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*A boy sat alone next to a fire and carved a mask into a round of birch bark. He carved out the days of his boyhood, knowing he would leave it there and die to his boyhood in the dying light of a lonely fire. "When I awoke," he said, "I was a man."*



### *Our Purpose*

The Men's Leadership Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring authentic manhood. We encourage and support soulful living in the service of a just, joyful, and sustainable world.

## *Guides*

*Jason Geoffrion, MA*

As a teacher and mental health counselor Jason has worked with high school students and adults throughout Minnesota, Alaska, and Colorado. Through it all he has seen a deep desire and hunger from men to experience meaningful connection with themselves and others; and the dire ramifications when that connection is absent. Jason has guided wilderness trips, camping excursions, father/son retreats and rites of passages for people of all ages.

*Ed (Eamon) Duffy*

A youth mentor who has been involved with men's work, ritual process and personal growth work for over 15 years, Eamon is a men's group leader, sustainable environment advocate, world traveler, and spiritual counselor. He has three nephews and two nieces, and aspires to offer future generations a better world.

*For more information please contact*

**Men's Leadership  
ALLIANCE**

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## *Heroes Wilderness Journey*

Embarking on the Transition to Manhood

(Ages 13-18)

August 5-8, 2010

Guided and Staffed by:

Jason Geoffrion  
Eamon Duffy

Advisory Support  
Elder John Davis, PhD



**Men's Leadership  
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*Sponsored by The Men's Leadership Alliance*

# About This Program

## The Young Hero

I want to find authentic experiences that I connect with, that mean something to me personally. I want to be decisive, and to step into life with energy and excitement. I want to discover what truly moves me in this world, then act to create the life of my choosing around my dreams and passions. I am ready to begin becoming my own man. I am ready to undertake the Hero's Passage.

## The Vision

We believe that healthy, empowered, and supported boys will grow into their mature masculine selves, and become balanced, whole, and just men in our communities, nation, and world.

## The Program

Adolescence - making the transition from childhood to adulthood - is confusing and difficult, and keeping the adult heart and soul alive and well is a life-long practice. Our ancestors recognized it as one of the most critical times in a person's life and as a crucial step for the entire community, and they marked the coming of age time with rites of passage. These experiences always used wild nature as the crucible and essential support for the transitions of adolescence.

The purpose of this trip is to support young men in the journey of adolescence, and to help them prepare for their own passage into adulthood. This trip will help them develop some of the capacities needed for a rite of passage, become familiar with some of the central practices (such as ceremony, time alone in nature, and listening to each others' stories), and awaken the innate framework - the archetypal imprint we each carry - for how to navigate life transitions.

The wilderness affords an ideal opportunity for adolescent boys to learn and grow. The lessons it teaches are natural and uncontrived - cold, sun, rain, stars, silence, elk, finch, challenge, comfort, and fascination. This trip will teach the boys some of the ways of the wild - both internal and external - giving their own wilderness a chance to emerge in a healthy and spacious environment.

## Details

We offer a four-day, three-night wilderness camping trip for boys ages 13-18, in a format we have used successfully with youth for over a decade. We set up a camp together in the mountains outside Estes Park, teach basic wilderness camping and safety skills, practice respect for each other and the land, and introduce important elements of rites of passage. The core of the experience is a full day (morning and afternoon) solo in nature, with the option of an overnight solo for those who are ready. They will also have fun, play games, learn tracking and other wilderness skills, eat well, and tell fantastic stories around the fire.

## Dates and Times

9am, Thursday, August 5, to 3pm, Sunday, August 8.  
Parents and families are invited to send the boys off on this trip and welcome them back on Sunday afternoon.

## The Site

We will drive and then walk to a wilderness campsite on private land surrounded by national forest between Lyons and Estes Park, Colorado. This beautiful, secluded site offers a profound sense of wilderness and homecoming.



## Fees

We offer a sliding scale registration ranging from \$350-475. We ask that you pay what you can afford and help with scholarships. We know that this program is easily worth \$475, but we want to ensure that everyone who wishes to attend is not held back due to financial consideration.

A minimum non-refundable deposit of \$150 is required to hold your reservation and assure you of a spot in this gathering. Meals are included. Space is limited to twelve participants.

If you wish to set up a payment plan or inquire about a scholarship, please arrange this with the MLA office prior to the event.

Deposit (non-refundable): \$150

### Fee

- before July 1 \$350-475
- July 1 to 14 \$415-475
- after July 14 \$475
- on-site payment \$525

### Cancellation

- before July 1 full refund (minus deposit)
- July 1 to 14 75% refund (minus deposit)
- after July 14 no refund

Register on-line for this program at [www.mensleadershipalliance.org](http://www.mensleadershipalliance.org). Once there, you can register securely via MLA's payment link or print out our online form and mail in your registration.

Logistical details, equipment list and information to help the boys prepare for this trip will be sent upon registration. A pre-trip letter and phone conversation with the participants and one of the guides is part of the preparation; getting to know each other ahead of time, so we all can be safe on the land and fully enjoy this experience.