

## ***NOLS and WMI of NOLS Veterans Information***

---

The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and the Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) of NOLS are approved for Veterans Benefits according to Title 38, United States Code. Only courses based out of Wyoming are eligible for approval through the VA.

**NOLS and WMI of NOLS are able to process VA benefits directly for the following courses:**

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Educator Course  
Rocky Mountain Outdoor Educator Semester  
Rocky Mountain Instructor Course  
Wilderness First Responder  
Wilderness EMT

NOLS or WMI courses that are part of the degree programs at Central Wyoming College (CWC) are approved for VA benefits; certification is completed by CWC. By working through Central Wyoming College VA benefits can also be applied to the following courses as well as those listed above:

Absaroka Backpacking	Semester in the Rockies
Gannet Peak Mountaineering	Wilderness Horsepacking
Rock and River	Wilderness Natural History
Rock Climbing	

**Evaluation:** Students on all NOLS and WMI of NOLS courses will receive feedback concerning their progress throughout the course. On NOLS courses, instructors will provide verbal evaluation to all students and at course end, the student will receive a written evaluation that consists of both a letter grade and prose. A student must complete the course with an overall grade of C or better to ensure receipt of a NOLS diploma. The written evaluation will be kept with the student's records and can be requested in writing by the student from the Registrar.

WFR and WEMT courses are offered through the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS. These courses lead to nationally recognized certification. Students must successfully complete written and practical examination. An average of 80% must be maintained for successful course completion and certification.

**Separations:** In the event that a student were to become ill, injured, present a safety hazard to the group or him/herself, or be separated for disciplinary reasons the student will be evacuated from the course by whatever means NOLS deems appropriate. Students who are separated for any reason will receive a "Student Separation Form" that documents their last day of attendance at NOLS. The refund policy for students attending a NOLS or WMI course on VA benefits corresponds to the "pro-rata plus 10%" refund policy mandated by law (reg. 21.4255-1.)

**Eligibility:** Candidates for NOLS Outdoor Educator and Instructor courses must meet requirements for these courses as outlined by the NOLS Admissions office.

Due to the length and nature of NOLS and WMI courses, it is impractical to shorten or grant credit for prior training. To be certified for VA benefits, NOLS courses must provide you with new training or expertise. You are not eligible to use VA benefits to take any course for which you already have equivalent training or experience.

Applicants for the WMI of NOLS WEMT program must complete the required CPR pre-requisite prior to the program start date.

**TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS:**

**NOLS COURSES:** You must first be enrolled on a NOLS course. Send your NOLS application (available from the NOLS website) and the required registration fee to the NOLS Headquarters in Lander, Wyoming.

**WMI COURSES:** You must first be enrolled on a WMI course. Send a completed WMI registration form (available from the WMI web schedule) to NOLS Headquarters in Lander, Wyoming with a *\$1000 deposit for a WEMT course or a \$300 deposit for a WFR course.*

**Information on how to apply for VA benefits is located at:**

[http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_Bill\\_Info/How\\_to\\_Apply.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/How_to_Apply.htm)

**YOUR BENEFIT CHECK** is typically issued to you by the VA **AFTER** they receive verification from NOLS or WMI that you have started your course. **Please remember that NOLS and WMI require that your tuition be paid in full BEFORE you start your course.**

**YOUR BENEFIT AMOUNT** is based on several factors, and "it is the responsibility of the VA (and only the VA) to determine the eligibility of veterans...and to approve the payment of benefits." NOLS and/or WMI are not given any information regarding the amount of the benefit.

We recommend that you look into the amount that will be covered prior to applying for your course as we have had students in the past assume that the VA will cover the full cost of a course when in fact the covered amount was much less.