



INTERIM 2025

February 3 - 14
On-campus and
Off-campus options

Interim is about immersion, exploration, and hands-on experiential learning!

Students and faculty spend a two-week Interim period focusing on experiences that are unified in a way that our regular schedule is not. The variety of offerings and the ability to tailor Interims to include immersive experiences make for groups that are highly motivated and keenly focused. The balanced selection of academic, adventure, artistic, and service projects take place locally on the CRMS campus as well as off-campus to regional natural areas and urban centers.

The Presentation of Learning will take place on Friday, February 14th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Renée Thibodeaux // 970-963-2562 x 114

Key Dates

November 8: Students will select their top 4 Interim choices.

November 15: Interim Scholarship Applications are due.

Students currently receiving financial assistance are welcome to apply for an Interim Scholarship. Awards are based on financial need, the number of application received, and previous awards granted for Interim.

November 22: Interim rosters released.

December 6: 50% deposit due to the Business Office. Change request deadline.

January 10: Interim balance due to the Business Office.

February 3-14: Interim

February 14: Presentation of Learning (9:00 am - 12:00 pm)



CLAY CREATIONS & CONVERSATION

How can art get us talking about things that matter

Ceramics: Taking a clump of clay and forming it into something useful, whimsical, or wild. We will cover all aspects of the art-making process during this interim as students practice the technical aspects of crafting with clay. Most importantly, we will spend two weeks as creatives experimenting, exploring, inventing, taking risks, and having fun in the ceramic studio. During the first week of the interim, students will work on their own projects as they explore hand-building techniques (slab, pinch, and coil) and make time for work thrown on the wheel. Our cumulative project will be a collaborative installation tackling the driving question, “How can art get us talking about things that matter?” In short, we’ll be using the creative aspects of ceramic design to inspire conversations. The class will look for inspiration from master ceramicists worldwide (thanks to the Internet) and as we take field trips to studios in the Roaring Fork Valley and Denver. Students will work at a pace that suits their abilities. Therefore, inexperienced and highly experienced ceramicists are encouraged to participate.

Group size: 8 students

On & Off-campus
\$160



SILVERSMITHING

In this interim, students will immerse themselves in the art of silversmithing. They'll learn how to use a jewelry saw, solder, set stones, file, sand, and polish their pieces. Students will create intentional pieces to keep and share. They will be encouraged to experiment, discover their talents, and explore various ideas. The silversmithing interim is open to all students, from those who have never worked with silver to those with advanced skills.

Group size: 10 students

On-campus
\$615



BLACKSMITHING

Unlock your inner blacksmith with our immersive metal working interim, designed for both beginners and those looking to refine their skills. Begin your journey by drawing inspiration from the rich artistic culture of our local community and visiting nearby museums. These experiences will spark your creativity and help you envision your projects with a unique touch. Next, dive into the basics of blacksmithing through hands-on instruction, mastering essential techniques and tools that form the foundation of your craft. You'll also have the opportunity to collaborate with talented local artists who will share their expertise and offer valuable insights into their creative processes. Finally, work together as a large group or in small teams to produce a stunning final project that showcases your newfound skills and creativity. Join us for this transformative journey in blacksmithing, and forge lasting memories and masterpieces!

Group size: 8 students

On-campus
\$250



WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER CERTIFICATION

What if your friend broke their arm in the backcountry? What if they received a serious burn while cooking on a Whisperlight stove? What would you do? A Wilderness First Responder certification gives you the skills you need to be a professional in the outdoor industry and for your own personal backcountry adventures. This Interim is the full 10-day WFR certification in backcountry medicine. Instructors from Desert Mountain Medicine will provide classroom instruction and hands-on scenarios that teach students how to gather medical information, manage and care for patients in the field, and evacuate patients when necessary. Students will also learn how to conduct a thorough patient assessment, build splints out of resources available, identify a medical emergency, work as a team to care for a patient and more. This course provides excellent life skills for anyone who recreates outdoors and the WFR certification is recognized globally in the outdoor industry.

Group size: 14 students

Pre-requisite: Must be 16 years or older to participate.

**On-campus
\$1,000**



BACKCOUNTRY POWDER SKIING

Skiing in the backcountry provides an opportunity to return to the roots of the sport and find authentic adventure through imagination, skill, and fitness. To do so safely we will begin the Interim with four days of classroom and field-based avalanche education (Level 1 and Companion Rescue) through Aspen Expeditions. Equipped with these skills, we will seek out adventure in the backcountry terrain of the Elk Mountains, away from the lifts, terrain parks, restaurants, and shops that make the modern ski resort a heavily curated (and crowded!) experience. A driving goal of this Interim will be to find skiing opportunities that provide an experience that connects you to the winter wilderness and the promise of skiing something different, special, and perhaps even sublime.

Group size: 10 students

Pre-requisites: Advanced intermediate to expert skiing/riding skills. CRMS can provide Transceivers, shovels, probes, and has a LIMITED number of backcountry skis. Participants need their own boots. Snowboarders should be extremely proficient with using a splitboard (approval from interim leaders is required).

**On-campus
\$730**



PHOTOGRAPHY: EXPOSING THE HISTORY OF FILM

In this Interim we will trace the history of film from its origins of using photo sensitive cyanotype processes to analogue film photography and darkroom development processes. We will also look at ways film photography has modernized in the digital age. We will explore these historical methods of capturing and developing an image on film, as well as on other media, in order to express unique artistic visions, all while exploring our own Roaring Fork Valley. We will also create our own darkroom for learning the process of printing from negatives. Interim will culminate with a student art show, showcasing the many interpretations of film and photography.

Group size: 10 students

Pre-requisites: Students will need to have access to a manual film camera. This Interim is for anyone interested in film photography.

**On-campus
\$160**



BUILD A SKATEBOARD GIVE A SKATEBOARD

How can we use skateboarding to connect and communicate with the world around us? You will cut, shape, design, and assemble one complete skateboard to keep and ride. In addition, you will cut, shape, and design one deck to donate. The donation decks will be sent to the Skate Like a Girl non-profit organization that “Empowers skaters, especially young women and/or trans people, to grow into strong, confident leaders who promote and implement social equity.” This Interim will be hands-on and involve woodworking, design, and graphic skills. We will look back on the history of skateboarding to inspire our work and have the opportunity to innovate as well. Our collaboration with Skate Like a Girl will direct artwork towards a theme of female empowerment and social equity.

Group size: 10 students

**On-campus
\$250**



LEARN TO SAIL: SAN DIEGO

In the depth of the Colorado Winter this interim group will trade the snow and mountains of the Roaring Fork Valley for the endless coastline and steady onshore breeze of San Diego, California. Students will learn the basics of sailing as they complete their US Sailing Basic Keelboat Certification. During this course, students will spend the first four days sailing J80s in San Diego Bay. After completion of the Basic Keelboat Course we will spend two more days sailing in Mission Bay on Hobie Catamarans.

Group size: 12 students

Off-campus
\$3,000



CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our travels take us to the southern United States to learn about the history of the Civil Rights Movement, all while considering contemporary issues of social justice and equity. Traveling through Georgia and Alabama, we will participate in nonviolence training, visit Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative Memorial and Museum, work with refugee children, learn about resettlement, and look at the current status of our voting laws. We will spend February 3rd and 4th on campus and fly to Atlanta on the 5th. We will return on the 12th and spend the last full Interim day on campus preparing for our presentation of learning.

Group size: 10 students

Pre-requisites: Students must be in 10th - 12th grades to participate.

**Off-campus
\$1,300**



SCUBA & MARINE BIOLOGY: FLORIDA KEYS

This is an immersive program designed to certify students with no prior SCUBA experience as NAUI Open Water Divers. This unique experience begins in Carbondale, Colorado, where students will engage in classroom instruction and pool training in Glenwood Springs. After the initial two days, the adventure continues as students and instructors travel to the Marine Lab in Key Largo, Florida. There, participants will dive into marine biology programs, explore vibrant coral reefs, and complete their certification requirements with Ocean First Dive Charter.

Throughout our time at the Marine Lab, students will delve into engaging topics such as coral reef ecology, field identification, microplastics, zooplankton, and coral restoration. Our accommodations feature comfortable dormitory-style housing with three meals provided daily.

The course culminates in six exciting days of chartered SCUBA diving, allowing students to explore the breathtaking underwater environment. In addition to diving, there will be opportunities for coursework, friendly volleyball tournaments, and a chance to discover the beauty of Key Largo. Join us for an unforgettable adventure that combines adventure, education, and conservation!

Group size: 12 students

On & Off-campus
\$3,600



OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP & WFA

The trip is open to all students excited about the outdoors, adventure, leadership, and working hard. Broken leg on a remote peak? Mountain bike crash with a head injury? Want to lead outdoor trips or be a professional guide in the future? Want to be a Wilderness Assistant when you are a senior? This is the course for you. We will travel to Beaver Lake Lodge in Marble during the second week. The core of this trip is a 16-hour intensive Wilderness First Aid course that results in a nationally recognized certification. Taught over three days, this class will give you the skills you need to cope with backcountry emergencies. We will follow this training with adventures in the outdoors focusing on group leadership. We will also shadow Aspen Highlands Ski Patrol for a day, visit Mountain Rescue Aspen, and do a one-day Avalanche Companion Rescue course taught by Aspen Expeditions. You will gain a crucial understanding of group dynamics, leadership styles, and crisis decision making. Through practice, rescue scenarios, and intense group adventures, you will hone your outdoor abilities. By the end of the trip you will have the confidence, skills, and experience to take your outdoor leadership to the next level.

Group size: 10 students

Pre-requisites: Intermediate to expert skiing/riding skills. CRMS can provide transceivers, shovels, probes, and has a LIMITED number of backcountry skis. Participants need their own boots. (snowboarders need a splitboard/skins - rentable from Cripple Creek Backcountry in Carbondale).

**On & Off-Campus
\$795**



MARINE BIOLOGY: KINO BAY

We will be travelling to Kino Bay, Mexico to explore the ecosystems of the Gulf of California and develop an intercultural sense of place within the local communities. Our studies will be diverse! They will include alcatraz bird monitoring, offshore boat rides to study marine mammals, geologic evolution of the Gulf of California, medicinal plant mapping/surveying with the Comcaac community, estuarine explorations, sea turtle monitoring with a local conservation group, and a camping trip to Estero Santa Rosa. This Interim is ideal for students looking to take a deep dive into any of these topics!

Group size: 10 students

Preference: Students who have taken or are in AP Environmental Science.

Off-campus
\$3,200



TRADITIONAL CLIMBING SKILLS: JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

If you want to climb in many of the best climbing areas in the world you need to know how to 'trad' climb. This interim will be an intensive course learning about all aspects of traditional climbing, from gear to anchors to rappels to leading and belaying. We will be visiting Joshua Tree National Park in Southern California. Considered one of the premier 'trad' climbing venues in the country, the park offers numerous opportunities for learning this style. We will progress through the fundamentals of placing gear, building solid anchors, mock leading 'trad' climbs, rappelling, and basic self-rescue techniques. We'll also be learning about the cultural history and unique geology of the area. We will be camping inside the National Park amongst the boulders and cliffs that we'll be climbing on each day.

Group size: 12 students

Pre-requisite: Students must have completed at least Climb 2 to participate.

**Off-Campus
\$1,650**



GRAND CANYON: HORSE PACKING

We will spend five nights and six days riding through, on, and along the canyons and canyon cliffs of the Esplanade and Kanab Plateau, areas directly adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park. We will be 'cowboy camping' in two separate locations; highlights include eating home-cooked meals (compliments of the outfitter), sleeping in durable, roomy canvas tents on camp cots, and enjoying nightly campfires sipping 'hot drinks' and enjoying each other's company. Above all, we will spend days in the saddle, explore natural springs, ride through riverbeds, view rarely-seen rock art, and relish the thrill of travel by horseback while learning to value this remarkable animal in a backcountry setting.

Group size: 10 students

Pre-requisite: This trip will include long days in the saddle. Previous horseback riding experience is a necessity.

**Off-Campus
\$2,070**



VOLCANOLOGY & CINEMATOGRAPHY: HAWAII

The aim of this interim is to create a geology YouTube video documentary on The Anatomy of Shield Volcanos through the specific lens of backpacking through Kilauea volcano and its East Rift Zone on the Big Island of Hawaii. While this interim is open to anyone, current and past geology and cinematography students will have priority. Students will experience the whole process of preparing for, mapping out, shooting, editing, and doing the animation for a short documentary on this remarkable geologic process and the backpacking adventure through it. Students in these classes will engage in some of the upstream prep as part of the curriculum of those classes (geologic research, storyboarding, script writing, animation prep) prior to the interim. On interim, the group will embark on and document the backpacking adventure and field geology in the first week and then hunker down in an AirBnB on the coast of Hawaii in the second week and finish the video.

Group size: 12 students

Off-campus
\$2,325



SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE: OAXACA

In this travel Interim, students will immerse themselves in Spanish by traveling to Oaxaca, México. The main objective is to have a true language immersion experience and consider our place in a world of responsible tourism. We partner up with the Instituto Becari, a language school in central Oaxaca, México. The interim will consist of morning language classes, entirely in Spanish and leveled for each student with no group larger than five. The institute also has arranged individual host families, which give students the opportunity to continue their language learning at their home. In the afternoons, we will work with the Centro de Esperanza Infantil, providing English enrichment or other after-school program lessons. This center provides school support to whole families so that the children may continue to attend school. Finally, we will have some days to explore the nearby sites that Oaxaca has to offer such as a trek around Monte Albán, a Zapotec archaeological site, San Martín de Tilcajete, a town famous for its animal sculptures, and Teotitlán del Valle, a town known for its weaving and textile craftsmanship, cooking and dance classes.

Group size: 12 students

Preference: Students enrolled in the Spanish program: currently taking Spanish 2 or beyond.

**Off-campus
\$2,300**