



26-day Combination Sea kayaking and Mountaineering Leadership and Guide Training Information

Course Location:

The International Wilderness Leadership School is based in Haines, Alaska, a small community located ninety miles north of Juneau, (the state capital) at the top of the Inside Passage. Haines borders Glacier Bay National Park. The Park and the adjacent 27 million acres, including Wrangell-St Elias National Park, comprise the largest protected wilderness area on the planet. It is an extremely jagged, glaciated, mountain landscape that includes the world's largest non-polar ice caps, pristine fjords, and wilderness rivers. The elevation of the peaks in this region ranges up to 20,000 feet. This terrain is amongst the best in North America for learning climbing skills, and the sea kayaking, rafting, trekking, and skiing here are world class.

Our expedition center in Haines is an outstanding gateway for accessing this unrivaled wilderness area.

Course Goals:

- Students will gain a technical mountaineering skill set and appropriate traveling techniques.
- Students will gain a technical sea kayaking skill set and appropriate traveling techniques.
- Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to professionally deal with emergency scenarios while in the field and the considerations therein.
- Students will be able to use and teach state-of-the art minimum-impact camping and travel techniques to move a group through a glaciated terrain with minimum impact.
- They will be able to exercise good quality judgment and decision-making skills within a leadership position to help avoid potential accident and survival situations and develop a comprehensive understanding of safety considerations in the mountain environment.
- They will be able to recognize their own leadership abilities and limitations within the context of a group. Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to make decisions and lead small groups in the mountain environment.

Course Itinerary:

This is a flexible trip itinerary that shows the general progression of the trip.

Day 1:

- Trip preparation, planning
- Food and equipment packing.
- Pre-trip meeting: we talk about expectations for the course from the students and from the instructors.

Day 2 – 12*:

- Mountaineering portion of the trip
- Technical mountaineering/climbing skills
 - Skills including but not limited to: self-arrest, cramponing, anchors, belaying, avalanche awareness, crevasse rescue, rope-team travel, navigation, routefinding.





IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School



Day 13-14:

- De-rig from the mountains and prepare to head out sea kayaking.
- Mid-course evaluation: Lead instructors will assess participants' level of involvement and assessment rubrics associated with the WEA 18 point curriculum. These, in conjunction with peer evaluations, allow participants to receive positive feedback and develop awareness in regards to fulfilling the requirements to receive certification as an outdoor leader.

Day 15 – 26*:

- Sea kayaking portion of the trip.
- Technical skills including but not limited to: Eskimo rolling, bracing, basic coastal kayaking, group management, and bear safety.
- Specific travel techniques

Day 26:

- In the last few days of the course we will have final peer and instructor evaluations. Students will be evaluated on their understanding and completion of the IWLS and WEA curriculums.

* - mountaineering and sea kayaking sections may be either 1st or 2nd depending on the season/conditions/etc...

Course Curriculum

The course curriculum consists of material from both the International Wilderness Leadership School and the Wilderness Education Association. A detailed curriculum will be supplied to students at the beginning of the course.

- **IWLS curriculum:**
 - Pre-Trip Meeting
 - Gear Check
 - Ice Axe/General Mountaineering
 - Crampons
 - Knots
 - Anchors
 - Ropes
 - Belaying
 - Ascending
 - Descending
 - Rappelling
 - Rope Team Travel
 - Crevasse Rescue
 - Rock Climbing
 - Camp Set-Up and Orientation
 - Hazard Assessment/Routefinding
 - Teaching and Tact



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IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School

- Guide Mentality
- Paddling Skills
- Sea Kayaking Safety and Rescue Skills
- Launching and Landing a Group
- Equipment and Clothing
 - Boat Design and Features
 - Paddling Clothing
 - Guide Kits
- Navigation
 - Chart Reading/Map reading
 - Compass Use
 - Tides & Currents
- Towing

The WEA (Wilderness Education Association) has been training and certifying outdoor leaders around the world for nearly 25 years, teaching students to safely and effectively lead groups in the outdoors without harming the environment.

Legendary mountaineer Paul K. Petzoldt, Chuck Gregory, Robert Christie, and Dr. Frank Lupton, founded the WEA in 1977. The organization's mission includes "...promoting the professionalism of outdoor leadership and to thereby improve the safety of outdoor trips and to enhance the conservation of the wild outdoors..."

The WEA 18-point curriculum emphasizes experiential teaching in the field with a primary focus on judgment and decision-making. WEA course graduates not only know their abilities, but also learn to respect their limitations.

The WEA curriculum incorporates the following 18 points:

- Decision Making and Problem Solving
- Leadership
- Expedition Behavior and Group Dynamics
- Environmental Ethics
- Basic Camping Skills
- Equipment/Clothing Selection and Use
- Weather
- Health and Sanitation
- Travel Techniques
- Navigation
- Safety and Risk Management
- Wilderness Emergency Procedures and Treatment
- Natural and Cultural History
- Specialized Travel / Adventure Activity
- Communication Skills



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- Trip Planning
- Teaching, Processing and Transference

Journal Writing

Keeping a wilderness journal can help students to record, reflect, and gain from experiences throughout the expedition.

Examples of Journal content/entries:

- First-Aid SOAP notes
- Incident Management forms
- Trip Reports
- Lesson plans

Evaluation and Grading:

Students who take this course for credit will receive a letter grade. Grading is a measurement of one's knowledge of material, participation, written and oral communication, and one's judgment and awareness. Students will be evaluated on their skills, level of participation, their knowledge and awareness of their own abilities as outdoor leaders, their level of judgment as applied to decisions, and written projects assigned during the trip. Students that don't take the course for credit will receive an evaluation in place of a grade.

Additionally, the grading will be a reflection of student's peer and instructor evaluations as per the WEA and IWLS assessment rubrics.

Certifications

Upon completion of the 24-day mountaineering and sea kayaking leadership training course, student will be eligible for the following certifications.

WEA certificate of completion*

WEA certified outdoor leader*

IWLS certificate of completion

*Not all courses are eligible for WEA certification. Please call for more details.

