



**NOLS ALUMNI COURSE
GANNETT PEAK MOUNTAINEERING
JULY 23-AUGUST 2, 2012**

Course Features

- Hiking route: ~ 60 miles; elevations of 9,000 to 13,800 ft.
- Travel both on and off- trail, above tree-line and on glacial moraines
- Snow and ice climbing
- A traverse of the Wind River Range
- Average pack weight: 45-60 lbs
- Attempted ascent of Gannett Peak

Course Cost: \$2,295

Minimum Age: 16

The Expedition

Imagine yourself standing atop the highest point in Wyoming, Gannett Peak. With ice axe in hand, you pose for a triumphal summit photograph. Waves of snow-capped peaks, glittering alpine lakes, and miles of wide-open sky surround you. This is the goal of the Gannett Peak expedition: to get you on top of a big mountain.

Gannett Peak stands 13,804 feet above sea level. Here the air is rarified, the snows perennial, and the views stupendous. To get to Gannett, you'll hike some 27 miles in three to four days, carrying your camping and personal gear along with some climbing equipment. During this approach, you'll fine-tune the camping and travel practices you learned previously at NOLS, and begin to work together with this new group as a team. These basic skills—camping, cooking, map reading, stove use, *Leave No Trace* techniques, and sanitation—are the foundation for the more advanced mountaineering to come.

Near your high camp, horse packers will bring food and most of the climbing gear in to your course. The next few days we will focus on practicing climbing techniques. The climbing curriculum begins with knots, rope handling, climbing movement, and belaying. Snow and ice work—everything from ice axe technique and self-arrests, to step cutting and crampon use—will be addressed and practiced as well.

When you are ready and the mountain is in good condition, a summit attempt will be made. This may happen in small groups or in one large group. Summit day will be very challenging. You'll leave before dawn and travel over moraines and glaciers, then up snow and ice slopes to the sharp summit ridge of the peak. Ropes and belays will be used when necessary. Anticipate working non-stop for 12 or more hours with only a few breaks and (hopefully) 30 minutes or so to enjoy the view from the top of Wyoming!

After the summit attempt, you will finish your traverse of the Wind River Range by hiking out down the spectacular western slope. Packs will be heavier going out due to the extra climbing gear.

Student Independence

On all NOLS courses, students will be independent (that is, unaccompanied by instructors) at various times. This will include time in and around camp, such as while cooking or performing camp chores. Instructors may allow students to travel away from camp independently to do things such as fish or swim. Students often have independent unsupervised time, usually in town, before and after their course starts.

Weather and Other Challenges

Mountain weather is capricious. On any given day, temperatures may range from below freezing to sweltering. Afternoon thunderstorms are common and can be quite violent. Courses may experience snow and rain, or long stretches of sun and blue skies.

Travel in the mountains can be tough. You may be off-trail bushwhacking through thick forests or scrambling around refrigerator-sized boulders. Rivers are icy from snowmelt and can be hard or impossible to cross. You will traverse steep slopes of snow, loose rock, or grass, and grunt up high mountain passes. But the hard work is worth it. There's nothing quite like taking your pack off at the top of the peak, feeling the wind dry the sweat off your back, and looking down at miles of new country opening up before you. It's exhilarating!

Bear avoidance techniques while camping and traveling will be integrated into this course. Precautions against bear encounters may decrease the opportunities for solitude and privacy on this course. This course will protect all food and attractants from bears. Other bear avoidance tactics include meticulously maintaining cleanliness at the cooking sites and making loud calls to warn bears of your presence.

Identifying and managing mountain hazards—falling rock, weather, animals, moving water, and steep terrain will be a constant theme in our instruction. Camping may involve dealing with swarms of mosquitoes or pesky critters. You should expect to hang your food to keep it away from bears or other animals. Remember, once you leave the bus, you'll be miles from telephones, hospitals, and any form of transportation besides your feet, so it is important to stay healthy and safe in order to have a fun, successful expedition.

Course Start Location and Arrival/Departure Dates

<u>Starting Location:</u>	The Noble Hotel 288 Main Street (corner of Third and Main Streets) Lander, WY
<u>Arrival Date:</u>	No later than July 22
<u>Departure Date:</u>	No sooner than the morning of August 3

There will be an orientation meeting in the hotel at approximately 6 p.m. the evening of July 22. This meeting gives you an opportunity to get acquainted with your instructors and fellow expedition members, as well as to review the course route and schedule.

The course will wrap up late the evening of August 2. **You should plan to leave Lander no sooner than the following day.** Do not make travel plans that will require you to arrive late for your course or to leave early once your course is over. You may end up missing the start of your course or missing your plane home.

Getting to Lander

By Plane

Great Lakes Aviation provides daily service from Denver, CO to Riverton Regional Airport, which is 30 minutes from Lander. Denver is served by most major airlines. 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. If you would like specific directions, please call the alumni office.

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 ahead of time by calling W.R.T.A. at (800) 439-7118 or fax (307) 856-8724. For after hours travel problems, call (307) 850-6051.

<http://www.wrtabuslines.com/default.aspx>

Estimated W.R.T.A. shuttle rates for one way/round trip. Prices may increase due to fuel costs.

Riverton Airport:
\$20/\$40

Casper Airport:
\$100/\$200

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

If Delayed

If your arrival in Lander is delayed because of weather or other reasons, and you are not going to be able to make the orientation meeting, please call the NOLS Alumni Office at 800-710-NOLS. From 5:00 p.m. until midnight any night, please call (307) 335-2265 and leave a message with the Noble Hotel desk clerk. The Noble closes at midnight. If you will arrive between midnight and 8:00 a.m., call well before midnight to get instructions on how to get into the hotel after hours.

Accommodations

Accommodations are dormitory style and are for NOLS students and staff only. Rooms will be available at the historic Noble Hotel (built in 1918) 1 or 2 days prior to your course start. The Noble is located at the corner of Third and Main Streets in Lander, with entry on Third Street. The Noble desk clerk is available from 5:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight on weekdays, and 8:00 a.m. until midnight on weekends by dialing direct to (307) 335-2265. All student messages should be directed to this phone number. If the desk clerk is not available, you will have the option to leave a voice mail message.

There is no charge for the night before your course begins or the night after. Please do not call to reserve a spot for these dates, as we will be expecting you. **Reservations are not necessary, unless you plan to arrive EARLIER than the day prior to your course,** in which case you will need to contact the Hotel Manager or an Admissions Officer for confirmation. The charge is \$15 per person per night, payable upon arrival. Other accommodations are available in Lander, and you are welcome to make reservations for additional nights at any number of motels or bed and breakfast inns. Please contact the Lander Chamber of Commerce (307) 332-3892 for more information.

Storage of 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.

Parking is generally available on a NOLS lot for the duration of your course in an unfenced parking lot with little or no security. If all available spaces are filled or you want more secure storage, private companies offer such facilities for a modest fee. Arrangements can be made on the morning your course begins.

Fishing Licenses

Fishing for trout is possible on most courses. While fishing is considered to be good in Wyoming, we can never guarantee you'll catch a fish! Your instructors will advise you on the practicality of purchasing a license, according to the season and your course route. If you want to fish, you can purchase a State of Wyoming fishing license on the first day of your course. Fishing licenses will come out of your equipment deposit. Non-resident fishing license fees range from \$15 for a non-resident annual youth (14-17 yrs.) license to \$14/day for a non-resident adult (up to 6 days) or \$92 for an annual license.=

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.

The price of the trip includes all meals starting with breakfast on July 23, through lunch on August 2, all group equipment, instruction and shuttles to and from the trailhead.

Accommodations the night before the trip and the last night of the trip, meals not indicated, any personal equipment that is rented or purchased and any costs incurred by evacuations are the responsibility of trip participants.

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