

Adventures for Wilderness

It's our third year and it is with pleasure
I invite you to join the fun!



By Jamie Jack

Adventures for Wilderness (A4W) is AWA's outreach, education, and engagement program for wilderness conservation. An Adventure can be anything from education through storytelling, epic challenges, field trips, walks in the wilderness, painting in the wilds, building bee nesting boxes or planting native orchids. AWA's program promises to give you an introduction, a strong appreciation, a sense of why AWA strives for conservation of wild places and wild things. I thought you would enjoy reading these snippets from some of last year's Adventures.

Ghost Wildfire Exploration

The tour was 100 percent first class, I'm sure I speak for all the attendees, we learned a ton – and it was fun! Kudos to the AWA for highlighting this issue via the Ghost Watershed Tour. – Wendell Koning

Cochrane Rancho Adventure

What could be better than time spent with a bunch of lovely kids hiking in a gorgeous valley, through the tall conifers with their gnarled roots, up along the ridges overlooking the valley, and spending time at a museum of western heritage (The Stockmen's) that allows kids to touch everything, and even to try on cowboy hats, boots, and chaps? – Margaret O'Regan

Jumpingpound and Hounds Hike

Along forest-shaded trails covered with rocks and tree roots, conversations connected friends old and new to each other's lives and to a shared love of wild places. As the group emerged on the summit meadows, conversation fell away as the group paused individually and collectively to take in the beauty of the wildflowers, the majesty of the Rockies rising to the west, and the seemingly infinite sprawl of the prairies to the east. – Kate Van Pernis

Plateau Mountain Bike and Hike

Plateau Mountain is truly a gem in Alberta's wild spaces inventory. There is a band of bighorn sheep that one can almost always count on seeing and almost always at this time of year, a bounty of alpine flowers in bloom. – Chris Saunders

Dinosaurs and Badlands (take 2!)

On the evening of July 16 Dr. François Therrien, Curator of Dinosaur Paleocology at the Royal Tyrrell Museum, delivered an excellent presentation via Zoom on Alberta's wealth of dinosaur fossils with emphasis on the Albertosaurus bonebed in Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park. The next day on our hike to the bonebed we were able to locate the exact spot shown in the historic photos we had seen the evening before. What a thrill as we walked along and our youngest adventurer Raymond, imagining the dinosaurs of long ago, filled the valley with his dinosaur roars. – Rob and Tjarda Barratt

The Rundle Ridge

Consistent with our team motto – "Don't Let the Old Man In" – and a pervasive sense of madness we had waited until it was a day with a blistering high temperature of 37 degrees. – Jim Campbell

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In the end, I cycled 44 km and climbed 42 pitches of 5th class in 36 hours. I even got 4-5 hours of "sleep"! – Lindsey Wallis

Mount Hoffman Hike

I think those who hadn't traveled the road west of Turner Valley were moved by its beauty and will want to see more of this special area. – Julie Docken

X-Country Ski the Mount Shark Loop

What a special day to be in the incomparable Alberta wilderness. – Sky England

The Great Alberta Parks Bike-a-thon

The idea for this trip began, as all big ideas must, with a spark of inspiration... Doing the research I came across wave after wave of truly hidden gems, tantalizingly peeking out at me from every corner of the province. – Sean Nichols

Please visit our website or social media platforms to learn more about becoming involved. One of the things I like most about these Adventures is that not only do they bring together friends, supporters, and donors, but they also introduce us to you and broaden our reach across the province.

Thank you to so many, for your participation, coordination, sponsorship, or all three. You have been an important part of wilderness conservation in Alberta. Not only does A4W build community amongst adventure enthusiasts but is a vital fundraiser that helps AWA focus on conservation concerns and achieve a vision of protection and wise management of wild spaces throughout Alberta.

Reconnecting with nature allows us to reset emotions and refresh perspectives. AWA is an effective, credible, and independent advocate for Alberta wildlands, wild water, and wildlife. Since inception, we have understood that what wilderness we have now, is all we shall ever have. By participating in these Adventures and encouraging others you are helping AWA carry on its mandate to conserve Alberta's wild places and wildlife.

I'm looking forward to meeting you on an upcoming adventure.

Jamie Jack is a member of the AWA Board of Directors and A4W Steering Committee Chair.