



## **Wilderness Medicine Instructors Needed**

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Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Wilderness Medicine Institute. Attached you will find a copy of the Instructor job description with a list of requested application information for the Wilderness First Responder Instructor Training Course (WFR ITC). To help you organize your resume, it is helpful to us if you emphasize and highlight the following five areas of information:

1. Your level of medical, CPR and wilderness medical training.
2. Your patient care experience. Please elaborate so that we may understand the scope of your experiences (number of patients, pre-hospital versus wilderness patient care, distance of evacuations, etc.).
3. Your wilderness experience, both personal and professional.
4. Your teaching experience, both experiential and classroom.
5. Your availability to teach for WMI. Please be specific regarding blocks of time and times of the year. WMI expects a minimum commitment of 6-8 10-day courses from new instructors.

Applications are requested annually by May 11. We review applications in May and conduct phone interviews of eligible candidates toward the end of the month. Eligible candidates are invited to the WFR ITC held each November in Lander, WY. Invitations to the WFR ITC are extended during June. Depending on available space, a second round of applications may be reviewed in August. The second application deadline is August 1, with interviews to take place shortly thereafter. Invitations to the WFR ITC will be extended during September. Please note, though the price has not yet been set, there will be a tuition charge to cover food, lodging and materials during the WFR 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 courses ranging in length from two to thirty days on a year-round basis although the primary need is for instructors to teach 10-day Wilderness First Responder courses. Weekend courses and month-long EMT courses may also be required.

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, which stretch from mid-November through late June. Instructors will be expected to teach throughout the western, mid-western, southern and southeastern United States. Teaching days vary from 8 - 12 hours and may include evenings.

### **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 collecting course fees, handling retail transactions, and keeping accurate paperwork.

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

### 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 emergency medicine 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

- Significant patient contact experience.
- This might be demonstrated through involvement with ambulance, ski patrol, military medic, emergency room, critical care, SAR organizations or significant patient care provided in backcountry environments.

### 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. Partial reimbursement for health insurance is available to staff working a sufficient number of days. A limited number of year-round, benefited teaching positions are available.

## **WFR 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](mailto: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 WFR Instructor Training Course (WFR ITC) held each November are made to the most suitable applicants. Employment contracts are extended to WFR ITC participants who demonstrate competence. Ongoing evaluations occur after each course contract.

**Application Deadline: May 11, Annually**