

This is your invitation to participate in the first **World Nature Quest, May 14 -22, 2011.**

Connect deeply with Nature and Earth by joining one of the many groups who will gather on every continent around the world.

**Groups are gathering all over the world!  
Momentum is Growing!**

**Here is a current list of Participating Organizations & Group Locations:**

- Bogota, Colombia – Up-Stream, Kaos Pilots & The Way of Nature Colombia\*\*
- Sao Paulo, Brazil – The Way of Nature, Brazil in Minas Gerais – Extrema
- Canyonlands, Utah, USA – Sacred Passage & The Way of Nature\*\*
- Three Creeks, Big Pine, California, USA – Beyond Boundaries\*\*
- Panama, Mamoni Valley Preserve, Earth Train
- Pumpkin Hollow, New York, USA – Institute for Nature and Leadership
- France, The Basque Region of the Pyrenees
- France, The Vogesen Mountains – ARSeminare; Natur, Mythos, Kreativitat \*\*
- Kangaroo Valley, Australia, The Way of Nature – Australia, Ensemble Partners
- Colorado, “Diamond in the Rough” – School of Lost Borders \*\*
- Germany, Eschwege Institut – Campus Peregrini
- Utah, Canyon Country, USA – The Boulder Institute\*\*
- The coulees of Eastern Washington – 4-H youth group
- Croatia – location to be confirmed
- Stockholm, Sweden – Natur Akademin – The Way of Nature / Sweden

\*\* designates Donor / Sponsor

Additional supportive organizations: The Wild Foundation, Threshold, Inc., The Ojai Foundation, Get Wild.

A wilderness solo is simply the act of going into nature alone. There are no distractions... just you – your body, mind and spirit alone experiencing Nature.

After your solo, your group will express their love, gratitude and appreciation for Nature in a community sharing and story telling circle. This expression of “thanksgiving” will be shared with other groups around the world.

When surrounded by nature, people simply feel better. Sensations of deep peace and tranquility, inner joy and solace naturally arise. Just think back to your childhood when you would lie down on the Earth and gaze at the clouds in the sky or enjoy the beauty of a tree or allow your imagination to float with a butterfly on the breeze.

### **Overview and Purpose**

This first **World Nature Quest** is designed as our “Premier” event. Our intention is to “seed” the time honored process of going into nature, alone, for contemplation and renewal. Join us for our precedent setting inaugural program. After more than 50 years of convening Awareness programs and guiding Wilderness solo experiences, collectively, we have decided it is time to create a simultaneous worldwide event!

The most challenging change the world needs is in human consciousness and the human heart. We have a moral, ethical and practical responsibility to protect what we love. Quieting the mind, while listening to the wisdom of Nature, allows your spirit to soar freely and your unique path to open. Nothing remains the same – even you! You can bet the Earth is changing and faster than we all might think. Be part of the transformation that is occurring – it’s our world, it’s your world – participate! Our Way of Nature community likes to pose the question: “Why settle for virtual reality”? Go direct!

In our modern society, we are spending less and less time in Nature, yet Nature is the most effective way to de-stress and reduce the negative impact of our highly technological, hectic, fast-paced lives. Break free from the constant distractions and frenetic energy of an entertainment oriented culture. Liberate yourself from the grip of the technology trance.

In Nature, our tensions, worries and cares melt away. Our fears and perceptions of separation dissolve, as our awareness is refined.

The power of silence, solitude and solo time calms the mind and awakens the human heart. In addition to the personal (often life changing) benefits of this process, practical projects and measurable initiatives emerge.

We are co-creating The World Nature Quest to provide a venue and a platform for people to share their love, gratitude and appreciation for the Earth. These human expressions of thanksgiving will be offered on every continent in ways that are emblematic of the unique culture, music, art and heritage of the people making the gesture.

We are living in a time when many wisdom traditions predict dramatic transformations of our way of being in the world. The peoples of the Andes refer to Mother Earth as Pachamama and they see the coming together of the People of the Eagle (the technological world) and the People of the Condor (the indigenous cultures) to fly together in harmony.

***The time honored traditional “rite of passage” combined with deep immersion in Nature is extremely rare in our modern societies. Authentic, direct human connection to Nature is the missing ingredient in the sustainability movement.***

### **Who will participate?**

Innovators, social entrepreneurs, change agents, thought leaders, “early adopters” and opinion shapers are welcome. From CEO’s to heads of NGO’s; from leaders to followers; it matters not where one finds oneself in the full spectrum of our magnificent diversity. One does not have to be a risk taker or trailblazer to derive great benefit, all are welcome!

Once inspired, with a fresh perspective about whole systems and the web of life, people often engage directly in support of the health and well being of themselves, others, all of our relations and our biosphere. The realization that we are all ecologically interconnected and interdependent is grounded by direct experience in Nature.

No matter the role one plays in peer groups or larger communities; all are welcome. Any organizations with aligned interests are invited to join this organically emerging project.

The **World Nature Quest** is for anyone (ages 18 – 81) who wants to have a deeper connection to nature and spirit. The experience is designed to reduce stress, renew personal energy, generate creative responses to life circumstances and the challenges facing our human community. Once inspired, with a fresh perspective about whole systems and the ecologically interconnected web of life, people often engage directly in support of the well being of our biosphere. A profound commitment arises to help heal our human relationship with Nature.

### **Where?**

***At this time, the first sites in the United States will be in the Canyonlands of Southern Utah, New York and California.***

***Groups are forming in Sweden, The Basque region of France, Australia, New Zealand, Colombia and Brazil. Interest is growing in Siberia, Turkey and Panama.***

### **The Vision**

This vision and idea came during a wilderness solo that John P. Milton, Founder of Sacred Passage and The Way of Nature, experienced some time ago. He envisioned the blending or merging of an awareness training & solo immersion with a worldwide “sharing circle” of gratitude moving around the planet. Many Earth cherishing individuals around the world are simultaneously sharing similar visions. There is a growing collaborative movement to guide, facilitate and support a deep bond with the extended family of life. The time is now for the healing of our relationship with the Earth.

### **This is your invitation**

Anyone searching for a better understanding of global change will discover value. We observe that a strong desire to be of service to the great diversity of life naturally arises during this process. Participants receive a unique, and often extraordinary “Earth Empowerment” as they awaken to their true nature. A profound commitment arises to help heal our human relationship with the Earth.

Small groups will gather on every continent in order to share their love of the Earth. Our purpose for this World Nature Quest is to honor the web of life and the great mystery of Nature.

### **Why now**

– These are critical transitional / transformational times, that require an extraordinary response from humans. As the ecological balance of the Earth is increasingly threatened by pollution and unprecedented human pressure upon eco-system resilience – we must awaken to new ways of “being and doing”.

Toxins threaten all life support systems. The damaging effects of climate change are accelerating; witness the frequency of severe storms and the disappearance of the Cryosphere. Peak oil and our energy crisis may bring more drastic challenges in the very near future, as we search for ways to economically and environmentally support 8, 9 or 10 billion human beings on this precious planet – the only one we have!

How we respond to the many challenges facing humanity in these transitional times will determine the quality of life on Earth for the 21st Century. As the pace of change accelerates and civilization’s issues become more complex, we see this process (direct connection with the Earth) as the critical missing link in the “sustainability” movement.