

Canyonlands Field Institute Spring 2006 E-News



Warm greetings from Moab! After a month of uncharacteristic weather including hail, snow, lightening and thunder, the sun is beginning to warm the canyons, the rivers are on the rise and the 2006 season for Canyonlands Field Institute is about to begin. Spring is our busiest season, and we are looking forward to all the trips and tours we have planned. Many CFI trips are still available for those of you wanting to escape into the outdoors. Below are **updates, discounts and news** from CFI. Enjoy!



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Whitewater Academy for Teens

For teenagers who have always dreamed of becoming a “river rat,” Whitewater Academy for Teens is a perfect opportunity to get their feet wet. Scheduled for August 6-10, 2006, Whitewater Academy takes kids through the basics of boating on the river. Camp cooking, “reading” rapids and becoming versed in local ecology are just some of the skills teens will pick up. The trip begins at Loma, Colorado and ends on the Class III

rapids at Westwater Canyon. This is a hands-on course where kids have a chance to explore the river and learn how to enjoy nature with minimum impact.

Opportunities for Students and Schools

Get students into the outdoors with one of CFI's outdoor learning adventures. Dates are available from April to October (except in July). We offer a **10 percent discount** to public schools and **student scholarships**. Early incentives are also available including a **waived student fee** if you register by May 15 for fall 2006 programs.

Since 1984, CFI has been providing quality environmental education programs to students from around the country. Whether they're paddling down a river or trekking into canyon country, students learn through hands-on activities. CFI naturalist guides instruct students on geology, ecology, science, wildlife and cultural history, all the while instilling a sense of respect and curiosity for the natural world. **Multi-day river and land programs** are geared toward middle school, high school and college aged students and our **daily programs** are ideal for any age.

In addition to river and land learning adventures, CFI also hosts field camps at Professor Valley outside Moab. Students sleep in tipis while the days are filled with land and river activities. Groups may also rent **Professor Valley Field Camp** for their own programs.

Kickin' Off the New Season: A Collection of EDVentures

Raft through rapids with your family. Hike the authentic Navajo trail to Rainbow Natural Bridge. Travel with llamas into the backcountry of Lizard Head Wilderness. CFI provides EDVentures for explorers and adventure seekers of all ages. **Multi-day land and river programs** for families and adults only are available. You may choose to create your own trip with one of CFI's **Custom Eco-Adventures**. We will help you and your group set up a trip that caters to your interests and time frame. **Daily programs** are also available for those who may not have the time for multi-day tours. Below are samples of this season's trips.

Colorado River Rafting Trip (June 17 (eve) – 21, 2006): A great trip for families wanting to explore the outdoors and learn the basics of river rafting. CFI naturalist guides teach rafting techniques and at the end of the day you and your family camp under the stars. **\$680/adult; \$480/youth (6-17 years old)** Deposit: \$250/person

San Juan River Upper Canyon Trip for Adults (June 5 (eve) - 9 and Sept. 12-16, 2006): For moderately active adults, this trip makes time for both rafting and hiking. Hikers can explore archaeological sites while learning about the geology and history of the area. Between land stops, CFI guides will show you how to maneuver your boat on the river. **\$680/person** Deposit: 250/person

Wild by Nature: A Women's Rafting Trip (August 3 (eve) – 8, 2006): Retreat into the wilderness where you can relax and let your hair down. During this trip, women have a

chance to learn about and connect with the outdoors. **\$680/adult; \$580/youth 16-17 years**
Deposit: \$250/person.

Public Relations Internship Available: A Note from the Winter 2006 Intern

I had begun to mold after 30 days of straight rain in Seattle when I decided to make a break for sunnier skies in Boulder. Somewhere between Portland and Ontario, ID, however, I heard from Canyonlands Field Institute about an internship I applied for in December. I decided to skip Boulder and hunker down in Moab for awhile.

This internship isn't just a great excuse to live in one of the most beautiful and outdoor adventure filled areas of the country; it's also a great learning experience. As an intern, I picked up skills and experiences that will help me in future job hunts and spice-up my resume. As my term is ending, the position is open from April – June (minimum eight weeks). If you're looking for great work experience and endless amount of sunshine (plus a monthly stipend), send your resume, cover letter and three references to Canyonlands Field Institute. Good Luck!

Where are They Now?

If it wasn't for Canyonlands Field Institute, former CFI guide Ben McKinley may not be married right now.

"I met my wife because of CFI," he said.

As a CFI guide and field camp coordinator in 1999 and 2002, Ben often worked with students from Glenwood Springs Middle School. Unbeknownst to Ben, his wife worked for the same school. It wasn't until a teacher from the school invited them both on a trip to the Grand Canyon that they met.

Since then and since CFI, Ben has been a high school teacher in Colorado Springs, the Dean of the Mathematics at Colorado Rocky Mountain School and now the Academic Dean of CRMS. He isn't so much concerned about where he is now, but where he will be in the future. By July this year, Ben will be retired and switching to part-time tutor and full-time dad. Already the father of 18-month-old Bryce, Ben and his wife will adopt another child next year. The couple will travel to China next March and return with their daughter. For now, Ben is teaching, chasing Bryce around the playground and waiting to meet his daughter.

The Apprentices have Arrived!

CFI would like to welcome Ashley, Adam and Matt as the 2006 CFI river apprentices. This program is designed for people who have experience in outdoor education and want to add river rafting and guiding to their resume. Under the expert tutelage of returning CFI guides, the apprentices will learn to guide rafts, develop curriculum and river rescue

techniques. At the end of their training, apprentices may have the opportunity to be promoted to CFI naturalist guides.

Naturalist Note

You may think those big, black birds cruising over the Canyonlands are crows, but in fact, they are ravens. Immortalized in Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven," these birds have captured the imaginations of generations. Many cultures view the raven as a god or a messenger from their gods. Native Americans told tales of their ingenuity and deceptiveness. A researcher wanting to test the bird's brain power placed several small cookies on the ground. A raven immediately tried to pick up all the cookies to consume in private. As soon as it got one cookie in its beak and tried to pick up another, the original fell out. Finally, the raven picked up a cookie and set it on top of another. The raven then picked up the two cookies and set it on a third. The bird continued this stacking method until it had all the cookies in its beak and flew back to its nest. Ravens may have the brawn, but they also have the brain.

CFI Wish List

We're looking for donated items or items for a "good price."

1. Chainsaw: In good working order for maintenance at Professor Valley Field Camp.
2. Generator
3. Digital Camera: For use in our Marketing/Public Relations Department.



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