



**NOLS ALUMNI TRIP
ALUMNI SERVICE TRIP
AUGUST 12-AUGUST 18, 2012**

Features of This Trip

- 7 days and 6 nights in the field
- Backcountry camping
- Approximately 11-miles of hiking
- Options for fishing and day hiking
- Hiking at elevations of 8,000- 11,500'
- Pack stock supported
- SCA and USFS collaboration
- Practice primitive trail maintenance skills
- NOLS core curriculum
- Group size: 12 participants and 3 inst

Cost: \$500— NOLS subsidized!

Minimum Age: 16

Trip Description

This trip takes NOLS grads, friends and families into Wyoming's backcountry for a week of camping, connection, camaraderie, and service. We'll team with the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") and Student Conservation Association ("SCA") to conduct meaningful and challenging service projects that protect public lands and enhance visitor safety and enjoyment in the backcountry.

Depending on the exact location of our service project, we'll hike into the mountains and establish a base-camp where our camping gear, cook sites and work tools will be located. USFS pack stock will carry a portion of our heaviest equipment— including tents and food, so participants will carry relatively light packs on the trail into our project site. We'll share kitchen duties and sleep in 2-3 person tents.

The hike into our project site may include a lot of uphill trail— a past trail building project was at about 11,000'. Our project may include trail construction, bridge or walkway maintenance, or campsite rehab. Service work is demanding— we'll routinely use shovels, hammers, buckets, pry-bars and lots of team muscle on most days of the trip.

The trip is not all work. There will be time for photography, socializing and just plain enjoying Wyoming's high country. Instructors will plan on an optional non-technical peak ascent as well as fly fishing practice and instruction. Evenings often include sipping beverages around a campfire.

Past service trip participants speak passionately about the beauty of the area, the team spirit of the group and the satisfaction of "giving back" to the land through service. The words "fun" and "hard work" are used in equal measure.

Environment

The Wind River Mountains offer a variety of terrain—wooded trails, mountain lakes, flowery meadows and expansive granite slabs. Moose, elk, mule deer and coyotes live in the area and are often seen by quiet watchers at dawn and dusk. Black bears frequent the range. The majority of our hiking will be done on established trails with limited signage. In

addition, weather this time of year can be variable including hot sunny days or several days of wet, overcast weather. Mosquitoes can be tenacious, especially early and late in the day.

Mountain weather, even in the summer, is hard to predict. Plan on sunny warm days, cool nights, and quick afternoon showers while diligently preparing for the possibility of the opposite.

Curriculum

This trip's curriculum focuses on traditional NOLS skills as well as "primitive" trail maintenance techniques. The instructors will present necessary information for the group to comfortably travel, work and camp in the wilderness, and be prepared to present NOLS topics desired by the participants.

Alumni trips are more relaxed than a typical NOLS course, however; it is not a vacation or a guided trip. Trips are self-reliant through remote wilderness areas where evacuation to modern medical facilities can take several days. Throughout the trip, you live outdoors, prepare group meals, and care for yourself. The expedition format emphasizes hands-on learning and application of new skills in a variety of situations. If you have any further questions about this trip, please contact the alumni office at (800) 332-4280.

Trip Logistics

There will be an informal meeting at the NOLS Headquarters building (corner of Lincoln and 3rd streets) at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 11 to meet the team and to review trip details. The trip officially begins at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 12 and the morning will be spent pulling our gear together and packing our packs to hit the road that afternoon. It will be very helpful to have spent some time going over your gear before you arrive and making sure that it meets the requirements of the equipment list.

The hiking portion of the trip will end in the early afternoon of Saturday, August 18. We will use the rest of the afternoon to de-issue our gear, shower and formally end our trip. Dinner on August 12 is not provided as part of the trip but there will be an option to go out to dinner as a group for anyone that is interested.

Getting to Lander

By Plane

Great Lakes Aviation provides daily service from Denver, CO to Riverton Regional Airport, which is 30 minutes from Lander. Shuttles are available from Riverton to Lander (see below).

By Car

Lander is accessible via highway 287. Lander is a 4.5 hour drive from Salt Lake or 2.5 hours from Jackson Hole.

Shuttle

Land shuttle service in southwestern Wyoming and surrounding areas is provided by Wind River Transit Authority (W.R.T.A.). Please make a reservation by calling W.R.T.A. at (800) 439-7118 or fax (307) 856-8724. For after hours travel problems, call (307) 850-6051.

See WRTA details here: <<http://www.wrtabuslines.com/default.aspx>>

Estimated W.R.T.A. shuttle rates for one way/round trip. Prices change.

Riverton Airport:
\$20/\$40

Casper Airport:
\$100/\$200

Jackson, WY Airport:
\$100/\$200

Accommodations

There are multiple lodging options in Lander. Below are a few options. There is camping available at the City Park and Sinks Canyon State Park. For additional information about local Bed and Breakfasts and other accommodations contact the Lander Chamber of Commerce at 800-433-0662 or visit their website at www.landerchamber.org.

Pronghorn Lodge

150 E. Main Street
(307) 332-3940

Inn at Lander, Best Western

260 Grand View Drive
(800) 528-1234 or (307) 332-284

Storing Personal Belongings

Personal belongings and vehicles may be stored at the NOLS facility for the duration of your course. Although we assume no responsibility, due care will be taken to prevent theft or damage of your stored items. Valuable may be checked into our safe. Vehicles will be parked in an unfenced parking lot with little or no security.

Travel Options

Riverton, Jackson Hole, Casper, Wyoming, and Salt Lake City, Utah are all viable airports. Since the closest airport to Lander is 30-miles, you'll need to utilize a rental car or regional shuttle (Wind River Transit Authority: 800-439-7118). Check your maps for driving times and distances.

If you are delayed

If you have any problems on arrival day, please leave a message at (307) 332-2265, the front desk at the NOLS Noble Hotel.

Registration and Payment

To reserve a space on this trip, please submit a non-refundable deposit the NOLS Alumni Department. We take Mastercard or Visa via phone at 800-332-4280 or a check can be mailed to: NOLS Alumni Department, 284 Lincoln Street, Lander, WY 82520. The remainder of the tuition and all application forms are due 30-days before to the trip's start.

If you have any questions about this trip, please contact the NOLS alumni office at 800-332-4280, or alumni@nols.edu.