

# CREATIO



## VISION

A WORLD THAT FINDS GOD IN ALL THINGS.

## MISSION

CREATIO GUIDES ALL PEOPLE TO  
ENCOUNTER THE BEAUTY OF CREATION  
AND THE CREATOR. WE LEAD  
TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES TO  
RESTORE RELATIONSHIPS WITH  
OURSELVES, WITH OTHERS, WITH NATURE,  
AND FUNDAMENTALLY WITH GOD.

# MISSIONARY GUIDE PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET

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## WHAT IS CREATIO?

Creatio is an answer to the most important question facing the Church - how do we "go and make disciples of all nations" in a world completely desensitized to God? Young adults are struggling to navigate life's most important decisions. Constant distraction, an unfulfilled search for identity, moral relativism, and religious apathy - are a few of the symptoms of this generation's struggle. Creatio's work as a Catholic apostolate focuses on transforming the hearts plagued by the wounds of this generation through beauty and relationship. We form young adult missionaries to lead transformative pilgrimage, mission, and wilderness excursions designed to challenge participants to disconnect from today's culture and restore their fundamental relationships - with themselves, with each other, with creation, and with the Creator.

## 5 CORE VALUES

1. **REVERENCE:** WE HAVE A PROFOUND RESPECT AND LOVE FOR ALL OF GOD'S CREATION
2. **GRATITUDE:** WE RECOGNIZE THE GIFTS WE'VE RECEIVED AND SEEK TO GIVE IN RETURN
3. **READINESS TO CHANGE:** WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THE CHANGES NECESSARY IN ORDER TO BECOME VIRTUOUS MEN AND WOMEN
4. **CHARITY:** WE LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS FOR HIS OWN SAKE, AND OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES
5. **EXCELLENCE** WE STRIVE TO PERFORM ACTIONS THAT ARE GREAT IN THE EYES OF GOD

## 4 PROGRAM PILLARS

### 1. TRANSCENDENCE

All that is true, good and beautiful have their source in Christ and lead us to Him. Creatio missionaries are particularly sensitive to the presence of truth, beauty and goodness in themselves, in others, and in the physical world. Their hearts and minds are continuously drawn up towards God.

### 2. TRANSFORMATION

Creatio missionaries possess a strong desire to become different beings—to mortify their old selves and rearise as new men and women in Christ. They maintain a readiness to decrease so that “He may grow in them,” and are active participants in the ongoing reconciliation of their own relationships with God; with themselves; with others; and with creation.

### 3. COMMUNION

Creatio missionaries know that their lives are meant for communion, that it is through “mutual service and dialogue with his brethren, [that] man develops his potential” (CCC #1879). Missionary guides possess the humility to serve others with kindness and generosity.

### 4. MISSION

Creatio missionaries have an insatiable desire to share in the Catholic Church’s mission to help people find and fulfill their God-given identity. Missionary guides artfully lead others to disconnect from distraction; awaken their senses; and perceive truth, beauty and goodness in themselves, in others, and in the physical world.

**“CREATIO NOT ONLY TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE A GOOD  
MISSIONARY AND GUIDE BUT ALSO THAT THE EVANGELIZATION  
OF OTHERS COMES FROM THE BEAUTY OF THE HUMAN  
PERSON, AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IS A HEART  
TOTALLY DEVOTED TO GOD.”**

**~ NATHAN, MISSIONARY 2019-2021**





## 3 EXPERIENCE GOALS

### 1. LEADING WITH BEAUTY

Nature provides no shortage of opportunities to inspire wonder. In the experience of wonder, we naturally begin to contemplate the harmony, integrity, and brilliance of the Beautiful. The Beautiful penetrates our heart and leads us to question that which is greater than ourselves. We experience our own smallness and sense that we are not alone.

As our culture encourages us to look away from the Church and religion altogether for the answers to burning questions about identity, we are still naturally drawn to the beauty of God through His creation. While we've seen nearly a 50% increase in young people identifying as having no religious affiliation over the last decade, we've seen a corresponding increase in 'outdoor participation' among that same group. Today's young adults are flocking to the outdoors to "escape the everyday grind," and they are interested in participating in personalized, curated experiences. From camping to pilgrimage; backpacking to hut trips, the Creatio experience is a welcoming and approachable invitation—to younger generations, in particular—to explore that inescapable desire for God that is written in our hearts.

### 2. ENCOURAGE TRANSFORMATION

We discover, firstly, on this journey, that to begin a process of transformation the person must challenge their way of seeing the world, their fundamental worldview. In questioning our own worldview, we move beyond self-interest, and see our lives as part of a greater organism or collective experience.

Growing during this phase of the Creatio Experience is the understanding that we must change if we are to become who we truly are called to be.

### 3. DISCOVER AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

We conclude the Creatio Experience on the final day with a celebration of the communion given to us. Whether through surprise or not, participants should be overwhelmed by the incredible gift of true communion that follows a renewal of self, the reception of identity, the healing power of silence, the gift of others in friendship, of communion itself. Love-Charity, the virtue of communion, must be received and given to remain authentic to what it is. To live in Communion is to already experience the eternal life that we long for. It is a foretaste of that coming Kingdom, and it is that Kingdom already among us.



## 2 GUIDES PER TRIP

### GUIDE THE WAY

All Creatio Experiences are led by missionary guides—young adult missionaries who are particularly sensitive to the presence of truth, beauty and goodness in themselves, in others, and in the physical world. Each missionary is trained as an outdoor guide and is certified as a Wilderness First Responder. Each experience is led by at least two senior guides who has extensive experience leading groups within each of our five locations.

We lead three types of experiences:

- **Adventure**

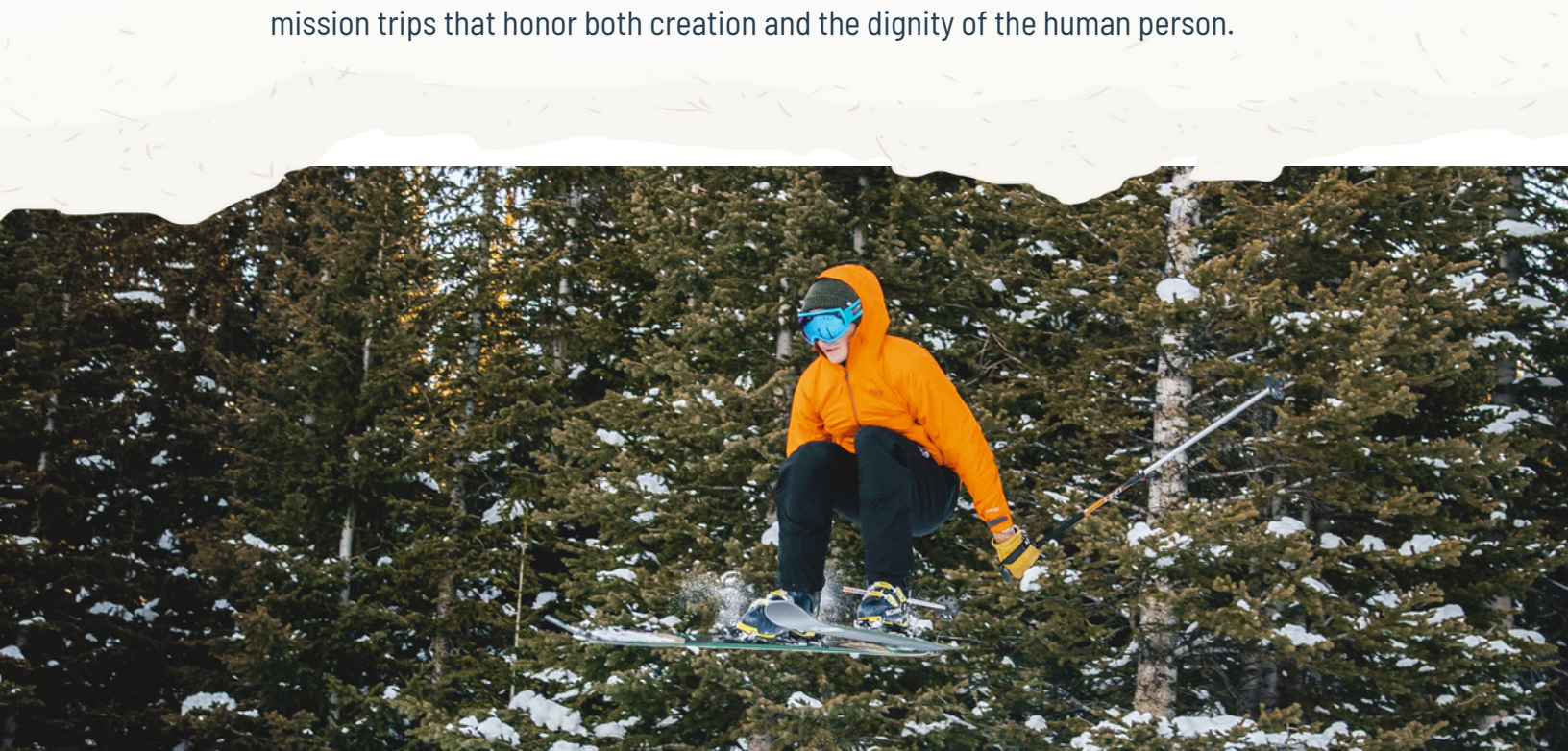
- We lead hiking, camping and backpacking trips in the Colorado Flat Tops Wilderness area. Beautiful views, challenging hikes, and cozy campsites provide the perfect environment for the signature Creatio experience. Participants also learn the skills necessary to safely adventure in the backcountry.

- **Pilgrimage**

- We lead pilgrimages that unite the physical with the spiritual and offer a mindful escape from the frenetic pace of modern life. On pilgrimage, we see how our lives are a voyage filled with joy, effort, beauty, suffering, surprises, goals, adventure, expectation and love. We always travel by foot, and we develop authentic relationships with the local community along the way.

- **Mission**

- We develop deep & sustainable relationships with remote communities in need, and lead mission trips that honor both creation and the dignity of the human person.



# 1 EXPERIENCE

## CREATIO EXPERIENCE (NOUN)

(KREE-AY-SEE-O /IK'SPIRĒNS/)

(1) An event that encourages us to disconnect from distraction; awaken our senses; and perceive truth, beauty and goodness in ourselves, in others, and in the physical world.

(2) a catalyst for personal transformation – designed to revitalize our natural desire to find and fulfill our God-given identity.

(3) A Trip, led by the Creatio Team, that focuses on the integral development of the person.

*See Also:* Pivotal, Cathartic, Momentous, Earth-shattering, Radical, Revolutionary

Five (5) Locations with One Single Experience

We operate in five locations—the Colorado Backcountry; Costa Rica; Chimayó, New Mexico; Camino de Santiago, Spain; and Pollone, Italy (Frassati Pilgrimage). Each of these locations provide three key elements of a Creatio Experience in their own, unique way:

- Transcendence in Beauty (wild, overwhelming, novel; beauty in nature and beauty in the reflection of God in others, hospitality)
- Transformation in Silence (time & space for deeper reflection, disconnect)
- Relationship w/ creation ('hands in the dirt,' suffering & discomfort; some true elements of risk & danger, but with the ability to learn the proper tools to manage themselves and others)







# THE FACTS

## ORIENTATION (AUGUST)

New Missionary Guide (MG) Staff report near the beginning of August for training. Orientation is 4 Intense Weeks that immerse you in the heart of our work. following the Creatio Experience Model formation is integral and personal, and it is done on-site in the beautiful Colorado Mountains! You can expect a spiritual retreat, formative intellectual talks, a 10-day Wilderness First Responder (WFR) Course, a 3-day Intensive Fundraising course and more...

## SUPPORT RAISING (SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER)

Creatio Sends its New Staff home for 6-8 weeks to seek the support they need to help sustain our mission. First and Foremost, support-raising reminds us of our chief task in the evangelization world, that we are called to "preach the good news to all of Creation" (Mk 16:15). We need to remember that this mandate is so powerful, and so pressing, that the first Christian community "laid their goods at the feet of the apostles" (Acts 4:34-35) in order to allow those sent out to preach to do so without worry.

## PLANNING (NOVEMBER - DECEMBER)

The Full team Comes together at the end of each year and works together all-hands-on-Deck to fill the schedule full of experiences for the following year. The mission begins long before the Missionary is "in the field" with preparing the ground for the upcoming season.

## TRAINING (JANUARY - FEBRUARY)

As the team ramps up for our "Trip Season" MGs can expect to spend time both inside and outside the office preparing themselves for the great work ahead, learning and honing the necessary skills to lead each trip as a mission.

## EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP (MARCH - AUGUST)

The beginning and end of our work.





# TESTIMONIES

CREATIO HAS BEEN LEADING TRANSFORMATIVE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES FOR ALL PEOPLE (YOUNG AND OLD, CATHOLIC, CHRISTIAN AND AGNOSTIC) FOR OVER A DECADE. THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR PARTICIPANTS HEAR ABOUT US THROUGH REFERRAL, AND 98% OF PARTICIPANTS SURVEYED REPORT TO HAVE GROWN IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AFTER THEIR EXPERIENCE.



"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CATHOLIC, BUT I ALWAYS FELT THAT THE WORLD HAD TOO MUCH OF A HOLD ON ME [...] I'VE HAD A HARD PAST, AND MY PAIN DIDN'T ALLOW ME TO FORGIVE. THIS EXPERIENCE ALLOWED ME TO DETACH FROM THE WORLD AND FIND WHO I AM IN JESUS CHRIST. I AM INVOLVED IN MY FAITH AT A WHOLE NEW LEVEL NOW, AND IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS TRIP THAT I CAN TRULY SAY I AM HEALED IN GOD'S NAME. YOU HAVE GIVEN ME A FRESH START. THANK YOU."

~ BELLA, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO PILGRIMAGE 2022

"THE MOST HUMBLING AND EYE OPENING EXPERIENCE I HAVE EVER HAD, I WAS TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE TOUCHED SO MANY DIFFERENT LIVES AND EXPERIENCE A NEW CULTURE WHILE ALSO STRENGTHENING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD."

~ VAL, GALAPAGOS MISSION 2018

# APPLICATION PROCESS

## THE 5 STEP PROCESS FOR JOINING OUR TEAM



1

Submit an Application on our Web-Page. Make sure to follow the directions carefully. Send in a CV after your submission with relevant outdoor experience clearly Indicated.

2

Expect an email response within 48 hrs of your submission. Creatio staff will setup an initial phone call that we like to call a "two-way interview" - you get to interview us and we you! This helps us determine candidate compatibility and see if Creatio is a good fit.

3

Candidates will likely be notified within a week if they will be invited to a second interview, in-person in denver. we will take care of on-site costs, we want you to come meet the team!

4

About 2-3 weeks after the in-person experience Creatio will notify candidates on their acceptance.



If accepted, plan to report on the designated day and place (usually early August in Denver, CO)! We are always excited to welcome new members to our growing family.

# COME WORK WITH US!

