

Wilderness Professional Semester Program Outline

Program Description

[Glorieta Camps](#) offers Spring and Fall Wilderness Guide Semester Courses through our [Wilderness Department](#). These courses are for individuals looking to pursue a career in the outdoor industry.

Our Fall and Spring Semesters address the three major things employers look for when assessing job applicants: personal experience, formal training, and certifications. We provide all three throughout the length of these courses to give participants a solid foundation to start pursuing their career goals. These semesters also help students find out what their career goals may be and give them direction to achieve them.

Course Objectives

- Raise up qualified Christian men and women to live in vocational ministry in the outdoor industry
- Give participants relevant hands-on experience in various outdoor disciplines
- Provide instruction and training by qualified guides and organizations
- Help students obtain certifications that are meaningful in the industry
- Develop students instructional skill and experience

Overarching Themes

The Guide Mindset: This is something that can't be learned or even understood without experience and practice in many outdoor disciplines. The guide mindset is a way of thinking characterized by an ongoing mental evaluation of risk management, terrain assessment, client assessment, client care, the balancing of goals and potential risk, and critical thinking/skill application across activities. Developing this guide mindset is arguably the most valuable aspect of our semesters.

- Risk Management: This is a theme that goes into everyday of our courses. Students regularly identify risk, weigh risk, coming up with ways to mitigate risk, discuss what risk is appropriate and what is inappropriate, and assess risk in hindsight.
- Critical Thinking/Skill Application Across Activities: Our semesters are designed to get students into a variety of terrains and climates (mountains, canyons, rivers,

etc.) to give them the opportunity to apply principles and skills outside of the context they originally learned them. A true sign of skill mastery is the ability to choose the most appropriate skill and efficiently apply it at the right time.

- Variety of Terrain: There is no substitute for having experience in a number of different types of terrain. Experience in varied terrain is a big contributor to good decision making in the backcountry. Quality decision making is the constant job of the guide.

Individual Role in the Outdoor Industry: As instructors, educators, and guides there is an expectation to have a more in-depth understanding of the industry, and its ethics, and to apply oneself to the task of spreading that knowledge. Additionally individuals who pursue careers in the outdoor industry will be in positions of respect and responsibility that offer extended time with clients. As Christians this creates ample opportunities and a relational environment for sharing the Gospel.

- Christian Ministry: Inspiring students to see themselves as missionaries in their field and giving them a framework to understand what that means is a greatly desired outcome of this course. It also lines up with our organization's mission statement which is, "To inspire Christ-like change through outdoor adventure, authentic relationships, and Biblical truth". The outdoor field is characteristically under reached by the Church. Many positions in the outdoor industry offer long term living situations with clients which create great opportunities to show others the love of Christ. A profession in the outdoor field is a great opportunity for Christians to live as lights in the world.
- Education: We believe students need to have an understanding of the landscape of the industry as a whole, not just a grasp of technical skills. Throughout their time in the program students interact, participate, and learn about many different aspects of the outdoor industry. These aspects include multiple geographical areas, outdoor companies, technical disciplines, and systems of ethics common in the outdoor industry.

Description of Training

[New Mexico River Adventures - Whitewater Rafting Guide School](#) - Whitewater guide training taught by an established rafting company located on the Rio Grande in New Mexico. (Fall) Multi-day whitewater river trip on the Rio Aros in Mexico. During this trip students will learn about multi-day commercial river trips, international expedition

planning, cultural considerations, loading and rigging boats, reading the river, guiding paddle boats, rowing gear boats, and delivering safety orientations. All of this will be done on a 100 mile section of the Rio Aros in the heart of the State of Sonora in Mexico. This section of river has rapids ranging from Class I to Class IV.

(Spring) Eight days of whitewater guide training on the Orilla Verde and Race Course sections of the Rio Grande river in Northern New Mexico. This is the same training that New Mexico River Adventures offers to individuals who work for them as seasonal rafting guides. During this training students will learn about loading and rigging paddle boats, reading the river, guiding paddle boats, the geology and ecology of the area, and delivering safety orientations. The race course section of the Rio Grande is a stretch of river with Class I to Class III rapids.

Both the Fall and the Spring trainings include American Canoe Association swiftwater rescue and assistance skill instruction and practice.

Canyoneering - 4 to 6 days in the Northwash area of Utah learning about and guiding technical slot canyons. Participants learn about Canyoneering specific guide books, movement techniques, rigging systems, risk management considerations and navigation. Then they tie all of these skills together by guiding their peers through technical slot canyons under instructor supervision.

Backpacking - (Fall) Expedition style backpacking in Northern New Mexico. These trips could take place in the Santa Fe or Carson National Forests. Students learn about on trail and off trail navigation techniques, outdoor living skills, and bear awareness. Trips to the Pecos Wilderness attempt to summit Truchas Peak, the second highest peak in New Mexico, in addition to other peaks above 10,000 feet. After a few days of on trail instructor modeling students get to practice what they have learned by operating in pairs as guides for the day. They are in charge of running guide meetings, navigation and route finding, time management, group and individual task assignments, and dealing with situations as they arise. This trip is education intensive and offers many opportunities for students to develop their teaching style and experience. Students are given multiple topics to teach on and provided opportunities throughout the trip to instruct their peers on different aspects of guiding, backpacking, and LNT principles. Peer and instructor feedback is provided. (Spring) Expedition style backpacking at lower elevations due to winter conditions in the higher mountains. This trip will most likely take place in Big Bend National Park and will offer students the same guiding, instructional, and experiential opportunities as the Fall. However; due to the terrain differences in Big

Bend National Park, as opposed to Northern New Mexico, students can expect variations in regard to area specific knowledge and instruction.

Map, Compass, and Navigational Skills - Background into map datums and the UTM coordinate system is given. We discuss how maps are built and how they work as well as specific concerns when using Maps and GPS devices together. Students learn and demonstrate map reading skills, how to orient a map, take a bearing, transfer a bearing, triangulate their position, and are trained in the use and operation of two way satellite messenger GPS devices that Glorietas' Wilderness Department uses. These skills are taught early on and are used throughout the remainder of the course.

Trip Planning - Students go through a comprehensive trip planning phase where they create trip objectives, map out routes, communicate with public land agencies to find out expected conditions on the ground, learn about and pack bulk rations, and research public land agency management restrictions specific to the area.

Traditional Climbing - 4 to 5 days of ground school where students learn about traditional climbing gear, gear placement, anchor building, static line rigging systems, belaying and belay devices. When students demonstrate appropriate proficiency they are sequenced through mock leading in a top rope setting to leading traditional climbs of appropriate difficulty grades. Various subsequent climbing trips are taken to further develop experience and skill proficiency in preparation for their AMGA SPI courses. These trips can take place in Joshua Tree National Park, Moab Utah, northern New Mexico, Enchanted Rock in Texas, or other locations. Students are given opportunities to lead a half-day and/or full-day guided climbing trip for novices with the oversight of qualified instructors.

Certifications & Certificates

[SOLO - Wilderness First Responder](#) - 72 to 80 Hours of training and examination.

[AMGA - Single Pitch Instructor Course/Exam](#) Course - 27 Hours of training. Exam - 16 Hours of evaluation, assessment and instructing.

[ACA - Level 3: River Safety & Rescue Skills Course](#) - 8 hours of Training.

[Leave No Trace Trainer](#) - 16 Hours of in field instruction and instructing.

[Red Cross - Lifeguarding](#) - Waterfront Lifeguarding course ~30 hours of training.

[Red Cross - Lifeguarding Instructor](#) - Lifeguarding Instructor Course - 18-20 hours of training.

Assessment and Evaluation

To ensure that students receive the most out of our courses, and that they are consistently progressing towards accomplishing the objectives of the program, we maintain a culture of continual assessment and evaluation of students and their skills through:

- One on one meetings with instructors
- Periodic skill checks to ensure retention
- Certification training courses and exams

One on one's allow students to receive prompt feedback about their skills and abilities including what areas they are excelling in and any potential areas where they need to make progress.

Teaching Opportunities

To accomplish the objective of helping students develop their ability as instructors and educators they will have the opportunity to teach skills and topics to peers, clients, and outside individuals. There will also be student lead guiding opportunities for the same groups listed above. The hours listed are estimated figures and could easily exceed the ranges listed, but are very unlikely to fall below.

Peer teaching hours possible 7 - 12 per student

Clients/customer teaching hours possible 14 - 20 per student

Students will guide full days of rock climbing in single pitch terrain, under the supervision of instructors. This will take place prior to, and during, their Single Pitch Instructor certification exam.

Course Texts

Provided Texts: These books are provided out of course tuition

Harvey, M. W., & Simer, P. (1999). *The National Outdoor Leadership School Wilderness Guide: The classic wilderness guide*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Gaines, B., & Martin, J. D. (n.d.). *Rock climbing: The AMGA single pitch manual*.

Sire, J. (2009). *The Universe Next Door*. 5th ed. Downers Grove Ill.: InterVarsity Press.

Optional Texts: These are highly recommended and are not provided.

Luebben, C. (2007). *Rock climbing anchors: A comprehensive guide*. Seattle, WA: Mountaineers Books.

Books, T. M. (2010). *Mountaineering Freedom of the Hills 8th Edition. ; 50th Anniversary 1960 - 2010*. Mountaineers Books, The.

Instructor Qualifications

Scott Chapman - Director of Wilderness Program

Education: B.S. Biblical and Theological Studies from John Brown University

Certifications: Wilderness First Responder, [A.M.G.A. Rock Guide](#), AIARE Level 2, Leave No Trace Trainer

Experience: Director of Wilderness Program for [Camp Eagle](#), and now [Glorieta Camps](#) 10+ years.

Hunter Parrott - Course Leader

Education: B.S. Political Science - Minor: International Studies from Stephen F. Austin State University

Certifications: Wilderness First Responder, AMGA Certified Single Pitch Instructor, AIARE Level 1, Leave No Trace Trainer, Red Cross Instructor

Experience: Semester Course Leader 3+ years, Wilderness Guide (Seasonal) 3 years, Whitewater Raft Guide (Seasonal) 2 seasons, Extensive personal long distance backpacking & climbing experience.

Additional Instructors

[IFMGA Mountain Guides](#) and course providers with various organizations. These instructors come into play in the various courses and exams we take with other organizations.