



Backpacking

Adventure • Sustainability • Leadership

ALASKA

25-DAY

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ Receive your Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification
- ▶ Become certified as a Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainer
- ▶ NCOAE curriculum for outdoor educators, teachers, and trip leaders
- ▶ Gain experience in expedition planning, wilderness risk management, environmental studies, backcountry navigation, teaching in the wilderness, outdoor technology skills, and more
- ▶ Fly-in backpacking and remote Alaska trekking

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

- ▶ Advance your knowledge of environmental science and outdoor education curriculum — while living and learning in Alaska's wild, beautiful places
- ▶ Discover which areas of outdoor and wilderness education are best suited to your strengths
- ▶ Acquire the career skills needed to teach and travel in pristine destinations around the world!

WHERE YOU'LL BE:

- ▶ Wilderness of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve — America's largest National Park
- ▶ Wrangell and Chugach Mountains
- ▶ Anchorage, Alaska



9809 River Rd. | Wilmington, NC 28412 USA
(910) 399-8090 | Fax: (888) 399-5957
info@NCOAE.org | www.NCOAE.org
www.facebook.com/NCOAE

For complete itinerary details, see reverse side ▶

ALASKA — BACKPACKING ITINERARY

(Subject to change)

- ▶ **Days 1–5: Orientation and Wilderness First Responder training.** The first 5 days of your training are spent at The National Center for Outdoor & Adventure Education's (NCOAE) main campus in Wilmington, North Carolina where you will complete the Wilderness First Responder training portion of your course. In the evenings, there will be time to complete final logistics for your trip.
- ▶ **Day 6: After a morning airport pickup, we'll drive to our basecamp in south central Alaska.** Introduction to basic camp craft and the NCOAE core curriculum. Leave No Trace (LNT) training and expedition planning, preparation, and packing. Enjoy the breathtaking natural surroundings which include glaciers, lakes, dense forests, and alpine meadows.
- ▶ **Days 7-8: Travel to a remote base camp by bush plane.** 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. Begin learning about bears, safety procedures and risk management, menu planning, gear selection, and trip planning for group expeditions in remote wilderness areas.
- ▶ **Days 9 – 10: 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 days to introduce you to the NCOAE Curriculum, 'the First 48' and our 'Ed Groups' — the most important technical skills and interpersonal skills you will need to know to lead outdoor education expeditions in wilderness. You will also learn more about site selection, shelters, backcountry cooking, river crossings, and glacier travel.
- ▶ **Days 11 – 15: Backpacking.** You won't need trails where you're going. Instead, you will need to use a map, compass, and handheld GPS system. You will rely on travel plan design and advanced navigation techniques, all of which we'll teach you. Your next several 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 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 wonderful food you'll prepare.
- ▶ **Day 16: Resupply, planning, and packing.** Receive an air-dropped food resupply and prepare for a 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 17 – 20: Trekking Wrangell-St. Elias.** It's during these days that you'll 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. 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 21 – 22: 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 23 – 24: Travel to Anchorage, de-issue, gear clean-up and Closing Circle.** 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.
- ▶ **Days 25: Flight from Anchorage, AK to home.**