



Ironwood Tree Experience

FALL HIGHLIGHTS



MADERA CANYON, OCTOBER 2022

Words used by youth to describe the feelings of being in nature

Relaxed, Peaceful, Calm, Serene, Happy

"Your responsibilities leave you for a little bit."

"Just being around trees and wildlife makes me feel nurtured."

"You don't have to worry about your outside life. You're there in the moment."

CAMPING TRIP IN THE CHIRICAHUAS, NOVEMBER 2022

"Ironwood Tree Experience... helps us get into nature, which really helps with stress that I get from school. ITE campouts is an opportunity to be in nature and meet new people... I feel connected to the trees and water when I'm out in nature."

-Jesus, 16 years old



STAFF HIGHLIGHT

"Being out in nature with youth helps me to bring a fresh appreciation to my experiences in these places. The youth are often struck with awe at things that I would otherwise not notice, and this helps me to see and feel the wonder and magic of these places."

-Olivia, ITE Field Instructor



"The fall moments that are most nurturing to me are when I gather with my friends outside around a campfire. It is so cozy to feel the cool, crisp air and the heat from a wood fire. The laughter of friends while enjoying the night sounds of nature is very nurturing."

-Suzy, Executive Director

"Thinking of this last trip we were on, it's really nurturing when it seems like students are having a very genuine, authentic experience that's full of wonder... Those experiences where kids really get to lean into or soak in the experience of being outside. You can kind of see it on their faces or in their expressions, just being excited to be where they are."

-Isaac, ITE Field Instructor

"I love walking through the woods with teenagers. On a Mt. Lemmon hike in September, every 5 minutes one teen (Oscar) was finding new creatures: scorpions, wolf spiders, tiny lizards. He has a knack for connecting with insects and reptiles. Watching him and his excitement helps jumpstart the perpetual child in me that loves to chase a lizard, hug tree bark, marvel at a leaf. Teens bring that energy when they feel comfortable to nerd out and be themselves."

-Kristen, ITE Youth Development Manager

"I've been enjoying and taking advantage of the cooler weather by sitting outside and observing birds in my backyard. I've also enjoyed going for hikes that don't require me to wake up before the sun rises!"

-Chrissy, ITE Development Coordinator

"I have really enjoyed watching the colors change just outside my house, getting a flavor of fall."

-Deborah, ITE Operations Manager