

Fort Washakie Wilderness Expedition

National Outdoor Leadership School

August 23 – September 1, 2010

Program Schedule

Course orientation at NOLS Rocky Mountain, August 22

Course in the field, August 23 – September 1

Graduation banquet, September 1, 12:30 pm

Family Members Welcome!

Go to http://www.nols.edu/nolspro/custom_courses/fort_washakie.shtml to download the 4 necessary enrollment form: application form, medical form, insurance information and student agreement.

Credit

Graduates of the Fort Washakie Wilderness Expedition are eligible for Fort Washakie High School credit. *Some credits will require study and project completion before and after the wilderness expedition.* Please see Fort Washakie High School Principal, Shad Hamilton for details.

Course Cost

Students are not charged tuition for this program of Fort Washakie High School. The course is funded by Fort Washakie High School and NOLS' scholarship fund. NOLS Rocky Mountain will cover use of rental equipment and Fort Washakie High School purchases required equipment that can't be rented at NOLS.

Course Features

- Hiking route: ~ 30 miles
- Elevations of 8,000' – 13,000'
- World-class Fishing
- Opportunities for Peak Ascents
- Travel near or above tree-line
- On and off-trail Hiking
- Exploration of the Wind River Range
- Average group size: 10 students / 1 faculty member / 1 community member / 3 NOLS Instructors

The Fort Washakie Wilderness Expedition takes place on tribal lands in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains. For more than 40 years, NOLS students have learned outdoor skills, leadership and environmental ethics in this mountain range. Fort Washakie Wilderness Expedition students will develop leadership and teamwork skills through practical leadership experiences as the groups travel through remote wilderness on the tribal lands in the Wind River Mountains.

NOLS teaches a situational leadership theory that demands different decision-making styles depending on group skill, task urgency and outcome predictability. On the Fort Washakie Wilderness Expeditions, teaching young people to effectively negotiate real-world challenges and leadership demands will be grounded in tribal cultural values of deep commitment to the group and respect for all elements of the living environment. The Environmental Studies curriculum will focus on current natural resource management issues in the Wind River Watershed. Students will also have opportunities to learn about their local natural environment through hands-on lessons.

Personal Electronics

A key element to a NOLS education is time spent in wilderness. NOLS does not permit students to use personal cell or satellite phones or other communication devices including personal tracking devices (e.g. SPOT), while in the field. Additionally, students are not permitted to take personal music players (iPods, MP3 players, CD players, etc). Instructors will be carrying sufficient communication equipment (usually a satellite phone) to handle any emergencies that may arise.



FWWE Course Objectives

Students are exposed to theory and practice of outdoor skills, leadership, teamwork and expedition behavior. At NOLS, expedition behavior involves commitment to the group, a positive attitude and cooperation to achieve goals.

Each course is unique due to variables such as route, group dynamics, fitness levels, and environmental conditions. Working with these variables, it is our intent to see each student accomplish the following outcomes:

Leadership and Teamwork--

- Understand and use situation-appropriate personal leadership styles, leadership skill principles, and leadership roles
- Build competence in wilderness skills such as camping, hiking and navigation
- Increase self awareness through honest reflection and peer feedback
- Work effectively as a member of a team, displaying a positive attitude despite hardship
- Respond to potential issues by using decision-making and planning skills

Wilderness Skills--

- Build the skills necessary to live and travel comfortably in the mountain environment
- Camp, cook, and dress for varied conditions with minimum impact
- Travel competently in mountain terrain using off-trail navigation and hazard evaluation techniques

Environmental Science--

- Demonstrate sound minimum-impact living and travel skills throughout the course
- Develop knowledge of ecological concepts relevant to the area
- Learn about tribal land management agencies and their distinct mandates

Cultural Context--

- Respect and apply known local tribal customs and practices to interact with the environment in an appropriate manner

Bring a tolerance for adversity and uncertainty, respect for other members, and a willingness to work hard. As your group gains leadership skills and experience working together, you can expect your instructors to give you more responsibility for leading yourself and your peers.

You should expect ongoing verbal coaching and input throughout the expedition, with written performance summaries at course end.

Contact Info

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