



Presents...

A Parent's Guide Listing Eleven 2015 Teen Rite of Passage Programs in North America

While some rite of passage (ROP) programs run throughout the year, many of them take place during the summer months and involve outdoor experiential education in nature. Here are examples of the types of programs available for boys, girls and both. This list was arbitrarily limited to twelve organizations and it serves to illustrate the wide range of programs offered during 2015 in the US and Canada. The eleven programs below are listed in alphabetical order by geography. Click on the underlined links below to go directly to the program website pages.

Canada, British Columbia

Young Men's Adventure Weekend Boys Ages 12 - 17

50+ Teenage boys have a rite of passage weekend in the British Columbia Lake Region.

"In 1990 a group of men were discussing the predicament of today's male teenagers and the tough challenges they face transitioning into manhood. Deciding they wanted to do something about it, this group of volunteer men created the Young Men's Adventure Weekend. Guiding the YMAW vision is the belief that as men we must return to our roles as mentors and guides to assist our young men in making the transition into manhood by creating rituals, providing challenges and by exemplifying positive male qualities."

[Click here for Photo Gallery.](#)

California

Young Men's Ultimate Weekend Boys Ages 13 – 20

"Studies clearly show that young men are suffering from stress related symptoms as they grow up from boyhood into young adulthood. Without telling them what to do, our trained mentors help young men discover their authentic values and use them as the main source of their wisdom."

Locations and dates for 2015

Napa, CA June 27 – 29

Spokane, WA Aug 15 – 17

Boulder Creek, CA Sept 12 – Sept 14

[How to talk to your son about the weekend](#)
[Mission, Values and Purpose](#)

[Stepping Stones Project](#) Coed Ages 11 – 14

“The Coming of Age (COA) program is a two to three year teen mentoring program for 6th, 7th and 8th grade youth, offering guidance and support as they transition through the challenging adolescent years. This is a time when young people are consciously or unconsciously taking their first steps toward fulfilling the universal need for initiation. Stepping Stones is dedicated to creating meaningful rites of passages for youth to help them consciously forge new connections to themselves, their communities, and the environment.”

“This is the phase of life in which most contemporary people get stuck – and the phase in which most need the greatest support. *Adolescence holds the key to our becoming fully human.*” – Bill Plotkin

[Boys to Men Mentoring](#) Boys grades 6 - 12

“Boys to Men’s school mentoring program is a community based mentoring model serving middle school boys age 11-14, and high school boys age 15-17 identified by school administration to be at-risk of educational failure, dropping out of school, juvenile delinquency or gang-related offenses. Program elements include weekly in-school and after-school meetings of mentors and boys, a 48-hour Boy’s Adventure Weekend, a 24-hour experiential mentor training, and ongoing training and support for carefully selected and screened mentors.”

[Program Locations Worldwide](#)
[Boys to Men Adventure Weekend Description](#)

[School of Lost Borders](#) Coed

This school offers many programs for youth and adults on vision fasting, ceremonial and ritual practices and the arts of living and dying.

[Young Adult Vision Fast](#) Coed Ages 17 – 24

Program Overview: “This unique experience is a twelve day ROP program in nature that provides young people with the opportunity to look deeply into their lives and explore who they really are and discover their gifts. It includes 4 days of preparation for a 4 day solo time in nature. The solo in nature is followed by a 4 day integration period designed to prepare them for stepping into adulthood.”

Colorado

[Men’s Leadership Alliance](#) (MLA) Boys, Ages 9 – 18

“If we as a community don’t initiate our boys in healthy ways – by marking their transition to manhood through ritual and ceremony – then the boys are left on their own to initiate themselves, which often is done in very unhealthy ways. MLA is committed to providing powerful initiation

ceremonies that will help them step into manhood, and do so in a way that the boys know they are not alone and that other men and the community are there to witness their transition, bless them for their visions and gifts, and support them in the years to come.”

[Creating Passage Ways for Fathers and Sons](#), Boys 9 - 12 June 4 - 7, 2015

[Crossing the Threshold Rites of Passage to Manhood](#), Boys 13 – 16, June 24 - 28, 2015

[Melissa Michaels and Friends](#) Coed, Ages 16 - 28

“Through the arts of body, heart and soul, we support individuals and communities as they repair and move into collaborative service and leadership. Our leaders are empowered to move into the world from a place of deep kinesthetic connection with themselves, their people, with the earth and with all of life seen and unseen.”

The Men’s Eagle Council’s director, Asa Henderson, went through Melissa Michaels’ Surfing the Creative Youth Camp at the age of 23, and it opened him to a more embodied, connected way of being, and set him on the path toward mentoring youth. Melissa’s work is incomparable for cultivating a vital and embodied relationship with other people and the earth.

[Surfing the Creative Youth Leadership Rites of Passage Program](#) June 28 – July 5, 2015

[Dance of Adolescence - Dance based Rites of Passage and Educational Training](#)

July 25 – Aug 1, 2015

[Feet on the Earth](#) Girls Ages 4 - 17

“Here girls are supported to be their most authentic selves while being part of a community. Girls are encouraged to name their challenges and celebrate their successes. They find refuge in laughter around the campfire and the gentle ways of nature. Girls develop resilience through practices that guide them to resource creativity, inner stillness, community, and connection. They receive support as they transition from childhood into adulthood, including the opportunity to participate in a community-supported, wilderness rites of passage.”
Home schooling nature programs are also available.

Connecticut

[The Center for the Advancement of Youth, Family, and Community Services Rites of Passage Experience](#)

Coed and Ongoing Community Based Programs – a great resource on ROP benefits

“The Rite of Passage Experience© (ROPE©) is more than just a quick fix or another “program.” It is an intentional assets-based process that builds a community’s capacity to respond collaboratively to the challenges faced by today’s youth and their parents.

It integrates the lessons of our ancestors with contemporary social and behavioral science to mobilize the community, within a common language and shared emotional experience, to employ its resources to help its children grow up well and become healthy, happy, responsible adults.”

Hawaii

[Pacific Quest](#) Coed, For Struggling Adolescents and Young Adults

“At Pacific Quest we create life-changing experiences for struggling adolescents and young adults. Pacific Quest at Reeds Bay is a clinically-innovative, outdoor wilderness therapeutic program for young adults located on the Big Island of Hawaii. Pacific Quest provides sustainable living skills for young adults through outdoor programming, and offers a holistic, yet highly clinical approach to individualized treatment.”

[Programs for Adolescents \(13 – 17\)](#)

[Programs for Young Adults \(18 – 24\)](#)

Washington

[Rite of Passage Journeys](#) Coed, Ages 8 – 18

“Rite of Passage Journeys, established in 1968, fosters self-discovery, community and connection with the natural world. Our mission is to mentor youth, adults, and elders through life transitions, initiating soulful leaders for the next generation.

Rite of Passage Journeys offers a very broad range of ROP wilderness based programs for girls, boys and coed programs including many more than are listed here.”

They also offer a wide range of programs for adults over 18 on mentoring, leadership and much more with the full listing for [2015 right here](#) at the bottom of the web page.

[Becoming a Young Woman](#) Ages 12 - 14

[Coming of Age for Boys](#) Ages 12 - 15

[Coming of Age for Girls](#) Ages 12 - 14

[Solo Crossing](#) Ages 15 - 18

That's it for the 11 Rite of Passage programs!

If you didn't see a program in your area, or one that meets your needs, you can visit youthpassageways.org and search their database of rites of passage all over North America.

You can also encourage your teenage son to make use of the [Men's Eagle Council's free self-paced online course](#), or sign him up for one of our [live online mentoring courses](#) facilitated by [our staff](#).

Happy hunting!