

PROGRAMS: Continued from 3

capable. This program had great success, and out of this experience, Doug Nelson developed what is now called Aspen Achievement Academy (AAA). Over the years, AAA also trained and influenced many therapists, medical staff, logistics personnel, field instructors and others who had learned how to operate a wilderness program. It is very difficult to find a wilderness program in the State of Utah that has not been influenced by these three men and, specifically, Aspen Achievement Academy. From these modest beginnings, wilderness programs in Utah have developed more than 10 fold since 1989 when AAA was founded.

The culture of Utah is also unique and lends itself to the development of programs that are intended to help others. Utah citizens as a whole place value upon the family and community, perhaps more than any state in the Union. This sets the stage for supporting parents in getting help for their children and developing laws and regulations that effectively manage the huge number of programs in Utah.

Another major cultural characteristic of Utah is all said on their license plates: "UTAH! The Beehive State." Its citizens have a deeply ingrained practice of doing things well, whether it be a smoothly run Olympics, an efficiently operated airport, a

downtown that is clean and easy to navigate or their numerous and respected universities and colleges, which also fuel programs with talent. Utah values achievement and entrepreneurial initiatives as well as hard work. It is no wonder that Utah leads the country in the development of programs for troubled children and families. From where I sit, the citizens of Utah and their culture have set the stage for their success in our industry.

I believe that an overwhelming number of elementary school boys diagnosed with conduct disorders or with what is often called attention deficit disorder, or ADD, are misbehaving not because they have a biological imbalance or deficit, but because they are seeking attention to replace the void left by their mothers and fathers.

~ William Pollack

In 1983 Wilderness Treatment Center was the first program to successfully blend conventional treatment with a true wilderness expedition. Our in-patient center is located on a working cattle ranch in Northwest Montana. The setting is perfect for young men who can have a difficult time in the confinement of a conventional program. Treatment includes plenty of ranch work, group and individual therapy, educational lectures and films, attendance at AA/NA meetings in nearby Kalispell, plus a 16 to 21 day true wilderness expedition.

As always, W.T.C. has a licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor present for the duration of every expedition maximizing the therapeutic value. They meet some pretty big challenges facing life without chemicals; a good foundation based on a spirit of success and an ever increasing self-esteem is a great beginning in the journey of recovery.



- 60 day Primary Treatment
- Medically Supervised
- Designed for males 14-24

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