



## **Wilderness First Aid Instructors Needed**

---

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Wilderness Medicine Institute. Enclosed you will find a copy of the Wilderness First Aid Instructor job description with a list of requested application information for the Wilderness First Aid Instructor Training Course (WFA ITC). When organizing your resume, please emphasize and highlight the following six areas :

1. Your level of wilderness medical training (minimum WFR with Professional CPR).
2. Details about your wilderness patient care experience. Please elaborate so that we may understand the scope of your experiences (number of patients, types of injuries, distance of evacuations, etc.).
3. Your wilderness experience, both personal and professional.
4. Your teaching experience, both experiential and classroom.
5. Your teaching availability. Please be specific regarding the number of weekends per month you would be available to teach classes from January 1-April 30 and your overall availability during May and June including weekdays.
6. Your home location. WMI WFA courses are conducted predominantly in the western, mid-western, southern and southeastern US. Priority will be given to applicants who are located in these regions.

Applications are requested annually by August 15. We review applications and conduct phone interviews of eligible candidates shortly thereafter. Invitations to the WFA ITC are extended during September. The WFA ITC is held each November in Lander, WY. Please note, though the price has not yet been set, there will be a tuition charge to cover food, lodging and materials during the WFA ITC. As this course is very heavily subsidized, there are no scholarships available.

We look forward to welcoming some excellent new staff onto our team of wilderness medicine educators. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Gates Richards  
[gates\\_richards@nols.edu](mailto:gates_richards@nols.edu)  
866-831-9001

## **Employment Opportunity**

The Wilderness Medicine Institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School (WMI of NOLS) is seeking qualified wilderness medicine educators. Since 1990 the Wilderness Medicine Institute has been the leader in wilderness medicine education. In 1999 we joined forces with the National Outdoor Leadership School, the leader in wilderness education, to continue and enhance our longstanding tradition of excellence in the field of wilderness medical training.

### **Position Description**

Instructor teams teach Wilderness First Aid programs ranging in length from two to three days. Courses occur primarily on weekends, but occasional weekday classes will be scheduled. Courses occur year-round throughout the western and southeastern United States with the majority of programs occurring in April, May and June.

Teaching seasons may be arranged to fit other seasonal employment schedules, however, highest consideration will be given to applicants who are available during the busiest teaching months. Teaching days are generally eight hours.

### **Responsibilities and Travel Opportunities**

The life of a WMI instructor includes traveling long distances to course locations and dealing with a variety of living situations. In addition to providing outstanding and thorough lectures on medical topics, supervising students' hands-on learning, and attending to the individual learning styles of all students, WMI instructors are expected to model a love for the wilderness. Responsibilities will also include handling retail transactions, keeping accurate paperwork and managing equipment.

In addition to meeting the basic qualifications, WMI instructors are expected to have excellent interpersonal skills, to be apt at creating analogies and metaphors, and to be great storytellers. Deep and abiding respect for colleagues, for WMI's philosophy, and for students is requisite. A sense of humor, including the ability to laugh at oneself, is paramount.

### **Top Level Compensation for Top Level Educators**

Compensation provided to instructors is among the highest in the outdoor education field. WMI asks that you invest 100% of your time when you are under contract. In return you will be privileged to join a community of learners who specialize in providing life-giving care to those traveling in the wilderness. This community includes some of the most highly regarded writers, educators, and medical providers working in this field today, including Buck Tilton, M.S., author of over a dozen books on wilderness medicine, and Tod Schimelpfenig, the only two time recipient of the Wilderness Medicine Society's Warren Bowman award for lifetime contributions to the field of wilderness medicine.

## Qualifications

### Education

- College degree preferred.
- Minimum Wilderness First Responder (WFR) required.
- A WFR Recert or higher course within the past **two** years required.
- Professional level CPR certification is required.
- Consideration will be given to those having other relevant medical training (e.g. EMT, nurse, physician, military, etc.) with a current WFR certification.

### Teaching Experience

- Teaching experience in an outdoor education setting or classroom.
- Successful applicants will have a blend of both.
- Knowledge of experiential methods is essential.
- Knowledge of adult education principles is helpful.
- Experience teaching first aid is a plus.

### Outdoor Background

- Several seasons experience leading extended trips in wilderness settings.
- Having had responsibility for youth or adults in backcountry settings is essential.

### Medical Background

- Direct experience managing common injuries, illnesses and evacuations in a wilderness setting is essential.
- This might be demonstrated through leading groups in wilderness environments, providing medical care for camps, or involvement with ski patrol or SAR organizations.

### Other

- Since WMI courses are run primarily in the US, applicants must be able to read, write and speak fluent English.
- Applicants must have reliable personal transportation and a good driving record.
- Part of the responsibility is transporting gear between courses, so a vehicle with some cargo space is preferred.

## Benefits

Competitive salary: \$115 to \$195 per day plus travel and living expenses during courses.

## WFA Instructor Training Course Application Process

*Submit an application package to:*  
Gates Richards, ITC Program Coordinator  
Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS  
284 Lincoln St., Lander WY 82520  
Phone (866) 831-9001 • Fax (307) 335-2355  
Email: gates\_richards@nols.edu  
Web Site: <http://wmi.nols.edu>

*Emailed applications are preferred.*

*The application package must include:*

- A cover letter describing yourself, why you strive to teach wilderness medicine for WMI of NOLS and your teaching availability.
- A current resume highlighting your medical, teaching and wilderness trip leading experience.
- Three reference names who can comment on your teaching abilities.

Following an application review, qualified applicants receive a phone interview. Offers to attend the WFA Instructor Training Course (WFA ITC) held each November are made to the most suitable applicants. Employment contracts are extended to WFA ITC participants who demonstrate competence. Ongoing evaluations occur after each course contract.

**Application Deadline: August 15, Annually**