



2026 Arvada Stake Youth Trek Fireside

WALK WITH ME *as I* walk with *them*

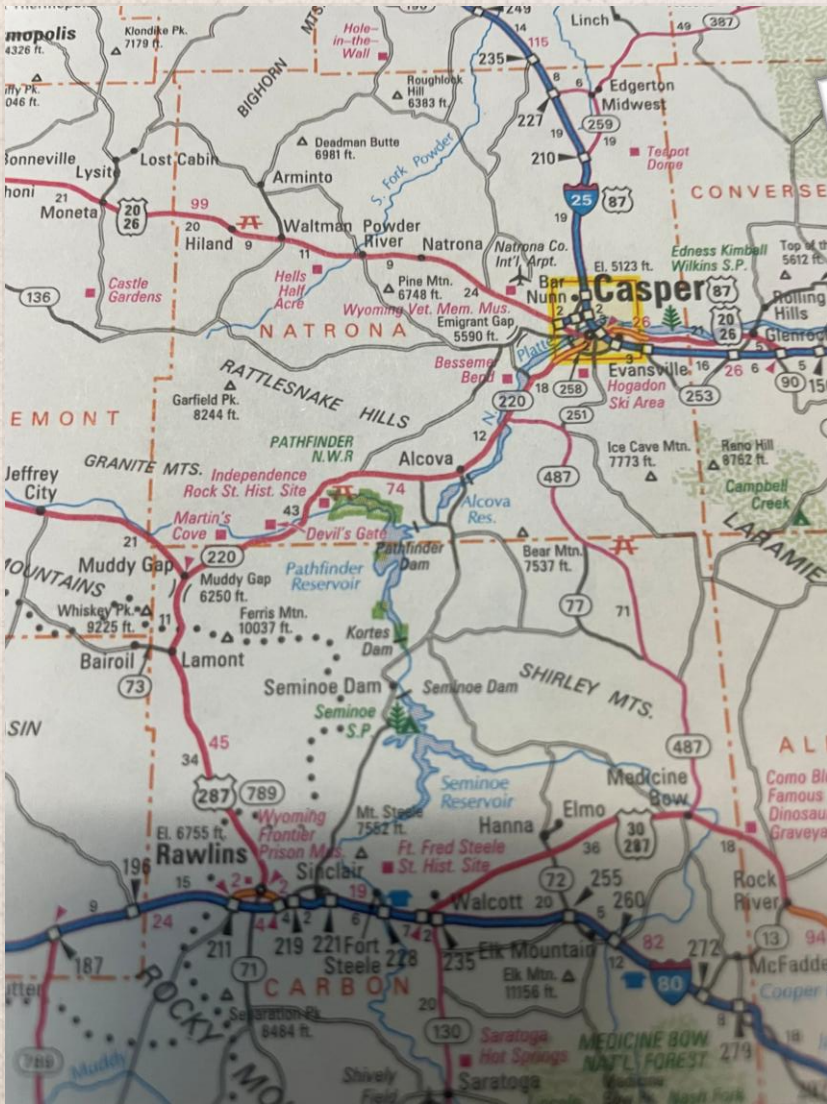


History of Trek

Arvada Colorado Stake

WALK WITH ME *as I* walk with *them*

History of Trek – Original Trek in 1994





2026 Arvada Stake Trek

July 20th – July 24th, 2026

WALK WITH ME *as I* walk with *them*

Trek: An Immersive Pioneer Experience



2026 Theme:

WALK WITH me

as I walk with *them*

Moses 6:34

&

Proverbs 4:26

What is a “Pioneer”



- Google’s Definition of “Pioneer”:
 - A person who is among the first to explore, settle, or develop a new area, idea, or field of study. They are essentially trailblazers who initiate change or open new paths for others.

- The Gospel’s Definition of “Pioneer”?
 - Someone who *shows faith by sacrificing for their testimony of Christ*
 - Handcart pioneers
 - Converts
 - First priesthood holders
 - First to receive temple covenants
 - Youth attending the 2026 Arvada Stake Trek

Sacred Locations We'll Visit



Martin's Cove

A Place of Refuge

- >500 pioneers from the Martin handcart company camped here in October 1856
- Provided shelter from the storms
- Rescue companies arrived here to save the pioneers



Sixth Crossing

A Place of Sacrifice & Love

- Where the Mormon Trail crossed the Sweetwater River for the 6th time
- The pioneers crossed the river in freezing conditions
- Saints from the Willie handcart company encountered rescue wagons



Rocky Ridge

A Place of Trial & Endurance

- One of the hardest stretches of the entire trek
- It was crossed in snow, wind and freezing temperatures
- Many pioneers collapsed and died from exhaustion and cold

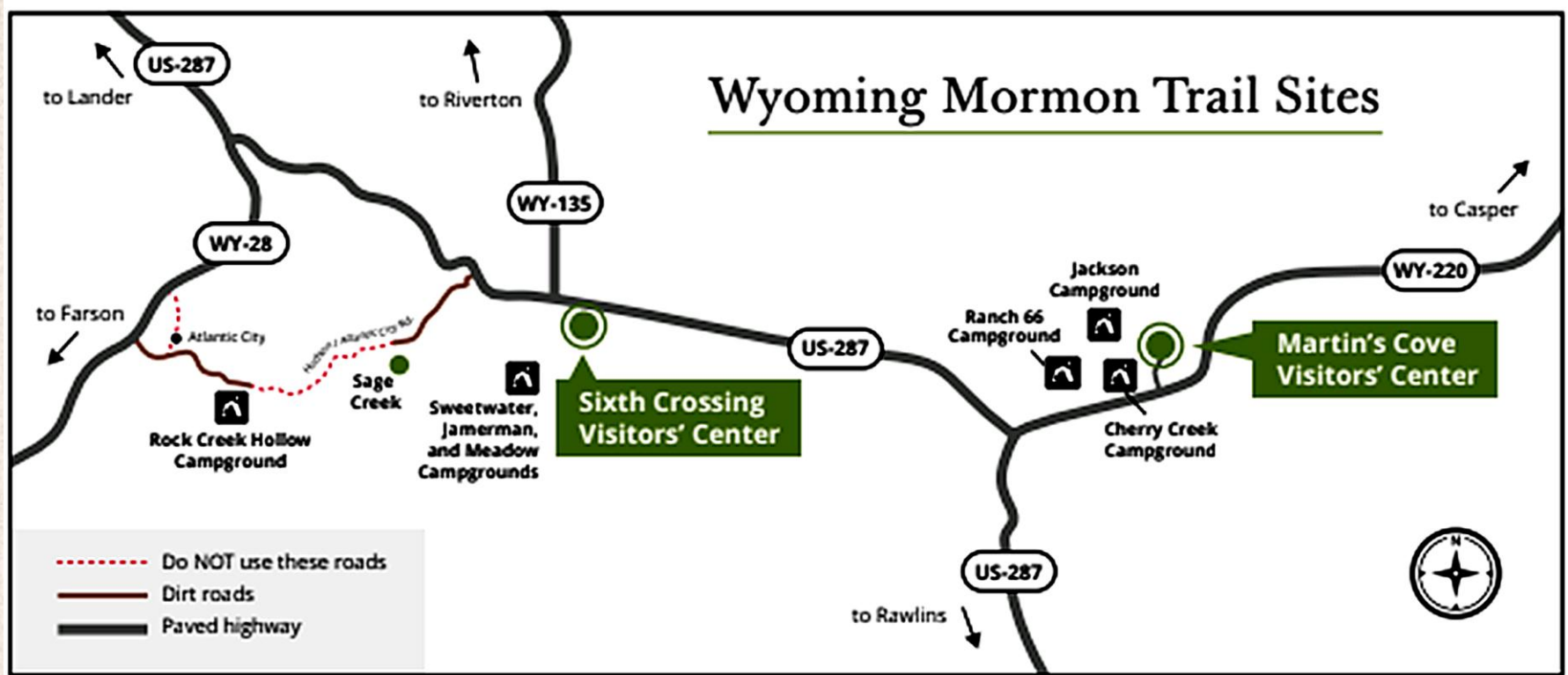


Rock Creek Hollow

A Place of Remembrance

- A well-used pioneer campsite in the 1850's
- A sacred location where at least 15 pioneers from the Willie handcart company were buried

Map



- Between Muddy Gap, WY & Lander, WY (~5.5 hours from Arvada)
- ~1 hour north of Rawlins, WY
- Buses will be provided for youth & leaders (**no personal vehicles**)

General Itinerary



- **Monday, July 20th** – Depart early from Arvada. Arrive in Martin’s Cove.
 - *Miles hiked (no handcarts) = 2*

- **Tuesday, July 21st** – Trek Martin’s Cove loop
 - *Miles hiked with handcarts = 6.5*

- **Wednesday, July 22nd** – Trek Sixth Crossing loop
 - *Miles hiked with handcarts = 6.5*

- **Thursday, July 23rd** – Trek Rocky Ridge to Rock Creek Hollow
 - *Miles hiked with handcarts = 15*

- **Friday, July 24th** – Depart for Arvada. Arrive by early evening.

- **Total Miles** = ~30 miles
- **Total Elevation Gain** = ~1,700 ft.

Other Activities



- Square dancing
- Pioneer games
- Youth led devotionals
- Stake & Ward Firesides
- Cooling off in the river
- Cooking in Dutch ovens
- Amazing food



Important Dates



Registration: March 31st – April 30th

Trek Training (Ward POCs): Sun., April 12th (2:30-3:30pm)

Trail Hands & Big Brothers/Sisters: Sun., June 7th (4:00-5:00pm)

Trail Hands & Big Brothers/Sisters: Tues., July 7th (5:00-6:00pm)

All Youth & Leaders:

- Tues., June 23rd – Trek Square Dancing Activity
- Tues., July 7th – Prep Activity (tent set up, Dutch oven cooking, First Aid)
- Sun., July 12th – Pre-Trek Fireside
- July 20th – 24th : TREK!
- Sun., July 26th – Trek youth focused Sacrament meeting
- Sun., August 2nd – Post-Trek Fireside

Stake Trek Committee



Handcart Company Organization



0-8 youth = 1 cart
9-17 youth = 2 carts
18+ youth = 3 carts

Wards will be responsible for assigning youth to handcarts

Trail Hands = Ward YM & YW Leaders
Big Brother/Sister = Ward Youth

Committee Updates



Clothing – Sophia Sousa

Trek Clothing Guide



Start Here

Don't let pioneer clothing stress you out—it may feel unfamiliar at first, but many youth end up loving it! Dressing like pioneers becomes a fun and immersive part of the experience. We want you to be **comfortable, protected, and ready for a wonderful, spirit-filled trek experience!**

Our goal is to share what experienced trekkers have learned and what the Church recommends, so you feel **prepared, comfortable, and excited** for Trek.

In obtaining or making pioneer clothing, leaders and youth should not spend excessive time or money. Many items can be found in **existing wardrobes, secondhand stores, or borrowed.**

See the **Pioneer Trek Packing List** for guidance on clothing quantities and other required items.

Food – Dallen Shaw



Medical – Sister Rolfson



General Packing Guidelines



- Each person will be allowed a maximum of 17 lbs. which will include:
 - Clothing
 - Jackets
 - Mess kit
 - Inflatable sleeping pad
 - Sleeping bag
 - Toiletries
 - Scriptures
 - Etc.

Why 17 lbs?

“We were allowed **17 pounds of baggage for each person**. This included clothing, bedding, and cooking utensils. Some people who wanted to take more than allowed placed on their bodies more clothing than usual while being checked.” — Mary Ann Jones, member of the first Mormon handcart company.

Youth Responsibilities



❑ Complete the monthly Youth Trek Study Guides which will include:

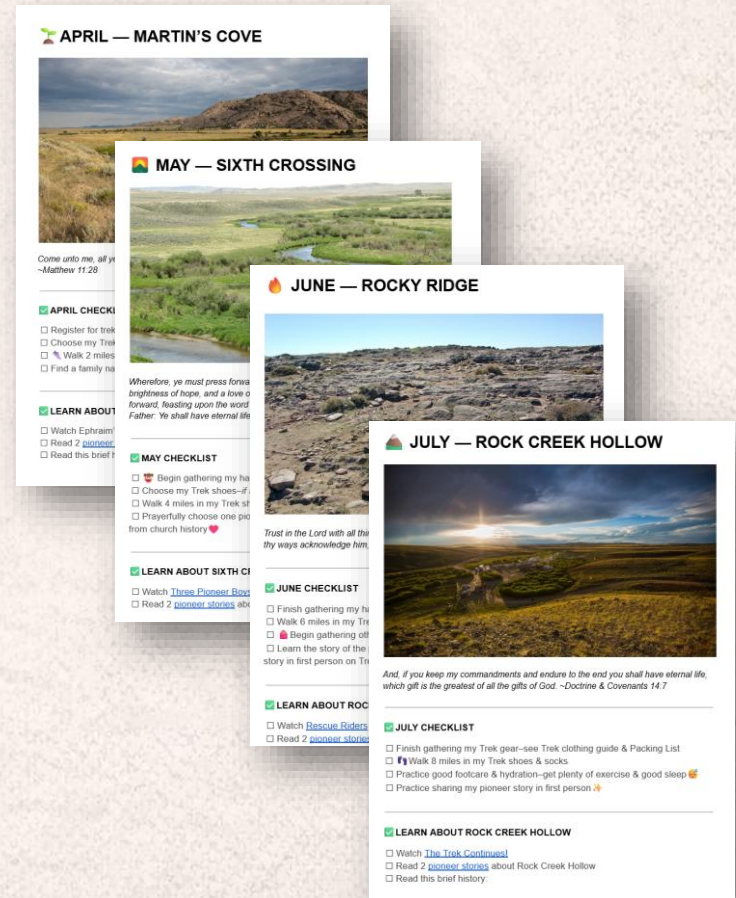
- Gear checklists & reminders
- Pioneer stories and history of each sacred location
- Pioneer spiritual topics to study

❑ April – Martin’s Cove

❑ May – Sixth Crossing

❑ June – Rocky Ridge

❑ July – Rock Creek Hollow



Family Responsibilities



- ❑ Help youth to find 1 or more family names to take to the Temple before Trek

- ❑ Help youth to find 1 pioneer name to represent while on Trek and be prepared to share their story
 - Help the youth find a “pioneer” from one of these 3 categories:
 1. A pioneer ancestor that crossed the plains with the saints
 2. A random pioneer that crossed the plains with the saints
 3. A “pioneer” ancestor or family member who sacrificed something for their testimony of Christ

- ❑ Watch “17 Miracles” & “Ephraim’s Rescue” as a family

Ward Responsibilities



- Plan a youth temple baptism trip for youth to take their family name (family, quorum, class, or entire ward youth)

- Complete 15 total miles of preparation hikes with 1,500 total ft. of elevation gain **while hiking in your Trek shoes**

- Make sure to hike dirt trails with rocks, not just sidewalks

- Assign 1 adult leader to be a point of contact for all things Trek

- Adult Leaders = read “The Price We Paid”

- Provide Supplies (more to come....)



Arvada Stake Youth

Come join us for Christ centered activities and fellowship!

2026 Stake Youth Goal

Seniors – Read the Book of Mormon before graduation

Start today and read 5 chapters a day to finish by graduation!

Non-Seniors – Read the Book of Mormon in 2026

Start today and read 1 chapter(s) a day to finish by the end of the year!

Upcoming Activities

March

- [Mar. 31st: Pioneer Trek Fireside, Stake Center, 7 pm \(14+\)](#)
- Mar 31st: Registration deadline for Apr 18th Talent Show

April

- [Apr. 9th: Teachers/Priests Basketball Draft, Stake Center, 7-9 pm \(YM 14+\)](#)
- [Apr. 11th: Deacons Basketball Tournament, Alkire, 8 am-12 pm \(YM 12/13\)](#)
- [Apr. 12th: ABC Seminar \(Graduating Seniors\)](#)
- [Apr. 16th: Teachers/Priests Basketball, Stake Center, 7-9 pm \(YM 14+\)](#)

May

- [May 3rd: ...](#)
- [May 7th: ...](#)
- [May 8th: Father-Daughter Pickleball, Stake Center, 6-8 pm](#)
- [May 14th: Teachers/Priests Basketball, Fathers vs. Sons Stake Center, 7-9 pm \(YM ...\)](#)



Arvada Stake Youth Website – Trek



Home Activities 2026 Trek Contact Us

Arvada Stake Youth

Come join us for Christ centered activities and fellowship!

Join us for Pioneer Trek 2026!

July 20–24, 2026

All youth turning 14+ in 2026

[Go to Clothing Page](#)

[Go to Packing List](#)

Important Dates

- [March 31st: Pioneer Trek Fireside \(7 pm, Stake Center\)](#)
- March 31st – April 30th: Registration
- April 12th: Trek Training for assigned ward POCs (2:30–3:30, Alkire)
- June 7th: Trail Hands & Big Brothers/Sisters (4–5pm, Alkire)
- June 23rd: Trek Square Dancing Activity (7–8:30pm, Alkire)
- July 7th: Trail Hands & Big Brothers/Sisters (5–6pm, Alkire)
- July 7th: Trek Prep Activity (6–8:30 pm, Alkire)
- July 12th: Pre-Trek Stake Fireside (6–7pm, Stake Center)
- **July 20th–24th: Trek!**
- July 26th: Trek–youth focused Sacrament talks
- August 2nd: Post-Trek Fireside (6–7pm, Stake Center)



Church Resources

- [Preparing to Trek at the Wyoming Mormon](#)
- [Handcart Trek Reenactments: Guidelines](#)
- [Trekking at the Wyoming Mormon Trail S](#)
- [Trek Safety](#)

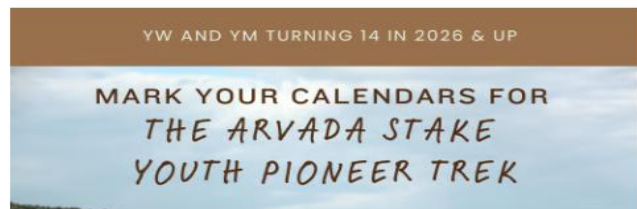
Recommended Study Guides

[April](#)



Potential Preparation Hikes

- [Homestead and Mesa Trail Loop \(3.3 mi / 613 ft elevation gain\)](#)
- [Green Mountain \(3.8 mi / 682 ft elevation gain\)](#)



Additional Trek Information



- Important dates and upcoming activities
- Trek registration
- Packing lists
- Recommend prep hikes
- Clothing information
- Study guides



arvadastakeyouth.org



Questions?

Visit Booths in Cultural Hall

Food
Logistics
Clothing
Medical
Registration

Registration



Google Users



Non-Google Users

