

NOLS and WMI of NOLS Veterans Information

The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and the Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) of NOLS are approved for Veterans Benefits according to Title 38, United States Code. Only courses based out of Wyoming are eligible for approval through the VA.

NOLS and WMI of NOLS are able to process VA benefits directly for the following courses:

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Educator
Rocky Mountain Outdoor Educator w/ Wilderness First Responder
Rocky Mountain Outdoor Educator Semester
Rocky Mountain Instructor Course
Wilderness First Responder
Wilderness EMT

The VA has also approved NOLS courses that are part of the "Associate of Science In Environmental Science and Leadership" degree program at Central Wyoming College. VA benefits can be applied to the following NOLS courses only if the applicant is an enrolled, degree- seeking student at CWC:

Absaroka Backpacking	Rocky Mountain Rock Climbing
Gannet Peak Mountaineering	Semester In The Rockies
Rock and River	Wilderness Horsepacking

Evaluation: Students on all NOLS and WMI of NOLS courses will receive feedback concerning their progress throughout the course. On NOLS courses, instructors will provide verbal evaluation to all students and at course end, the student will receive a written evaluation that consists of both a letter grade and prose. A student must complete the course with an overall grade of C or better to ensure receipt of a NOLS diploma. The written evaluation will be kept with the student's records and can be requested in writing from the NOLS admission office.

WFR and WEMT courses are offered through the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS. These courses lead to nationally recognized certification. Students must successfully complete written and practical examination. An average of 80% must be maintained for successful course completion and certification.

Separations: In the event that a student were to become ill, injured, present a safety hazard to the group or him/herself, or be separated for disciplinary reasons the student will be evacuated from the course by whatever means NOLS deems appropriate. Students who are separated for any reason will receive a "Student Separation Form" that documents their last day of attendance at NOLS. The refund policy for students attending a NOLS course on VA benefits corresponds to the "pro-rata plus 10%" refund policy mandated by law (reg. 21.4255-1.)

Eligibility: Candidates for NOLS Outdoor Educator and Instructor Courses must meet requirements for these courses as outlined by the NOLS Admissions office.

NOLS does not grant credit for **prior training**, although experience gained personally or through other organizations will be considered for admission to the Instructor Course. To use VA benefits, your NOLS course must provide you with additional training or expertise. You are not eligible to use VA benefits to take any course for which you already have equivalent training or experience.

Applicants for the WMI of NOLS WEMT program must complete the required CPR prerequisite prior to the program start date.



TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS:

NOLS COURSES: You must first be enrolled on a NOLS course. Send your NOLS application (available from the NOLS website) and the required application fee to the NOLS headquarters in Lander, Wyoming.

WMI COURSES: You must first be enrolled on a WMI course. Send a completed WMI registration form (available from the WMI web schedule) to NOLS Headquarters in Lander, Wyoming *with a \$1000 deposit for a WEMT course or a \$300 deposit for a WFR course.*

Include the appropriate VA forms, with your NOLS application, according to the following information:

If you have not used Veterans benefits before, complete VA Forms 22-1990 and 22-1999 (Sections 1-6 and 16 if applicable).

If you have used Veterans benefits before, complete forms 22-1995 and 22-1999 (Sections 1-6 and 16 if applicable).

You will need to submit a copy of the DD Form 214 (Discharge Record) with the appropriate VA forms. The Veterans Administration also requires that you submit a letter from your current employer or your educational/vocational counselor confirming that your NOLS course will be advantageous to your career pursuits.

YOUR BENEFIT CHECK is typically issued to you by the VA AFTER they receive verification from NOLS that you have started your course. **Please remember that NOLS requires that your tuition be paid in full BEFORE you start your course.** You may request that the VA issue an ADVANCE PAYMENT to you prior to the start of your course (See Section 16, Form 22-1999).

YOUR BENEFIT AMOUNT is based on several factors, and "it is the responsibility of the VA (and only the VA) to determine the eligibility of veterans...and to approve the payment of benefits." NOLS is not given any information regarding the amount of the benefit.

We recommend that you look into the amount that will be covered prior to applying for your course as we have had students in the past assume that the VA will cover the full cost of a course when in fact the covered amount was much less.

For information regarding your specific VA benefit please contact the VA at:

888-GIBILL-1 or www.gibill.va.gov

