



## Leave No Trace Frontcountry Master Educator Course

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION / TRAVEL INFORMATION**

Location: Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, Finland, MN

Date: August 2-6, 2013



### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This Frontcountry Master Educator course is an extensive, five-day course designed to train participants in ways to practice and teach Leave No Trace (LNT) skills and ethics. The course provides participants with a comprehensive overview of Leave No Trace techniques through practical application in a Frontcountry setting. Students who successfully graduate a Master Educator course will receive a diploma and will be qualified to offer and teach two-day Leave No Trace Trainer courses.

During five days of training at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center participants will learn and teach the principles of Leave No Trace immersed in the northern coniferous forest. The course will involve practicing Leave No Trace skills while camping at a site along the Baptism River. Participants will also have opportunities to explore 18 miles of trails, 2 lakes, wetlands, and scenic vistas of Lake Superior found in the 2000 acres owned by Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. Wolf Ridge provides an ideal setting for exploring and discussing outdoor ethics and Frontcountry issues. Backcountry principles will also be covered with discussions concerning the differences.

This is a great opportunity for teachers, naturalists, park rangers, recreation planners, scout leaders, and other outdoor educators to improve LNT teaching skills while experiencing the unique treasures found in this scenic area of Minnesota.

### **COURSE PROGRESSION**

This sample agenda, which is subject to change, gives an overview of a typical progression. Topics will be added or changed depending on final enrollment numbers. Activities are dependent on terrain, course size, weather and availability of guest presenters.

#### **DAY ONE**

- Course begins at 1:00 pm at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center
- Introduction
- Set up camp
- Introduction to the Master Educator Course, history of LNT, role of research in LNT
- LNT resources, video, PowerPoint, activity books
- Principles of Education, learning styles, teaching styles
- Evening Session: Wolf Ridge Raptor Program

#### **DAY TWO**

- Morning Session Begins at 8 AM
- Principle One: Plan Ahead and Prepare – Backcountry (BC)
- Know Before You Go – Frontcountry (FC)
- Principle Two: Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces (BC)
- Stick to Trails and Camp Overnight Right (FC)
- Afternoon Activity – Day Hike to Lake Superior Overlook
- Evening Session: Ideas on teaching about Wildland ethics

#### **DAY THREE**

- Morning Session Begins at 8 AM
- How to run a Leave No Trace Trainer course
- Principle Three: Dispose of Waste Properly (BC)
- Trash your Trash and Pick Up Poop (FC)
- Principle Four: Leave What You Find (BC)
- Leave it as You Found It (FC)
- Afternoon Activity – Canoeing on Wolf Lake
- Work on "Action Plans"
- Evening Session: How did you develop a wildland ethic?

#### **DAY FOUR**

- Morning Session Begins at 8 AM
- Principle Five: Minimize Campfire Impacts (BC)
- Be Careful with Fire (FC)
- Principle Six: Respect Wildlife (BC)
- Keep Wildlife Wild (FC)
- Afternoon Activity- Wildlife observation on Sawmill Creek
- Evening Session: LNT Ethical dilemmas

#### **DAY FIVE**

- Principle Seven: Be Considerate of Other Visitors (BC)
- Share Our Trails and Manage Your Pet (FC)
- Action Plan Presentations
- Course Evaluations
- Final thoughts
- Award diplomas, course ends at 1 PM

### **CURRICULUM**

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has designated the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), the Appalachian Mountain Club, Adirondack Mountain Club, Landmark Learning, Wilderness Education Association and Ninemile Forest Service Training Center as the principal educational providers 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 an 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 recreation skills
- Wildland ethics
- Outdoor teaching techniques

## **TEACHING SESSIONS**

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. Each participant will also present an ungraded activity (10 – 20 min.) and do a formal critique (2-5 min.). If you have questions regarding class presentations, please refer to the teaching information on the LNT website <http://lnt.org/teach> or contact the NOLS Leave No Trace office.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center is an outdoor lover's paradise. It is located on a ridge above Lake Superior and includes two lakes, numerous scenic overlooks, wetlands, and creeks, bordered by the Baptism River. Geologists are fascinated by this region of northern Minnesota. Over a billion years ago geological rifting and mountain building events cooled to form the bedrock of the area. The recent glacial events exposed the bedrock. An uncommon igneous rock, anorthosite, is exposed on the Mystical Mountain high point nearby Raven and Wolf Lake. It is also common to find agates along the Baptism River

The outdoor classroom is home to a variety of plant communities and wildlife. The forest is a mixture of maple, birch, pine and spruce. There are also riparian and wetland areas. These areas provide homes for amphibians and insects, which in turn attract larger fish, birds, and mammals. Hawks, owls, and eagles are common. Signs of beaver, muskrat, hare and deer are often seen on the trail. Other wildlife in the area includes wolves, moose, black bear, fox, pine marten, peregrine falcons and loons.

Northern Minnesota summers are variable from hot humid days to cool and windy. Violent thunderstorms and long all day rains are all possible. While August is often less buggy than earlier summer months, mosquitoes, gnats, black flies are possible.

## **LOGISTICS**

### **Camping**

As a part of the frontcountry experience, all participants are required to stay at the campsite during the four nights of the course. The site will provide a base camp for the course and while participants will have opportunities for day hiking, this course will not include backpacking to different camp locations. The campsite is located in a Riparian area adjacent to the Baptism River. The site includes a picnic table, fire pit, tent sites and pit toilet. The campsite is approximately a three-quarter of a mile walk from the parking area and help transporting gear will be available. A shower facility is available at the main campus.

### **Equipment**

Participants need to bring all of their own clothing, camping and eating equipment. Cooking equipment will be provided. Plan for a variety of weather from hot and humid to cool and windy. A detailed equipment list will be emailed to participants prior to the course.

## **Food**

In order to minimize the cost of the course participants will be responsible for some of their own meals. Evening meals will be provided and prepared by a small group of participants each day. Participants will need to bring their own breakfast, lunch & snacks. An important aspect of the course is practicing Leave No Trace during meals so all meals are considered part of the class and will occur at the campsite or along the trail.

## **ENROLLMENT FORMS**

The following forms are available on the NOLS website <http://www.nols.edu/lnt/> (click on the ENROLL tab) 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
- Teaching Session form

## **PAYMENT**

### **Payment and Cancellation Policies - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

Course tuition is **\$450.00** and includes a one-year individual membership to Leave No Trace, materials and instruction. Partial scholarships may be available through the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and NOLS. For information regarding LNTCOE scholarships, please contact the Center for details at 800-332-4100. For information on the NOLS David E. Perkins Memorial Scholarship, please see the bottom of the enrollment page at the above link.

- **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 ONLY AS SPECIFIED BELOW:**
- **PRIOR TO 45 DAYS BEFORE THE COURSE STARTING DATE, NOLS WILL RETAIN THE \$100 DEPOSIT.**
- **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.**

## **TRAVEL & LOGISTICS**

From Minneapolis International Airport, follow Highway 5 East. Merge on to 35E north. Continue on Interstate 35E, it will become Interstate 35 and continue toward Duluth. When interstate 35 ends in Duluth turn north on to Highway 61, then follow Highway 61 approximately 55 miles north to County Road 1. Take a left on County Road 1 you will travel through Finland, MN. In Finland you will turn right on to County Road 6. Travel approximately 2 miles to the Wolf Ridge driveway (Cranberry Road). Turn right into the driveway and follow it 2.5 miles to the main campus on the ridge top. We will meet at the main parking lot prior to driving to a closer parking lot to the campsite.

Address:

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center  
6282 Cranberry Road, Finland, MN 55603

Office phone: 218-353-7414

<http://www.wolf-ridge.org/>

### **Plan to stay longer!**

The north shore of Lake Superior is a beautiful location and adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Visit the following websites for additional information:

Friends of the Boundary Waters - <http://www.friends-bwca.org/>

Minnesota North Shore Visitor Guide - <http://www.northshoreinfo.com/>

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

NOLS Leave No Trace

NOLS International Headquarters  
284 Lincoln Street Lander WY 82520

Phone: 800-710-NOLS x2220

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