

LEAVE NO TRACE MASTER EDUCATOR™ COURSE
COURSE DESCRIPTION/TRAVEL INFORMATION/EQUIPMENT LIST
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
June 14 - 18, 2010

COURSE DESCRIPTION

During 5 days in this rich ecosystem, you will learn and teach the principles of Leave No Trace (LNT) and discuss wildland ethics. Your group will be a mixture of federal agency personnel, outdoor educators, guides and outfitters, outdoor retailers and private individuals. Courses are instructed by a NOLS Instructor and Agency (NPS) Instructor both are LNT Master Educators.

Hiking distances are short to moderate and mostly on established trails, though some portions of the route may be off-trail. Hiking routes are approximately 10-20 miles in length with significant time spent in classes and discussions. Pack weights are approximately 35-45 pounds. Weather will be variable with temperatures ranging from nighttime lows in the 30's to daytime highs in the 60's. Rain, thunderstorms and even snow are common at this time of year.

The course will meet at the Mammoth Community Center (former Mammoth School) in Mammoth at 8:00 am Monday. It's located in the NPS housing area across from the Mammoth Campground (within walking distance). The first day is spent in an indoor classroom and includes discussion of the history of the LNT program, an introduction to the LNT principles and final preparation for traveling in the backcountry. Your group will stay Monday night at Mammoth Campground.

The backcountry portion of the course begins Tuesday morning with the next three nights spent in the field.

The course ends Friday afternoon. To allow time for cleaning equipment, completing evaluations and awarding diplomas plan to depart no earlier than 2:00 p.m.

Curriculum

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has designated NOLS an educational provider 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

Rescue Creek, Blacktail Deer Creek and the Black Canyon of Yellowstone are located in Yellowstone's northern range, a vast expanse of low elevation grassland often called the Serengeti of North America for its abundant wildlife. Bison, elk, mountain lions, gray wolves, grizzly bears and black bears frequent the area. Elevations for the course will range from 5400 feet to 7000 feet. You will start hiking through sagebrush grasslands on your way to the Yellowstone River lined by open meadows and stands of Douglas fir and aspen. There will be plenty of signs of the wildlife, which roam the area, and you will be rewarded with spectacular views as we follow the Yellowstone River through the Black Canyon.

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' LNT website <http://www.nols.edu/lnt/enroll.shtml> 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 Sarah Folzenlogen at 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 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

DAY ONE

Course begins @ 8:00 am.

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/put-in; 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

Start Time and Location

The course will meet @ 8:00 am at the Mammoth Community Center (former Mammoth School) in Mammoth, WY.

Travel Information

By Car:

From North: On I-90 take exit 333 south through Livingston and down Highway 89, 55 miles to Gardiner and continue on to Mammoth.
From South: Drive north through Yellowstone to Mammoth.

By Plane:

The nearest airports are in Billings or Bozeman MT and are serviced by Northwest, Alaska, Delta and United Airlines.

Lodging

There are numerous lodging options in Gardiner, Montana. Check the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce at www.gardinerchamber.com for a comprehensive listing.

Camping

If you prefer to camp the nearest campgrounds in the Park are at Mammoth. These sites are available on a first come-first served basis for \$14 per night. If you give us prior notice, we should be able to reserve a camping site for you.

In Case of Emergency

Contact NOLS Headquarters in Lander WY 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 frypans
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

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.

Fleece Jacket – any synthetic fleece jacket 300 wt. polar fleece

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 light or 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.).

Camp Shoes - sneakers or lightweight running shoes to wear around camp.

Socks - 75 to 100% wool, Merino wool, heavy ragg type or synthetic/wool blends. Avoid cotton blends.

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
Mosquito headnet
Neckwarmer
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.
Water Bottle(s)
Sunglasses
Lip Balm and Sunscreen
Insect Repellent
Toilet Articles - toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, brush, skin lotion, etc.
Bandanna
Watch
Flashlight or Headlamp
Pocket Knife
Notebook and pen/pencil
Camera/Film

CONTACT INFORMATION

NOLS Leave No Trace
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