends

Mastermind or other professional groups*

Adults and kids (minimum age of 8)

Families

Clubs

Church or other spirituality groups

Alumni outings

Pre- or post-conference outings*

Personal or professional retreats*

*Depending on what you are looking for, Chris can deliver a keynote/program or facilitate sessions/retreats in addition to serving as your wilderness guide

Here are some past custom trips to spark your imagination:

A day on the river for teambuilding/work groups

A half day retreat focusing on personal or professional growth

A weekend on a gentle river with an Overeater's Anonymous group

A 4-day dogsledding trip to celebrate a 75th birthday with family

5 days canoeing in the Boundary Waters with women alumni from a college

One week (and longer) canoe trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Canada, and the canyons of Southeastern Utah, all designed for groups of friends

Custom Trip FAQs

How large a group do I need? Though it depends on the activity, generally we need between 6 and 12 participants to put together a contract trip.

Are contract trips for women only? While the majority of our programs are designed for women, we occasionally design trips for families, friends, and work groups that are co-ed.

What dates are available for custom trips? Given Chris' speaking schedule, we can only offer a few trips a year. We'll work together to find dates that fit everyone's schedule (we do this many months in advance). Dates are reserved on a first come/first served basis. Once the planning is underway, we'll put a tentative hold on your date and secure it when deposits are received.

What are my responsibilities as the contact person on behalf of a group? We'll be with you every step of the way. You are the primary contact person for The Wild Institute. You are responsible for recruiting group members, securing firm commitments from at least the minimum number needed to run the trip, ensuring deposits and payments are collected, and answering general questions for your group.

What does The Wild Institute provide? We provide all the trip planning and support to help you build your group. On the trip, we provide all camping and/or group gear, food, permits, insurance, and guides (Chris guides almost all of the trips, but can occasionally arrange for trusted guides with decades of experience for your trip). We also provide detailed letters to the participants describing the trip, including logistics, a packing list, and health forms. For personal or professional retreat groups, we also offer programs in the areas of leadership, teamwork, diversity, and wellbeing.

How do I begin the process of designing a custom trip? Your trip begins with a phone call. We'll discuss your group's needs, hopes, and desires. If we are a good match for you, we'll explore pricing, dates, and logistics. When all the details are settled, we'll reserve your dates when we receive your deposit.