



Nature Education with Wilderness Ways

About Wilderness Ways

Wilderness Ways was founded by Gowri Varanashi in 2019. The journey began with Gowri's experience of guiding people through the Amazon rainforest, the 9 years spent there ignited her passion to teach and connect people to nature. This led to teaching nature connection in the US for the next 4 years. She was inspired by the excitement and transformation of adults and kids who experienced the outdoors.

Upon her return to India, Gowri's immense experience in teaching and exploring natural spaces, led her to create **Wilderness Ways** to bring a more **unique** type of **nature education** to people. One that is more **immersive**, **interactive** and **sensory** compared to typical hiking or trekking experiences.

We believe the best way to give people a reason to care for our green spaces, is to enable them to foster a **personal connection** with our **natural world**.

Our Programs

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Some of the types of programs we offer:

- [Day field trips](#)
- [Overnight field trips](#)
- [Afterschool programs](#)

These programs can be **curated** and **customised** as per the school's requirements.

Day Field trips

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Rock Climbing in Nature

- The day will begin with **nature connection activities** and looking at plants and animals, as we walk up to the rocks.
- **Climbing techniques** will be taught and time allocated for practicing rock climbing.
- All gear will be provided (shoes, crashpads, chalk etc)



Day Field trips

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Nature Connection

The day will consist of a variety of activities including;

- **sensory games**, free play and exploration.
- learning about **plants** and **animals**,
- **creating something** from **nature** (rope making, soapstone carving etc.)
- a **primitive skill** (fire making, shelter building, cooking on a fire, etc.)

Overnight Field trips

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- This will include all **nature connection** activities, including;
 - **sensory activities,**
 - **games** that teach **animal behavior,**
 - **nature crafting,**
 - **night walk,**
 - **primitive skills,**
 - **exploring** and **playing in nature,**
 - **camping** and **pitching tents,**
 - **rock climbing** or **tree climbing** (depending on location)
- May span one or more nights



After School Programs

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- This will consist of **one-hour nature immersion sessions** on the school premises.
- Students will learn about;
 - **local flora and fauna** in and around the campus.
 - **sensory** and **observational** skills by engaging in various games and activities
 - **primitive/survival skills** through traditional knowledge systems,
 - **using natural materials** available in and around the school or materials (e.g. Shelter building, soapstone carving, fire making)
- Our initial weekly session will focus on **engaging the senses** through play, the following week our focus will shift to **primitive skills**, followed by **nature crafts**.
- Our primary focus is to **connect textbook concepts** and demonstrate their **real world applications** through **nature**.

Why Choose Wilderness Ways

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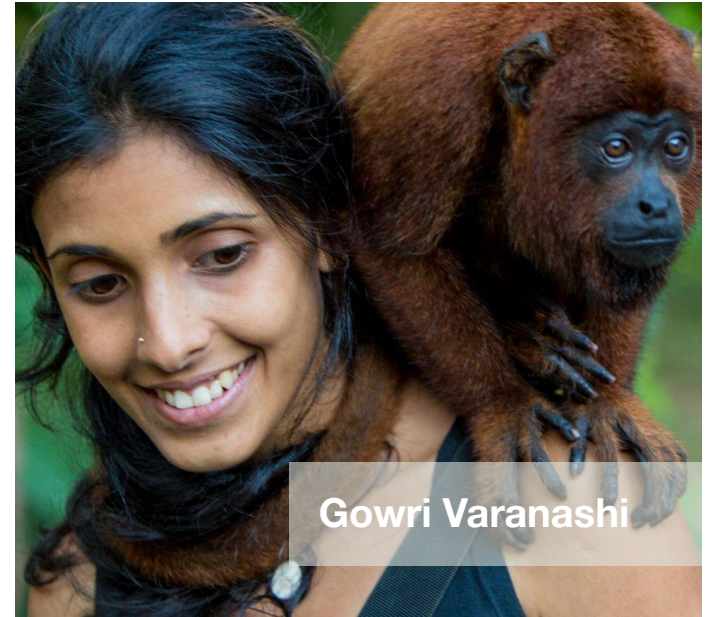
- Our programs are a **unique** combination of **nature knowledge**, **adventure sports** (rock climbing, slack lining etc.), **nature immersion** through our **senses**, and applying **textbook concepts** to the **natural world**.
- This will give kids;
 - A wide **variety of experiences** and **broader perspective** of the **outdoors**.
 - An understanding of the **diverse ecosystems** thriving in our **urban spaces**, and appreciation for natural life everywhere
 - **Body awareness** through outdoor sports and activities
 - **Skillsets** of **ancient knowledge systems** (survival skills)
 - A sense of **curiosity** for natural life rather than fear
 - An **awareness** of their own **senses** and the ability to use their hearing, vision, touch to their highest capacity.
- Each of our team members have **vast knowledge & certifications** as well as **unique skill sets**, ranging from knowledge of outdoor life, to complex climbing techniques and wilderness first aid.

Meet the Team

Gowri has been a wilderness educator for over 10 years, guiding in the jungles of the amazon rainforests, and 5 years of teaching nature connection in the US. Having grown up in an alternative school (Centre For Learning), she became passionate about the natural world at a young age and went on to study environmental studies and biology in the US.

One of the most accomplished Indian climbers, she has been at the forefront of the rock climbing movement in India and is the founder of Climb Like a Woman (CLAW).

Through Wilderness Ways, Gowri aims to create awareness of India's rich natural biodiversity, so we can learn to love and care for our natural surroundings.



Gowri Varanashi

Meet the Team



Nikhil Bhandari

Nikhil's fun personality and immense experience in the mountains ensures everyone feels safe and comfortable. His passion for the mountains led him to complete his Basic, Advanced, and Search & Rescue mountaineering courses; he is also a certified NOLS Wilderness First Responder (WFR).

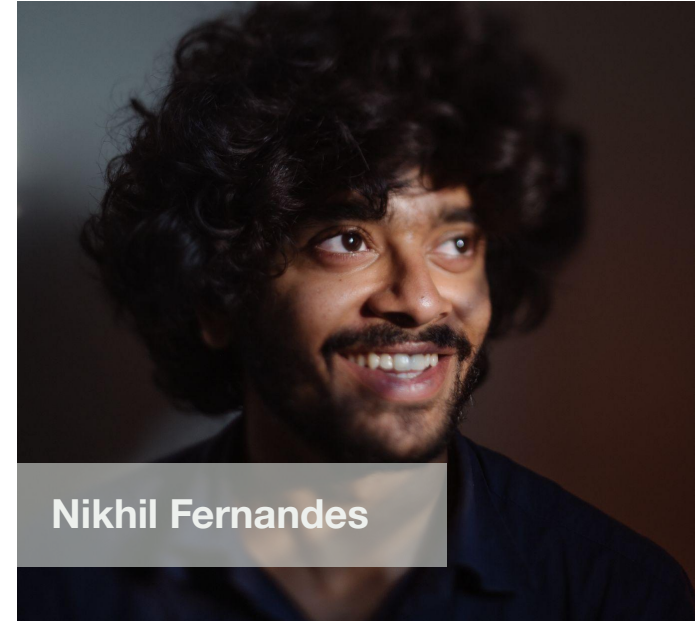
A mountain guide in the Indian Himalayas; he was part of a 4-person alpine climbing team who opened a new route on the 6,000 meter peak Kang Yatse III in Himachal Pradesh.

Experience of life and death scenarios has given him one of the calmest heads.

Meet the Team

An urban explorer, Nikhil spends much of his free time documenting the oldest members of our cities, trees! Creative by nature; from film and illustration, to sounds and games.

Through Wilderness Ways, Nikhil hopes to continue to meet and learn from a variety of people, while facilitating outdoor experiences, keeping alive the treasure of knowledge of our natural world!



Nikhil Fernandes

Contact Us

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