



LEAVE NO TRACE MASTER EDUCATOR™ COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION/TRAVEL INFORMATION/EQUIPMENT LIST

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT

June 1 to 5, 2009

COURSE DESCRIPTION

During five days in this striking ecosystem, you will learn and teach the principles of Leave No Trace and discuss wildland ethics. Your group will be a mixture of federal agency partners, educators, outdoor retailers, youth group leaders and private individuals. Hiking distances are moderate. The route is dependent on the conditions, will generally be on non-maintained trails and may include numerous ankle to shin-deep river crossings. Some portions of the route could be off-trail. The route will be approximately 8-15 miles long, with significant time spent in discussions and classes. Pack weights will be about 35-40 pounds. Weather will probably be fairly warm with temperatures ranging from nighttime lows in the 40s to daytime highs in the 80s. Rain and high winds are possible at any time.

Features of the Course

- Easy to moderately strenuous hiking, condition-dependent, either in Escalante River Gorge or over mesa-top slickrock terrain with elevations potentially over 8,000 feet.
- Experience this vast and austere landscape of bold plateaus and multi-hued cliffs filled with a spectacular array of scientific and historic resources.
- On and off-trail travel and camping with great opportunities to practice and teach LNT skills.

Course Progression

The course will meet at the Escalante Interagency Visitor Center at 8:00 am on Monday, June 1. We will have a group camp area set up at Calf Creek Recreation Area, which will be free. Participants should check in at the Visitor Center so we know folks are arriving and if they want to camp at Calf Creek. If you would like to stay indoors on Sunday evening there are several lodging options available in Escalante, UT. Camping is also available within the monument. Participants should check in at the Visitor Center for backcountry permits if they want to camp somewhere besides Calf Creek.

In-camp meals beginning with Monday lunch and continuing through Friday lunch, are included in the tuition. The hiking will begin Tuesday in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

On this course you will experience the diverse, rugged and beautiful landscape rich with human history of our nation's first national monument managed by the BLM. You'll learn semi-arid desert and canyon LNT skills first hand.

The course ends **Friday** afternoon at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. To allow time for cleaning gear, completing evaluations and handing out diplomas plan to depart no earlier than 2:00 p.m.

Curriculum

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has designated NOLS and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), Landmark Learning, Wilderness Education Association and Ninemile Forest Service Training Center as the principal educational providers of Master Educator Courses. NOLS brings over 40 years of experience teaching wilderness skills and leadership to the LNT Program.

Master Educator courses are informative, practical, hands-on and fun. You will learn skills and teaching techniques through lectures, skits and discussions in a spectacular outdoor setting. The course is designed for people who actively teach others outdoor skills or provide recreation information to the public and emphasizes three components:

- low-impact camping skills
- wildland ethics
- outdoor teaching techniques

Teaching Session

Each participant will be required to present a short (15-20 min.) class on one of the LNT principles or how it relates to a specific activity, e.g., rock climbing or mountain biking. The class can be skills oriented or theoretical in content. Although some preparation time will be available once the course has begun, plan on having your class prepared before arriving at the course location. If you have questions regarding class presentations please refer to the teaching information on the LNT website <www.LNT.org> or contact the NOLS Leave No Trace office.

Environment

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument provides a unique mix of geology, paleontology, archeology, history and biology. As stated in the proclamation establishing the monument on September 18, 1996:

“The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument's vast and austere landscape embraces a spectacular array of scientific and historic resources. This high, rugged, and remote region, where bold plateaus and multi-hued cliffs run for distances that defy human perspective, was the last place in the continental United States to be mapped. Even today, this unspoiled natural area remains a frontier, a quality that greatly enhances the monument's value for scientific study. The monument has a long and dignified human history: it is a place where one can see how nature shapes human endeavors in the American West, where distance and aridity have been pitted against our dreams and courage.

“The monument is a geologic treasure of clearly exposed stratigraphy and structures. The sedimentary rock layers are relatively undeformed and unobscured by vegetation, offering a clear view to understanding the processes of the earth's formation. A wide variety of formations, some in brilliant colors, have been exposed by millennia of erosion. The monument contains significant portions of a vast geologic stairway, named the Grand Staircase by pioneering geologist Clarence Dutton, which rises 5,500 feet to the rim of Bryce Canyon in an unbroken sequence of great cliffs and plateaus. ...The monument holds many arches and natural bridges, including the 130-foot-high Escalante Natural Bridge, with a 100 foot span, and Grosvenor Arch, a rare double arch.”

“Archeological inventories carried out to date show extensive use of places within the monument by ancient Native American cultures. The area was a contact point for the Anasazi and Fremont cultures, and the evidence of this mingling provides a significant opportunity for archeological study.”

“The monument is rich in human history. In addition to occupations by the Anasazi and Fremont cultures, the area has been used by modern tribal groups, including the Southern Paiute and Navajo. John Wesley Powell's expedition did initial mapping and scientific field work in the area in 1872. Early Mormon pioneers left many historic objects, including trails, inscriptions, ghost towns such as the Old Paria town site, rock houses, and cowboy line camps, and built and traversed the renowned Hole-in-the-Rock Trail as part of their epic colonization efforts.”

“Spanning five life zones from low-lying desert to coniferous forest, with scarce and scattered water sources, the monument is an outstanding biological resource. Remoteness, limited travel corridors and low visitation have all helped to preserve intact the monument's important ecological values. The blending of warm and cold desert floras, along with the high number of endemic species, place this area in the heart of perhaps the richest floristic region in the Intermountain West. The monument varies greatly in elevation and topography and is in a climatic zone where northern and southern habitat species intermingle. Mountain lion, bear, and desert bighorn sheep roam the monument. Over 200 species of birds, including bald eagles and peregrine falcons, are found within the area. Wildlife, including neotropical birds, concentrate around the Paria and Escalante Rivers and other riparian corridors within the monument.”

Food and Equipment

You will cook, travel and sleep in smaller groups of 3-4 and be together as a single group for class presentations and discussions. Camping in small groups allows participants more opportunities to learn and practice Leave No Trace techniques. Group equipment, such as stoves, shelters and cook gear will be provided by NOLS and/or the course host (refer to equipment list for details on personal equipment). Food for the field portion of the course consists of typical NOLS rations including rice, pasta, grains and cereals and a variety of snack foods. Dry staples are supplemented with fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts and cheeses. If you have special dietary needs please notify the NOLS Leave No Trace office.

Enrollment Forms

The following forms are available on the NOLS website (www.nols.edu) and must be completed and received by the NOLS Leave No Trace office prior to the start of the course:

- Course Application
- Self-Screening medical form - **including cardiac screening section**
- Insurance Form - all course participants must have some form of medical insurance
- Acknowledgement of Risk and Release form

Payment and Cancellation Policies - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

Course tuition is **\$830** and includes a one-year individual membership to Leave No Trace, instruction, group equipment, meals and educational materials. Partial scholarships are available through the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. Please contact the Center for details <sarah@LNT.org> or 800-332-4100.

- **TO ENROLL, A COMPLETED APPLICATION AND A \$100 NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE ARE REQUIRED.**
- **THE BALANCE OF TUITION IS DUE 45 DAYS PRIOR TO THE COURSE START DATE.**
- **IF YOU CANCEL YOUR ENROLLMENT ON A COURSE FOR ANY REASON, YOU WILL RECEIVE A REFUND ONLY AS SPECIFIED BELOW:**
- **PRIOR TO 45 DAYS BEFORE THE COURSE STARTING DATE, NOLS WILL RETAIN THE \$100 APPLICATION FEE.**
- **BETWEEN 30-44 DAYS PRIOR TO THE COURSE STARTING DATE, NOLS WILL RETAIN 25% OF THE COURSE TUITION.**
- **BETWEEN 15-29 DAYS PRIOR TO THE COURSE STARTING DATE, NOLS WILL RETAIN 50% OF THE COURSE TUITION.**
- **LESS THAN 15 DAYS PRIOR TO THE COURSE STARTING DATE, AND ONCE THE COURSE HAS BEGUN, THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS.**

If you transfer from one course to another:

- **45 or more days prior to the course starting date, there will be a \$25 processing fee**
- **44 days or fewer prior to the course starting date, regular cancellation policies will apply.**

Sample Course Agenda – subject to change

DAY ONE

- Course begins @ 8:00 am at Escalante Interagency Visitor Center
- Introduction to the Master Educator Course, history of LNT, role of research in LNT
- Principles of Education
- Principle One: Plan Ahead and Prepare

DAY TWO

- Breakfast, packing, shuttle to trailhead, travel to first camp.
- Principle Two: Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Principle Three: Dispose of Waste Properly.
- Introduce "Action Plans."

DAY THREE

- Breakfast, break camp, pack up, and evaluate impact. Travel to second camp.
- Principle Four: Leave What You Find
- Principle Five: Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Principle Six: Respect Wildlife
- Work on "Action Plans."
- Introduction to Trainer Course Material

DAY FOUR

- Breakfast, break camp, pack up, and evaluate impact. Travel to third camp.
- Principle Seven: Be Considerate of Other Visitors.
- Wildland Ethics
- Share and discuss "Action Plans."

DAY FIVE

- Breakfast, break camp, pack up, and evaluate impact.
- How to run a Leave No Trace Trainer course.
- Course Evaluations.
- Final thoughts.
- Travel out, award diplomas, course ends.

TRAVEL AND LOGISTICS

When making travel arrangement please wait until 30 days before the course starts to make purchases

Start Time and Location

The course will meet @ 8:00 am on Monday, June 1 at the Escalante Interagency Visitor Center, Escalante, UT.

Travel Information

By Car: From I-15, whether traveling south from Salt Lake City or north from Las Vegas, take exit 95 for Utah Route 20 east. Follow Route 20 east to Route 89 South. Travel south on 89 until you reach Route 12 and travel east to Escalante.

By Plane: Las Vegas and Salt Lake City are both about 5 hours from the monument. You will need to rent a car to drive to Escalante. Flights are also available to St. George, UT, which is about 3.5 hrs from the monument.

Lodging

If you need lodging for Sunday evening there are several motels available in Escalante, UT. Please contact the Escalante Chamber of Commerce at www.escalante-cc.com or (435) 826-4810 for more information. If you prefer, there is camping available within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. A group site will be available to course participants at Calf Creek Recreation Area, 15 miles east of Escalante. Participants can check in at the visitor center or talk to the campground host.

In Case of Emergency:

Please contact NOLS Headquarters at (800) 710-NOLS.

EQUIPMENT LIST

GROUP EQUIPMENT (provided by NOLS and course host)

- shelters - 3-4 tents or tarps
- cook stoves and fuel
- cook pots and fry pans
- cooking utensils
- trowels
- bulk water containers
- water disinfection (chemical, if you prefer a water filter please bring your own)
- first aid kits
- repair kits
- maps
- wag bags – we will be using wag bags supplied by the monument for human waste disposal

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT (provided by participant)

UPPER BODY CLOTHING

- **2 - 3 insulating layers for the upper body.** These garments should fit comfortably over each other so they can be worn simultaneously. Cotton fabrics should be avoided since they have little insulation value when wet. Synthetic fabrics such as Patagonia Capilene® or Extend® are preferred. A midweight and Expedition weight fleece is recommended
- **Fleece Pullover or Sweater** - any secondary layer of 100 to 200 wt. polar fleece.
- **Synthetic or Cotton T-shirt** - to wear on warm days. Lightweight polyester or Coolmax® is encouraged because it dries more quickly than cotton.
- **Wind Shirt** - Nylon wind shell, preferably with a hood, (not waterproof) that fits comfortably over all upper-body layers. Gore-Tex is acceptable.
- **Rain Parka** - Gore-Tex or other laminates are recommended. Coated nylon or waterproof breathable jackets and parkas are acceptable. Ponchos are unacceptable.

LOWER-BODY CLOTHING

- **Two insulating layers** that should fit comfortably over each other and underneath wind or rain pants. These should be medium weight base layer (long underwear) bottoms and either an expedition weight bottom or fleece pants.
- **Rain pants** - coated nylon or Gore-Tex rain pants. Gore-Tex pants may double as rain/wind pants.
- **Wind pants** - nylon shell pants.
- **Shorts** - lightweight cotton or nylon athletic shorts. These do not serve as an insulating layer.

FOOTWEAR

- **Hiking Boots** - lightweight lugged-sole hiking boots that provide sturdy ankle support. (Packs generally weigh 35-40 lbs.). Keep in mind that our preferred and likely route is the Escalante River Gorge, involving numerous river crossings.
- **Camp Shoes** - sneakers or lightweight running shoes to wear around camp.
- **Socks** - 75 to 100% wool, Merino wool, heavy rag type or synthetic/wool blends. Avoid cotton blends. Be sure to have an extra (dry) pair for camp.
- **Gaiters** - not required but strongly recommended. Gaiters with double closure (i.e. both zippers and snaps) or 2" velcro.

BACKPACKS/SLEEPING GEAR

- **Backpack** - Internal frame packs should have a volume of at least 5000 cubic inches. External frame packs should have a volume of at least 3500 cubic inches.
- **Sleeping Bag** - Down or synthetic bags with a minimum temperature rating of 20 degrees (depending on course location).
- **Sleeping Pad** - Thermarest® or closed-cell foam at least 3/8" thick.
- **Sleeping Bag Stuffsack** - compression stuff sacks are recommended for internal frame packs, and oversized stuff sacks are recommended for external frame packs.

MISCELLANEOUS CLOTHING

- **Sun hat**
- **Fleece or Wool hat**
- **Fleece or wool gloves**

MISCELLANEOUS PERSONAL GEAR

- **Waterproof bag liners** - plastic trash compactor bags are sturdy and work well.
- **Personal Eating Utensils** - 1 each, cup bowl and spoon.
- **Disposable lighter or matches**
- **Water Bottle(s)**
- **Sunglasses**
- **Lip Balm and Sunscreen**
- **Toilet Articles** - toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, brush, skin lotion, etc.
- **Bandanna – optional**
- **Watch**
- **Flashlight or Headlamp**
- **Insect repellent**
- **Pocket Knife**
- **Notebook and pen/pencil**
- **Camera/Film**

CONTACT INFORMATION

NOLS Leave No Trace
NOLS International Headquarters
284 Lincoln Street Lander WY 82520
Phone: 800-710-NOLS x2220
Fax: 307-332-8811
E-mail: Int@nols.edu