“WSO, while it lacks the literal warmth of the late summer afternoons of NSO, is jam packed with fun and bonding.”
- Brendan O'Donoghue ’12

This semester, CC welcomes new Winter Start students to its community. CC’s tenth group of Winter Starts kicked off their college career with Winter Start Orientation (WSO). Just like regular NSO, WSO focuses on service while allowing time for students to bond with their peers and orient to the new challenges of college life. This phenomenal experience takes place on the Baca campus where students spend five days in the beautiful foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range.

WSO focuses on service. This year’s students bonded while working with long time WSO partner organization, Kundalini Fire Management. Students cut down trees and cleared brush, chipping wood, and cutting fire wood on and around the Baca campus and Crestone area. One student described their service experience saying, “I think you get to know people best when you’re doing service projects because you can support and help each other, and there’s a huge sense of achievement and satisfaction in the end.”

Of course, WSO isn’t all work and no play. CC’s Baca campus is located in one of Colorado’s many beautiful locations. This provided students with plenty of opportunities to explore the wonders of the Sangre de Christo mountains and the San Luis Valley. Students took day hikes in Great Sand Dunes National Park and explored the unique town of Crestone. The Baca campus also provided loads of opportunities for fun. According to WSO leader Brendan O’Donoghue, “During the day we all volunteered for fire mitigation projects. After dinner however, we got take part in fun times not limited to essential oils and soundscapes with Peter May, button, t-shirt, and play dough crafts night, and a long soak in the hot springs.

WSO would not be possible without CC’s great student leaders who dedicated their time to help new students prepare for college life. Student leaders accompanied the Winter Starts on their orientation experience to facilitate reflective discussions, lead day hikes, and generally orient new students to college life. This might seem like leading is all fun and games but leaders play a serious role in preparing their trippies for success. In addition leaders have to endure the difficult task of listening to far too much “dubstep” in the 12-passenger vans.

At this point, Winter Start students are likely concealed in the CC population as they complete their FYE’s. They may look like your typical slack liner or neon-clad dancing fiend but make sure to say a friendly “hello” and get to know them!

**Happenings**

**MEETINGS:**

- **Outdoor Recreation Club:** Tuesday at 12:15 pm in the WES Room
- **Climbing Association of CC:** Thursday at 12:15 pm in upstairs Worner
- **Kayak Club:** Roll Sessions Mondays 8 pm-9:30 pm at the pool—All skill levels

**GEAR HOUSE HOURS:**
Monday-Thursday: 4 pm-8 pm  
Friday: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

**RITT KELLOGG CLIMBING GYM HOURS:**
Monday-Thursday: 4 pm-10 pm  
Sunday: 6 pm-10 pm  
Women’s Wednesday’s: 4 pm-6 pm  
Beginner’s Tuesday’s: 3 pm-4 pm

**TRIPS:**

- **ORC:** Leader Training Trips abound!  
  Nordic Ski Trip Saturday Feb 25

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- **BreakOut:** Alternative Spring Break Trips to New Orleans, Utah, South Dakota and Texas
- **FUCC:** Weekly Ski Bus signups on Wednesdays, $3 to Summit County

**ORC:**
- Spring Break leader training trip  
- Outdoor Ed Department:  
  Spring Break Rocky Mountain Field Institute Service Trip

*Sign up for trips in Campus Activities

**Snow Report**

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Current as of Feb 27, 2012 from coloradoski.com
According to Will, “We have been paddling small sections of this river for years. We wanted to do something rare and see the river in its entirety.” In the final phase of their trip, they found that the Colorado no longer reaches the sea. All of its water sucked out for human use, the Colorado dries up 100 miles before the Sea of Cortez, forcing Will and Zak to paddle through irrigation canals and slog through waist deep mud for days.

To find out more about the Source to Sea Journey and the State of the Rockies Project, visit www.stateoftherockies.com. Photos courtesy of State of the Rockies.

- Written by David Spiegel ’12

Nordic Skiing Day Trip

As we pulled into the Frisco Nordic Center, we could tell it was going to be a good day. The fresh snow sparkled in the bright sunlight, which in turn was reflected in the excited faces of all 12 of us. After a bit of chaos getting everyone outfitted with boots, poles, and skinny skis, we were out on the trails. A quick lesson in the morning turned us all into kicking and gliding pros, with only a few snowy faces. There rest of the time was spent touring around the beautiful trail system, dipping up and down alongside Frisco Bay. After Meredith Bird and I, the leaders, returned from a longer loop, we headed back into the lodge expecting to see everyone there, tired and resting. Yet nobody was to be found - they were still all out skiing! We found everyone again eventually - two by the side of the trail taking photos, another couple flat on their faces on a hill, another skating around confidently, and the last few gliding majestically along in a group. Quite a day of skiing! We returned to campus for a breakfast-dinner (the reason we thought everyone had come on the trip in the first place), yet only a few stayed for the pancakes and real maple syrup. Turns out it was the skiing that made everyone so excited about the trip!

- Written by Neal Smeltzer ’12

Enthusiastic About Bikes? Cycling Enthusiasts Club

- CC’s Cycling Team/Cycling Enthusiasts Club is hosting a bike race on campus this block!
  Contact matthewbeaton@coloradocollege.edu to volunteer or race on March 10th!
- Join the Cycling list-serve if you want to meet cyclists and hear about group rides!
  Contact: crosbynordbloom@coloradocollege.edu

Where Are They Now? Source to Sea Expedition

Class of 2011 graduates Zak Podmore and Will Stauffer-Norris found themselves in a typical situation as they moved on to life after CC: What do we do with ourselves? They came up with an unusual answer. The two CC alums decided to paddle the entire length of the Green and Colorado rivers. Beginning in October at the true source of the Colorado in Wyoming’s Will and Zak traveled over 1,700 miles in their kayaks to reach the sea this February.

Zak and Will partnered with Colorado College’s State of the Rockies Project to raise awareness about dangers facing the Colorado River.

Throughout their journey, they saw the countless ways in which the Colorado is losing water to corporate interests and population stresses.

According to Will, “We have been paddling small sections of this river for years. We wanted to do something rare and see the river in its entirety.”

In the final phase of their trip, they found that the Colorado no longer reaches the sea. All of its water sucked out for human use, the Colorado dries up 100 miles before the Sea of Cortez, forcing Will and Zak to paddle through irrigation canals and slog through waist deep mud for days.

To find out more about the Source to Sea Journey and the State of the Rockies Project, visit www.stateoftherockies.com. Photos courtesy of State of the Rockies.

- Written by David Spiegel ’12

A Reason to Celebrate!

- New Director of Outdoor Education for 2012/13 and beyond!
- 60 New WFR’s certified during half block!
- Cycling Enthusiasts and Aspen Trip Potluck
- CACC Climbing Film Showing!
- 536 FUCC’ers heading to Winter Fest in April!

Email us your photos!

Have a question about Outdoor Education or any of the groups we advise (BreakOut, ORC, FUCC, Kayak Club, Cycling Club, Ahlberg Gear House, Ritt Kellogg Climbing Gym)? Email us! OutdoorEd @ColoradoCollege.edu

Zak and Will at the Source of the Green

Will paddles in a tributary to the Colorado

Practicing Nordic Skiing
Photo by Meredith Bird ’15
Winter camping in Rocky Mountain was a blast. The leaders were inspirational, and everyone made positive contributions to the trip's success. It was especially fun hiking to Fern Lake and getting cherry cider after the trip. We all learned outdoor skills and got to know each other pretty well. I am very grateful for the opportunity.

-Written by Chris Dickson ’14

ORC Back Country Skiing Hut Trips

The Blue Lakes Hut is snuggled into the foothills of Mt. Sneffels, a jagged and rocky 14’er in the San Juan Mountains. As my group of intrepid backcountry skiers skinned into the hut, we saw evidence of instability all around us: a massive, broken cornice to the right, and north-east facing debris piles from recent avalanches on nearby slopes. But, the sun was shining brightly, it was 40 degrees, and we were skinning five miles up a mellow road, relatively free of danger. As we hiked, our guide, Mike Bromberg, told us epic stories of his recent exploits in Chamonix which made the miles quickly slip by. Then, around the bend, the green hut came into view, and we knew it would be a great three days.

The next day we went on an long tour deep into the basin below Sneffels under clear blue skies, and then skied back to the hut for some delicious burritos. On day three, we found and lapped a sweet snowfield full of pillows and ended the night with some more survival stories over bowls of delicious chili. The trip went smoothly and the weather was perfect. While we couldn't do as much skiing as we hoped because avalanche conditions were poor, we made the most of it, and still had an excellent, educational adventure.

-Written by Chris Dickson ’14

A Few Wintertime Adventure Photos!