



NOLS ALUMNI COURSE
GANNETT PEAK MOUNTAINEERING
JULY 23-JULY 29, 2017

Course Features

- Hiking Route: ~ 50 miles with 17,000 feet of total elevation gain; elevations of 9,000 to 13,809 feet
- Horse-supported re-supply of food and mountaineering gear on Day 2 = lighter packs for the approach hikes
- Travel both on and off-trail, above tree line and on glacial moraines
- Snow, rock, and glacier travel
- Fast paced and strenuous; physical fitness essential
- Attempted ascent of Gannett Peak
- Average pack weight: 30-40 lbs

Cost: \$1,895

Minimum Age: 16

The Expedition

Imagine yourself standing atop the highest point in Wyoming, Gannett Peak, 13,804'. With ice axe in hand, you pose for a triumphant summit photograph. Waves of snow-capped peaks, glittering alpine lakes, and miles of wide-open sky surround you. This is the goal of the Gannett Peak expedition: to get you on top of a big mountain.

Gannett Peak stands 13,804 feet above sea level. Here the air is rarified, the snows perennial, and the views stupendous. To get to Gannett, you'll hike some 24-miles in three days to basecamp, carrying your camping and personal gear along with some climbing equipment. During this approach, you'll fine-tune the camping and travel practices you learned previously at NOLS, and begin to work together with this new group as a team. These basic skills—camping, cooking, map reading, stove use, *Leave No Trace* techniques, and sanitation—are the foundation for the more advanced mountaineering to come.

You'll spend the first three days on the scenic 22-mile approach to base camp. Packs will be light until day three when you pick up horse shuttled mountaineering gear and food resupply. The climbing curriculum begins with knots, rope handling, climbing movement, and belaying. Snow and ice work—everything from ice axe technique and self-arrests, to step cutting and crampon use—will be addressed and practiced as well.

Day 4 or 5 will be reserved for the summit attempt of Gannett Peak. This may happen in small groups or in one large group. Summit day will be very challenging. You'll leave basecamp before dawn and travel over moraines, then up snow and ice slopes to the sharp summit ridge of the peak. Ropes and belays will be used when necessary. Anticipate working non-stop for 12 or more hours with only a few breaks and (hopefully) 30 minutes or so to enjoy the view from the top of Wyoming!

After the summit attempt, you will return to basecamp. Days 6-7 will be spent hiking out to the same roadhead where you began.

Student Independence

On all NOLS courses, students will be independent (that is, unaccompanied by instructors) at various times. This will include time in and around camp, such as while cooking or performing camp chores. Instructors may allow students to travel away from camp independently to do things such as swim.

Weather and Other Challenges

Mountain weather is capricious. On any given day, temperatures may range from below freezing to sweltering. Afternoon thunderstorms are common and can be quite violent. Courses may experience snow and rain, or long stretches of sun and blue skies.

Travel in the mountains can be tough. You may be off-trail bushwhacking through thick forests or scrambling around refrigerator-sized boulders. Rivers are icy from snowmelt and can be hard or impossible to cross. You will traverse steep slopes of snow, loose rock, or grass, and grunt up high mountain passes. But the hard work is worth it. There's nothing quite like taking your pack off at the top of the peak, feeling the wind dry the sweat off your back, and looking down at miles of new country opening up before you. It's exhilarating!

Bear avoidance techniques while camping and traveling are integrated into this course. Precautions against bear encounters may decrease the opportunities for solitude and privacy on this course. This course will protect all food and attractants from bears. Other bear avoidance tactics include meticulously maintaining cleanliness at the cooking sites and making loud calls to warn bears of your presence.

Identifying and managing mountain hazards—falling rock, weather, animals, moving water, and steep terrain will be a constant theme in our instruction. Camping may involve dealing with swarms of mosquitoes or pesky critters. Remember, once you leave the bus, you'll be miles from telephones, hospitals, and any form of transportation besides your feet, so it is important to stay healthy and safe in order to have a fun, successful expedition.

Planned Itinerary

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| July 22 | Arrive in Lander NO LATER than mid-afternoon on this day. Lodging is provided at NOLS' Noble Hotel in Lander. There is a mandatory pre-trip orientation, gear prep, and pack-packing meeting at 6 p.m. in the Noble Hotel. We recommend eating an early dinner before this meeting. |
| July 23 | Breakfast is provided at the Noble Hotel at 6 a.m. You will depart for the field by 7 am. Your luggage (that is not going into the field) will be shuttled to NOLS Rocky Mountain and secured in lockers. |
| July 23-28 | Hiking, camping, and mountaineering in the Wind River Mountains. |
| July 29 | Pick up at 2 p.m. and shuttle back to Lander. A lunch will be provided on the bus. After cleaning gear and de-issuing equipment, lodging is provided in the Noble Hotel. Optional no-host dinner out in Lander. |
| July 30 | Please plan to depart Lander NO EARLIER than this morning. |

Getting to Lander

By Plane

The closest airport to Lander, WY is Riverton, WY (RIW), which offers flights to and from Denver, CO on a daily basis. Due to the unreliability of this regional airline, we recommend flying into Casper, WY (CPR), a 2.5 hour drive), Jackson, WY (JAC), a 2.5 hour drive, Salt Lake City, UT (SLC), a 4.5. hour drive, or Denver, CO (DEN), a 6 hour drive. **Some past participants have found that renting cars for a week from one of these regional airports is the most cost-effective method to travel to Lander.**

Shuttle

Wind River Transit Authority (W.R.T.A.) provides vehicle shuttle service in southwestern Wyoming and surrounding areas. Please make a reservation early by calling W.R.T.A. at 800.439.7118. For after hours travel problems, call 307.850.6051. See the W.R.T.A. website for more details: <http://www.wrtabuslines.com/default.aspx>.

Estimated W.R.T.A. shuttle rates for one way/round trip. Prices may change.

Riverton Airport:
\$30/\$60

Casper Airport:
\$130/\$260

Jackson, WY Airport:
\$160/\$320

If Delayed

If your arrival in Lander is delayed and you will not make the orientation meeting, please call the NOLS Alumni Office at 800.332.4280. From 5:00 p.m. until midnight any night, please call 307.335.2265 and leave a message with the Noble Hotel desk clerk. The Noble closes at midnight. If you will arrive between midnight and 8:00 a.m., call well before midnight to get instructions on how to access the hotel after hours.

Accommodations

Accommodations are dormitory style and are for NOLS students and staff only. Rooms will be available at the historic Noble Hotel on **July 22 and July 29**. The Noble is located at the corner of Third and Main Streets in Lander (288 Main Street), with entry on Third Street. The Noble desk clerk is available from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 midnight 7 days a week by dialing direct 307.335.2265. If the desk clerk is not available, leave a message.

There is no charge for Noble Hotel lodging on the nights of July 22 or July 29. Please do not call to reserve a spot for these dates, as we will be expecting you. **Reservations are not necessary, unless you plan to arrive EARLIER than July 22 or stay LATER than July 29**, in which case you will need to contact the Hotel Manager for confirmation of availability at (307) 335-2265. The charge is \$15 per person per night, payable upon arrival. Other accommodations are available in Lander, and you are welcome to make reservations for additional nights at any number of motels or bed and breakfast inns. Please contact the Lander Chamber of Commerce 307.332.3892 for more information.

Storing Personal Belongings

Personal belongings and vehicles may be stored at the NOLS facility for the duration of your course. Although we assume no responsibility, due care will be taken to prevent theft or damage of your stored items. Valuables may be checked into our safe. Parking

is generally available on a NOLS lot for the duration of your course in an unfenced parking lot with little or no security.

Registration and Payment

To reserve a space on this trip, please submit a non-refundable deposit to the NOLS Alumni Department. We take Mastercard or Visa via phone at 800.332.4280 or a check can be mailed to: NOLS Alumni Department, 284 Lincoln Street, Lander, WY 82520. The remainder of the tuition and all application forms are due on **June 19, 2017**.

The price of the trip includes lodging at the Noble Hotel on July 22 and July 29, all meals starting with breakfast on July 23, through lunch on July 29, all group equipment, instruction, and shuttles to and from the trailhead.

All travel to and from Lander, WY, non-NOLS accommodations the night before the trip and the last night of the trip, meals not indicated, any personal equipment that is rented or purchased from NOLS, and any costs incurred by evacuations are the responsibility of trip participants.

If you have any questions about this trip, please contact the NOLS alumni office at 800.332.4280, or alumni@nols.edu.