



Photo Courtesy of Alex Zhitnik

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER (WFR)

Sponsored by NOLS Pacific Northwest & NOLS Wilderness
Medicine



DATES: May 5 - 14, 2020

COST: \$795 with lunch only; \$925 with lunch & camping.

LOCATION: NOLS Pacific Northwest, 20950 Bulson Rd, Mount Vernon, WA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Wilderness First Responder course is essential if you work or recreate in the outdoors or in other austere environments where access to medical care is delayed or communication is unreliable. It is the industry standard for professional guides, trip leaders, search and rescue team members, outdoor recreationists, and international travelers. Upon completion, you will be able to conduct a thorough physical exam, obtain a patient history, assess vital signs, provide emergency care in the wilderness, and make crucial evacuation decisions. During this fast-paced, engaging course, you will spend half your time practicing skills and participating in realistic scenarios, including a full-scale night mock rescue.

NOLS Wilderness Medicine's nationally recognized curriculum encompasses a wide range of topics including long-term patient care, wound management, selective spine immobilization, reducing dislocations, litter packaging, and epinephrine administration. Dynamic educators who have practiced medicine in both wilderness and urban environments will teach you skills and protocols to step forward in an emergency, and you will finish the intensive 80-hour course with the tools and confidence to manage patients in the backcountry for multiple days.

Upon successful course completion, you will earn the following NOLS Wilderness Medicine certifications: Wilderness First Responder, Adult, and Child CPR & Airway Management, and Epinephrine Auto-injector.

CLASS FORMAT AND PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

Check-in is at 7:45 AM on the first day of the course. Course days run from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with two additional evening sessions. Ten-day courses will include a day off; nine-day courses do not. The class format is classroom lectures integrated with practical scenarios, case studies, and skills practice sessions. Attendance is required at all classes.

Scenarios and practice sessions will take place both inside and outside. Bring outdoor clothing appropriate for lying on the potentially wet, snowy, or cold ground playing the role of both rescuer and patient. Frequently stage (moulage) blood and make-up are used to enhance the realism of a scenario. The classroom environment generally lends itself to a pair of indoor comfy shoes and a camp chair. A 4-hour evening, outdoor mock rescue is part of the curriculum; dress accordingly.

PACKING CHECKLIST

- Notebook and pencil or pen
- Watch with a second hand or digital second
- Sunglasses and hat
- Water bottle
- Light day pack
- Headlamp
- Waterproof outerwear top and bottom
- Light hiking boots or sturdy shoes
- Clothing layers that allow you to be comfortable in a variety of weather conditions
- Slippers or comfortable shoes for classroom time (optional)
- Camp chair for classroom time (optional)

COURSE OUTLINE

For the full course outline, visit the [NOLS Wilderness Medicine WFR](#) course page.

REGISTRATION AND TUITION PAYMENT

A deposit of \$300 is required to reserve your spot on the course. The balance of tuition is due two weeks prior to the first day of the course. You can pay your balance online by following this [link](#) (we accept Visa or Mastercard). You can also call NOLS Wilderness Medicine office with credit card information, or by mailing a check (with driver's license number).

The tuition fee includes instruction, textbooks, equipment use, certification, and continuing education credits. A full refund will be given if we need to cancel the course for any reason.

Course Tuition: \$795 general public

Less Deposit: \$300 (due at time of registration)

Balance due: \$495 general public | \$130 camping option

NOLS WILDERNESS MEDICINE STUDENT AGREEMENT

Please download the [NOLS Student Agreement](#) and read it carefully as it affects your legal rights.

Bring the two-page signed document to the first day of the course. If you are a minor, a parent or guardian must sign the document as well. Without a signed document, you cannot participate in the course. NOLS Wilderness Medicine participants, including minors, will have unsupervised free time throughout the course. Any activities during the free time are not part of the NOLS Wilderness Medicine program and are at the sole risk of the participant.

NOLS WILDERNESS MEDICINE POLICIES

Cancellations

If you cancel or withdraws from a course:

- Greater than or equal to 30 days prior to the course start date, NOLS Wilderness Medicine will retain a \$35.00 administrative fee. The remainder of tuition collected to date will be refunded.
- Within 30 days of the course start date, tuition is non-refundable and non-transferable as per the following:
 - WFA, WFR-R, WMPP – loss of full tuition.
 - WFR, WAFA, WUMP – loss of course deposit.
- Once the course begins, no refunds will be awarded. All course registrations are non-transferable.

Pets

Pets are not allowed at the course site. This includes leashing them outside. Any student bringing a pet to class will be asked to leave until the pet is safely situated in a kennel or other facility. No exceptions.

Service Animals

Please contact the Wilderness Medicine office at 1-866-831-9001 if you intend to bring a service animal to the course.

Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco & Weapons

No alcohol, no drugs, no tobacco, and no weapons are allowed in the classroom.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

EMT Continuing Education

NOLS Wilderness Medicine is proud to be a [Commission on Accreditation of Pre-Hospital Continuing Education \(CAPCE\)](#) accredited organization. Current EMTs are eligible to receive 70 CEU hours at no additional cost for participation in a Wilderness First Responder course.

Please bring a photocopy of your current EMT card(s) with you to your course. Also, ensure that CAPCE CEUs will be accepted by your State EMS organization.

Fellowship in the Academy of Wilderness Medicine (FAWM)

Through joint sponsorship with the Wilderness Medical Society, active members of WMS may earn up to 55 hours at no additional cost for participation in the Wilderness First Responder course. Learn more about WMS [here](#).

COLLEGE CREDITS

Pre-Course Access to College Credit

The WFR course is pre-approved for 3 credit through Western State Colorado University or an additional cost. Interested students must initiate registration and payment for credit by contacting Western at least 30 days prior to the course start. More information can be found [here](#).

On-Course Access to College Credit

The WFR course is pre-approved for three semester hours credit through the University

of Utah for an additional cost. If you are interested in receiving college credit, please ask your instructors on the first day of class for the necessary information.

STUDENT LOGISTICS

Meals and Lodging

Option #1: Lunches only, no camping offered

Option #2: Lunches and on-site camping:

The grounds at NOLS Pacific Northwest offer many good and spacious camping opportunities. **Camping/cooking equipment is not provided.** Included with camping is use of resource library with Internet access, restrooms, and shower facilities. There is no access to kitchen facilities. All cooking must be done on a camp stove. Picnic tables are available for meal preparation.

Meals: Lunch is included in course tuition and will be served each day. Healthy meals including vegetarian options will be provided, but **please contact NOLS Pacific Northwest at pacific_northwest@nols.edu if you have special dietary needs or food allergies** (note: certain food allergies may result in additional meal charges for individuals).

If you choose not to camp on campus, here are some local hotels that we recommend:

Days Inn

2009 Riverside Drive
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-424-4141 or 800-329-7466

Best Western Skagit Valley Inn

2300 Market Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-428-5678

Travel

The course will take place at the NOLS Pacific Northwest campus, located approximately one hour north of Seattle, WA. The address is 20950 Bulson Road, Mt. Vernon, WA 98274.

Driving directions: Exit Interstate 5 at EXIT #221 for Conway and La Conner. Turn EAST at the end of the ramp and go east one mile. Turn left onto Bulson Road and then left into the first driveway. Follow signs to parking area.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Course Host:

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm Pacific Time (starting in April)
Phone: 360-445-6657
Email: pacific_northwest@nols.edu
Fax: 360-445-6659
Website: www.nols.edu

NOLS Wilderness Medicine:

Office Hours: M-F from 8am-5pm MST
Phone: (866) 831-9001

[Email](#)

[Website](#)