

# SAAS OUTDOOR & TRAVEL

# JOSHUA TREE

**February 16-22, 2025**

**8-12 Upper School Students**

**Cost: \$3000**

**TRIP LEADERS:** Tom Harrington, Teddy Carpenter,  
Lucas Van Meter

Join us to go climbing in Joshua Tree National Park! There, we will spend five days camping, climbing, and enjoying the desert scenery. We will spend four days on the rock, exploring the unique granite formations of the park. Build both your climbing skills and your relationships with your peers as you work together as climbing teams. Join us for this climbing experience!

**Prerequisites:** Climbing experience preferred, but not required.

**Trip Goals:** The goal of this trip is to encourage personal growth within our students through the experience of outdoor climbing and camping. Students will work on developing skills that will help them feel more confident. By learning the skills and safety measures required for outdoor climbing, students will learn the importance of responsibility for themselves and others. Guided outdoor climbing will help push some of our students outside of their comfort zones, allowing for personal growth as they safely try something that they may find challenging.

Due to the extensive safety precautions, students will learn the importance of trust and how to build that trust within a community. Students will need to learn when to take the lead while others are climbing in order to keep their peers safe. They will also need to learn to hand over leadership to others when it is necessary for their own safety. This partnership helps them understand that a community member plays many different roles at different times.



## **Trip Goals, Cont'd:**

Throughout this experience students will be working on teamwork, as it is an integral part of being able to climb outdoors since you cannot do it by yourself. Climbing is inherently a trust building sport where students learn how to keep each other safe and to encourage one another up a route. Students will also practice clear communication skills to keep each other safe while climbing outdoors.

The secondary goal for this trip is to foster a respect for and understanding of the natural world and wild places. Through exploring Joshua Tree National Park, students will learn about delicate desert environments and the effects that people can have on the world.

Reflection and discussions at the end of the day will encourage students to think about their challenges, things they learned, and ideas that came to them as they experience and learn about outdoor climbing culture.

When the trip is complete we hope to see new friendships develop, increased self-confidence and self-esteem, possibly a new interest and passion for outdoor sports and recreation, and a deeper understanding of how to continue to be good stewards for these areas.





### Contact Information:

For any further questions please email:

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To register for the trip, complete any necessary trip surveys and find more information, please visit our SAAS trips page by following the link here:



[www.seattleacademy.org/student-life/outdoortravel](http://www.seattleacademy.org/student-life/outdoortravel)



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