

Course Document Packet

Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician

Please review this packet thoroughly as it affects your legal rights. If you are a minor at the time signing, a parent or a guardian must sign the documents as well. Failure to provide these signed documents will result in not being able to participate in the course. You must be at least 18 years old at the course start date.

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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.

NOLS WILDERNESS MEDICINE
STUDENTS POLICIES & PROCEDURES
WILDERNESS EMT

Students enrolling in an EMT course must understand, meet, and complete certain requirements for successful completion of the course:

ATTENDANCE: All students are required to attend all class sessions and all field exercises. No more than 16 hours of excused absence may be missed from the course material. Review of materials/exams missed is the responsibility of the student. Repeated tardiness constitutes unexcused absence. Absence, which is either unexcused or exceeds 16 hours of excused absence, is grounds for dismissal from the course with no refunds of tuition or course costs.

COURSE COMPLETION: EMT students must successfully complete all of the criteria of EMT course completion in order to be eligible to take the State EMS Department approved practical exam. Students must pass the practical exam to be eligible for the National Registry written exam. The EMT student must demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

Written Testing:

- ◆ Quizzes and Exams will be administered throughout the course.
- ◆ Minimum academic requirement for successful course completion is 80% cumulative on all of the above quizzes and exams.
- ◆ Students who do not have a cumulative score of 80% will not have successfully fulfilled course completion criteria and will not be eligible for practical testing or NREMT written testing.

Skills:

- ◆ Hands-on skills check-offs will occur at various times during the course (skills sheets are provided for student practices). It is the student's responsibility to assure all final skills check-offs have been done in order to satisfy course completion requirements. Students must demonstrate adequate proficiency in all required skills.
- ◆ Students who have not obtained final skills check-offs will not have successfully fulfilled course completion criteria.

Clinical Rotation:

- ◆ Students are required to complete course-approved emergency medicine clinical rotations. Multiple shifts may be required to accommodate state requirements.
- ◆ Documentation of clinical experience must be provided by each student, to include the Clinical Verification Form and State EMS-mandated patient reports.
- ◆ Students who have not successfully fulfilled the clinical requirements will not have successfully fulfilled course completion criteria.

Self-Withdrawal:

- ◆ Any student choosing to withdraw from the course prior to course completion accepts that no refunds of tuition will be awarded. NOLS will consider exceptions on a case by case basis.

CONDUCT:

Professional conduct is required of all EMT students at all times. Inappropriate comments regarding a person's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, genetics information, disability or veteran status will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the course without refund of tuition or course costs. Communication of a threatening nature or the use of obscene or profane language will not be tolerated.

As an EMT, you will often be the first healthcare professional to assess and treat the patient. You will be required to work with a variety of other healthcare professionals in both pre-hospital and hospital settings. Part of your training is learning to interact with both patients and other healthcare providers in a professional manner. As an EMT student, you will be expected:

- To make sure that patient care is given a high priority, but not at the risk of your own safety, or the safety of others.
 - To participate fully in all aspects of the course. This includes classroom lectures, practical sessions, scenario-based exercises, facility and classroom clean-ups and kitchen duties as defined by the caterer.
 - To participate fully in NOLS Wilderness Medicine’s strategies to decrease the risk of infectious disease spread in our classrooms.
 - To adhere to the rules and regulations of the program and facilities:
 - No storage or consumption of alcohol or drugs in or near the lodging or classroom facilities. No use of alcohol within 12 hours of a course related activity.
 - Tobacco, e-cigarette, vaping or nicotine use will only be allowed in designated areas.
 - Quiet hours respected after 10:00pm and before 7:00am in the lodging facility.
 - Respectful use and maintenance of all equipment provided.
 - To maintain a professional appearance and manner at all times. This includes maintaining good personal hygiene throughout the course and at clinical rotations, wearing appropriate clothing and PPE for classroom and clinical situations, and keeping hair and beards clean and neatly contained.
 - To treat patients (both real and simulated), instructors, co-workers and other students with respect.
 - To maintain patient confidentiality when discussing the particulars of patient interactions during clinical rotations.
 - To demonstrate commitment to obtaining the knowledge and skills required to successfully complete the course.
- ◆ Any off-site conduct that affects a student’s performance at a course related activity may be grounds for immediate dismissal.
 - ◆ Any conduct deemed unprofessional by the instructional staff will result in immediate dismissal from the course with no refunds of tuition awarded.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION:

Any questions, problems, or unresolved issues should initially be taken up with the lead EMT Instructor or Program Supervisor. If not resolved, they may be taken up with the EMT Director.

COURSE RECORDS:

Course files and records are confidential and not available to anyone outside of the course staff, NOLS Wilderness Medicine administration, the student, and representatives of the State Health Dept. EMS Division and the National Registry of EMTs. Course files and records will be kept by NOLS Wilderness Medicine and will consist of: Student files (Registration forms, Risk and Release Forms, exam scores, skills check-off sheets, practical exam skills sheets, signed Policies and Procedures Forms, signed Functional Position Descriptions, Remediation Forms, additional State-Mandated forms as directed) and Course files (course rosters, fee rosters, attendance rosters, exam masters with keys).

My signature here attests that I have read and understand the preceding Policies and Procedures statement and that I agree to abide by such.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

FUNCTIONAL POSITION DESCRIPTIONS FOR EMTS

QUALIFICATIONS

Each candidate must successfully complete the state approved training curriculum and achieve a passing score on practical and written certification examinations.

The candidate must be at least eighteen (18) years of age by the course start date.

The candidate must possess the ability to hear and respond to radio/telephone instructions; auscultate using a stethoscope; and respond to verbal prompts from an automated external defibrillator (AED).

The candidate must possess the ability to interpret written and oral instructions; must possess the ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations; must possess the ability to be unaffected by loud noises and flashing lights; must possess the ability to function efficiently throughout the entire work shift without interruption.

The candidate must possess the ability to calculate weight and volume ratios; possess the ability to read English language manuals and road maps; accurately discern street signs and address numbers.

The candidate must possess the ability to interview patients, family members and bystanders; possess the ability to document, in writing, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such; possess the ability to converse in English with coworkers and hospital staff as to the status of patients.

The candidate must possess good manual dexterity with the ability to perform all tasks related to the delivery of the highest quality of patient care, must possess the ability to bend, stoop and crawl on uneven terrain; possess the ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold and moisture; and must possess the ability to work in low light and confined spaces.

COMPETENCY AREAS

EMT

The candidate must demonstrate competency assessing a patient, handle emergencies utilizing Basic Life Support equipment, possess the ability to perform CPR, control hemorrhage, provide non-invasive treatment for inadequate tissue perfusion, splinting and spinal immobilization, use of a semi-automatic defibrillator, possess the ability to administer self-assisted medications, manage environmental emergencies, and emergency childbirth.

Description of Tasks

Receive call from dispatcher, responds verbally to emergency calls, read maps, may drive vehicle to emergency site, uses most expeditious route, and observes traffic ordinances and regulations.

Determines nature and extent of illness or injury, takes pulse, blood pressure, visually observes changes in skin color, makes determination regarding patient status, establishes priority for emergency care, renders appropriate emergency care (based on competency level), may administer intravenous drugs or fluid replacement if certified and as directed by medical control. May use equipment (based on competency level and certification) such as, but not limited to, defibrillator, electrocardiograph, perform endotracheal intubation to open airways and ventilate patient, applies, inflates pneumatic anti-shock garment as per protocol, and administers medications as authorized.

Assists in lifting, carrying and transporting patient to ambulance and on to a medical facility. Reassures patients and bystanders, avoids mishandling patient(s) and undo haste, searches for medical identification emblem to aid in care. Extricates patient(s) from entrapment, assesses extent of injury, uses prescribed techniques and appliances, radios dispatcher for additional assistance or services, provides light rescue service, provide additional emergency care following established protocols.

Complies with regulations in handling deceased, notifies authorities, arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene. Determines appropriate facility to which patient will be transported, reports nature and extent of injuries or illness to that facility, asks for direction from medical control or emergency department. Identifies diagnostic signs that require communication with medical facility.

Assists in removing patient(s) from ambulance and into emergency facility. Reports verbally and in writing observations about and care of patient at the scene and en route to medical facility, provide assistance to emergency staff as required.

Replaces supplies, send used supplies for sterilization or appropriate disposal, checks all equipment for future readiness, maintains emergency vehicle in operable condition, ensures vehicle cleanliness and orderliness of equipment and supplies, decontaminates vehicle interior, determines vehicle readiness by checking all oil, gas, water in battery and radiator, and tire pressure, and maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Each student and/or candidate for EMT certification must sign one (1) of the two (2) following statements:

I have read and understand the Functional Job Description of an EMT. I have no conditions which would preclude me from safely and effectively performing all the functions of the level of EMT for which I am seeking certification.

Candidate Name (Please print)

Signature

Date

OR

I have read and understand the Functional Job Description of an EMT. I will be submitting a request for an accommodation for the EMT Certification Examination(s). I understand that if I am enrolled in a training course, I must contact the training agency and the National Registry of EMTs as soon as possible for this purpose.

Candidate Name (please print)

Signature

Date