

STUDENT AGREEMENT

(INCLUDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & ASSUMPTION OF RISKS & AGREEMENTS OF RELEASE AND INDEMNITY) WILDERNESS MEDICINE



Please read this document carefully. It must be signed by all students and a parent or guardian if the student is a minor. “Student” includes adult and minor students. In consideration of the services provided by the National Outdoor Leadership School, hereafter referred to as NOLS, I agree, for myself (and for the minor student if I am signing as a parent or guardian), to the following:

ACTIVITIES AND RISKS

I understand that NOLS Wilderness Medicine courses are taught in classroom and outdoor settings and acknowledge that the activities of the course have risks, including certain risks, which are inherent. Inherent risks are those which cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the activities. These elements can cause loss or damage to equipment, accidental injury, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma, disability, or death. I understand that NOLS considers it important for me to know in advance what to expect and to be informed of the activities’ inherent risks. The following describes some, but not all, of those risks.

- NOLS activities may be strenuous, physically and emotionally.
- NOLS Wilderness Medicine courses may occur in remote places. They may occur on lands open to the public, and exposed to the acts of persons not associated with NOLS. Communication and transportation may be difficult and evacuations and medical care may be significantly delayed.
- Physical activities include, but are not limited to, walking, running, hiking, repetitive lifting, and carrying. At times students will be in close physical proximity to one another or instructors. Certain activities will require travel by foot and other means, over unimproved roads, hiking trails and rugged off-trail terrain including downed timber, river crossings, snow, ice, steep slopes, slippery rocks, and other features. The risk of these activities includes falling, drowning, becoming lost, and others usually associated with such activities, including environmental risks.
- Environmental risks and hazards include, but are not limited to, flowing, deep and cold water; harmful insects, snakes, animals; falling and rolling rock; lightning, falling timber, and unpredictable forces of nature, including all types of weather which may change to extreme conditions without notice. Possible injuries and illnesses include wounds, bruises or infections; sunburn, bites or stings and insect or animal-borne diseases or infections; hypothermia, frostbite, heatstroke, flu-like or respiratory illness, and other debilitating or life-threatening conditions including COVID-19 and other diseases caused by coronaviruses.
- Equipment may fail or malfunction.
- Students will participate in realistic simulated injury and illness scenarios and will at times act the role of patient, being handled, carried, and otherwise treated as patients of a simulated medical emergency. Students will also use and practice with various medical equipment. Training, under close staff supervision, may include the option of injecting, and being injected, by fellow students. Risks associated with this training include being inadvertently stuck by a needle, being dropped or otherwise mishandled while being carried; being touched while acting the role of patient in a scenario; and emotional distress in response to training scenarios. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course students will spend time at regional hospitals. Risks include those associated with contact with sick or injured patients.
- NOLS may require students to arrange their own transportation to locations away from the primary classroom from which further activities will be conducted. This travel is not supervised by NOLS and includes the use or sharing of personal vehicles that are not owned or controlled in any way by NOLS.
- Decisions made by the instructors, other staff (including volunteers), contractors, and students will be based on a variety of perceptions and evaluations, which by their nature are imprecise and subject to errors in judgment. Misjudgments may pertain to, among other things, a student’s capabilities, environment, terrain, water and weather conditions, natural hazards, travel routes, and medical conditions.
- NOLS is not responsible for students, including minors, before the start and after end dates of their course or if they depart early. Between the start and end date of the course students are not supervised before or after the established class time. Students may have homework assigned for after class, but this is not supervised by NOLS. NOLS has no responsibility for students and students accept the risks that arise from this unsupervised free time. NOLS staff may from time to time provide assistance or even accompany students during free time, but in doing so, they are acting as private individuals, and NOLS is not responsible for their conduct.
- NOLS Wilderness Medicine courses are instructional in nature. Students accept the risks of instructional activities, which are intended to challenge students to expand their skills and judgment.
- During the established class time students are considered to be “participating” in their course. Participation includes, but is not limited to, involvement with activities, time spent studying or practicing techniques, and formal classes.
- NOLS Wilderness Medicine courses in foreign countries may be exposed to laws, legal systems, customs and behaviors, animals, diseases and infections not common to the United States; in addition, these courses may be subject to dangerous road travel, political unrest, riots, demonstrations, banditry, terrorism, and other criminal conduct, including drug related activities.

I have read and understand the general information about NOLS and its courses including NOLS Wilderness Medicine’s Admission Policies made available to me through the NOLS website. I acknowledge that the staff of NOLS has been available to more fully explain to me the nature, physical demands, and the inherent risks, hazards, and dangers associated with this course.

