

ALASKA

32-DAY

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ Receive your Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification
- ▶ Become certified as a Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainer
- ▶ Technical and Human Relations Skills Acquisition
- ▶ NCOAE Curriculum for outdoor educators, teachers, and trip leaders
- ▶ Fly-in backpacking and remote Alaska trekking

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

- ▶ Advance your knowledge of a leading outdoor education curriculum
- ▶ Discover which areas of outdoor and wilderness education are best suited to your strengths
- ▶ Acquire career skills to teach and travel in pristine destinations around the country — and around the world!

WHERE YOU'LL BE:

- ▶ Wilderness of Wrangel — St. Elias National Park and Preserve — the largest unit in the U.S. National Park System



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For complete itinerary details, see reverse side ▶

OUTDOOR EDUCATOR — ALASKA

ITINERARY (Subject to change)

► **Day 1: Orientation, gear check, last minute preparations.**

This day will be busy, filled with reviewing the gear you brought and making sure you have what you need.

- **Days 2 – 4: Travel to a remote base camp by bush plane; camp setup; expedition planning; camp craft; intro to NCOAE Curriculum for outdoor educators, teachers, and trip leaders; introduction to Leave No Trace (LNT) wilderness ethics.** Your training gets underway when we land at our remote base camp outside of McCarthy, Alaska, where you will begin preparing to become a successful backcountry leader. These first few days will include learning about bears and safety procedures, risk management, menu planning, gear selection, trip planning, and ‘pack out’ for group expeditions in remote wilderness areas.

You will also join in and learn to facilitate activities designed to introduce trip participants to each other and to the basic skills needed to thrive in remote places. We will use these three days to introduce you to the NCOAE Curriculum, ‘the First 48’ and our ‘Ed Groups’ — the most important technical skills and human relations skills you will need to know about and understand to lead outdoor education expeditions in wilderness. You will also learn about site selection, shelters, backcountry kitchens and cooking, and river crossings, snow travel, and LNT.

- **Days 5 – 13: Wilderness First Responder (WFR) training and certification.** Outdoor educators leading groups in the backcountry must possess the tools to make critical medical assessments and evacuation decisions in remote locations. You will learn the skills and understand how to perform competent medical treatment for traumatic, environmental and medical issues that may arise in wilderness. The WFR credential is becoming the minimum industry standard to work in outdoor education as an instructor or trip leader, so we will spend much time getting you ready to pass your exam and earn your certification. You will spend nine days learning about wilderness medicine, training, and completing your WFR certification exam - and you will continue to practice those skills for the remainder of your trip.
- **Day 14: Resupply, planning, packing, and layover.** You will receive an airdropped food resupply to prepare for a 14-day trek across the Alaskan outback to reach your rendezvous point — another remote airstrip where a bush plane will eventually pick up your team and gear.
- **Days 15 – 28: Backpacking.** You won’t need trails where

you’re going. Instead, you will need to learn to use a map and compass, GPS and UTM. You will also need to rely on travel plan design and advanced navigation techniques, all of which we’ll teach you. Your next 14 days may be spent fording icy rivers, hiking on glacial stones, snow, ice, or tundra, as well as learning to manage the risks in these environments. Weather can vary drastically and become treacherously dangerous in the Alaskan backcountry, which is why you will learn to be prepared and to teach others those same skills. Whatever Alaska throws at you, you will learn to endure it and enjoy it with grace and style. All the while, you’ll be practicing the principles of LNT, map and compass navigation, plant and animal identification and backcountry cooking — eating all the wonderful food you will prepare. It’s during these days that you’ll really be able to hone your outdoor skills and develop your newfound teaching style. The landscape and wildlife will provide a dramatic canvas for your learning experience. You may see moose, lynx, bears, ground squirrels, Dall sheep and other wildlife during your trek. You will learn to use NCOAE’s Curriculum to teach others the skills they need to communicate, become leaders in their community, identify their values, and make positive life choices. In short, you will learn to be an exceptional outdoor educator! Much too soon, we’ll arrive at a remote airstrip in the wilderness. Tomorrow, you will begin a solo wilderness experience consisting of two days and one night to gather your thoughts and think about what you have accomplished.

- **Days 29 – 30: Solo experience.** Any outdoor educator training would be incomplete without a solo experience to allow time for processing. During your solo, you’ll have time to reflect on your training, complete your required assignments and enjoy a solitude only found in wilderness. An NCOAE solo experience is a rite of passage that sets you up for success as you contemplate reentering the ‘real world’.
- **Day 31 – 32: Travel to Anchorage, gear de-issue and cleanup, closing circle and depart.** After a hearty breakfast, our bush pilot will pick us up and begin the shuttle process back to McCarthy and then onto Anchorage. Once in Anchorage we’ll check our gear in and debrief the training. Finally, we will come together one more time and share a one-of-kind closing circle — a fitting transition to begin your journey as an outdoor educator.

More courses offered. Please visit NCOAE.org for complete details.