SUMMER SEMESTER

KEYSTONE COLLEGE LEADERSHIP EXPEDITION

Principles in Leadership & Environmental Ethics

DURATION: 32-DAYS | **TUITION:** $7,395 | **DATES:** JULY 5 – AUGUST 6, 2027

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Field Experience:** Students apply leadership concepts in real time through two extended Adirondack backpacking expeditions in constantly changing environments.
- **Leadership Rotations:** Students take on leadership roles, make decisions, communicate plans, navigate, and manage expedition responsibilities.
- **Team Challenges:** Wilderness travel strengthens collaboration, problem-solving, communication, adaptability, and shared responsibility.
- **Outdoor Skills:** Students build practical skills in backcountry travel, navigation, expedition planning, campcraft, and environmental stewardship.
- **Case Studies & Discussion:** Leadership theories and real-world examples provide an academic framework for understanding and applying field experiences.
- **Reflection:** Intentional reflection helps students connect their experiences to their developing leadership philosophy.

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

Leadership is relevant to virtually every profession.

Whether you plan to work in business, education, healthcare, public service, science, outdoor recreation, entrepreneurship, or another field, your ability to communicate, make decisions, collaborate, manage uncertainty, and lead others will matter.

The Keystone College NCOAE Leadership Expedition gives students the opportunity to develop those abilities in an environment where leadership isn't theoretical.

You actually have to use it. Students leave the course with greater insight into their own leadership style, experience working within a team, practical approaches to decision-making and risk management, and a stronger understanding of what effective leadership looks like when circumstances become challenging.

WHERE YOU'LL BE:

- Keystone College – La Plume, PA
- Adirondack Mountains, NY
- Pharaoh Lake Wilderness

TRIP INCLUDES:

- All lodging and transportation during the trip
- Equipment for all activities
- Up to two (2) dedicated NCOAE field instructors
- Meals, admissions, and gratuities

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO.

** For complete itinerary details, see reverse side*

NCOAE The National Center for OUTDOOR & ADVENTURE EDUCATION

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9809 River Rd. | Wilmington, NC 28412 USA

(910) 399-8090 | info@NCOAE.org | www.NCOAE.org | www.facebook.com/NCOAE

NCOAE / Keystone College

Principles in Leadership — 32-Day Summer Semester

Days 1–5 — Keystone College: Leadership Foundations

Day 1 — Course Orientation & Leadership Foundations
Course introduction, expectations and outcomes. Introduction to experiential education, leadership theory, leadership versus management, effective followership, group development and NCOAE's educational framework.

Day 2 — Leadership, Communication & Team Development
Leadership styles, communication, feedback, conflict management, teamwork and group dynamics. Begin identifying individual leadership strengths and areas for development.

Day 3 — Foundations of Risk Management
Introduction to risk management, hazard identification, probability versus consequence, situational awareness, judgment and decision-making. Students begin working through wilderness-based leadership scenarios.

Day 4 — Expedition Planning & Outdoor Skills
Route planning, navigation, equipment, food systems, Leave No Trace, backcountry camping, weather, emergency planning and expedition logistics.

Day 5 — Expedition Preparation
Final gear shakeout, food distribution, route review and transportation preparation. Establish student leadership teams and expectations for Expedition I.

Day 6 — Travel: Keystone → Adirondacks

Travel from Keystone College to the southeastern Adirondacks and Pharaoh Lake Wilderness region. We will use the afternoon and evening for final orientation, environmental briefing, campsite procedures and review of the expedition plan.

EXPEDITION I

Days 7–16 — Leadership in Practice

Day 7 — Expedition Entry
Enter the wilderness with instructors taking the primary leadership role. Establish travel routines, navigation systems, campsite procedures and group expectations.

Day 8 — Backcountry Systems
Continue wilderness travel. Focus on efficient movement, campcraft, environmental ethics, nutrition, hydration and personal responsibility.

Day 9 — Leadership & Followership
Introduce student leadership rotations. Students begin assuming responsibility for navigation, pace, communication and group organization.

Day 10 — Judgment & Decision-Making
Students encounter increasingly complex route and group-management decisions. Instruction focuses on identifying hazards, gathering information and making defensible decisions.

Day 11 — Pharaoh Mountain / Challenge Day
Potential summit day incorporating Pharaoh Mountain.

Day 12 — Communication & Group Dynamics
Continue expedition travel with emphasis on leadership communication, feedback, conflict resolution and maintaining effective team performance.

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Principles in Leadership — 32-Day Summer Semester *Continued*

Day 13 — Problem Solving

Students receive increasingly limited instructor direction. Leadership teams manage navigation, travel decisions, campsite selection and daily planning.

Day 14 — Leadership Under Stress

Longer or more demanding travel day. Explore how fatigue, uncertainty, weather, time pressure and interpersonal dynamics influence leadership and judgment.

Day 15 — Student Leadership

Students assume most responsibility for the day's expedition management. Instructors move primarily into coaching, observation and risk-management roles.

Day 16 — Expedition Exit & Debrief

Complete Expedition I. Structured debrief examining individual leadership, team performance, decision-making, successes and areas for improvement.

FLEX / RESUPPLY
Days 17–18

Day 17 — Resupply & Recovery

Showers, laundry, equipment maintenance, food resupply, physical recovery and personal time.
Students conduct individual reflection and receive instructor feedback from Expedition I.

Day 18 — Re-Energize & Expedition II Planning

Morning recovery followed by student-driven preparation for Expedition II.
Students review maps, weather, food, equipment, route options, contingency plans and risk-management considerations.

EXPEDITION II

Day 19 — Student-Led Entry

Students organize departure, equipment, navigation and group movement. Instructors begin operating primarily as mentors and safety supervisors.

Day 20 — Leadership Rotation

Student leaders manage route finding, pace, breaks, group communication and campsite decisions.

Day 21 — Judgment & Risk Management

Students conduct ongoing environmental and group risk assessments and make route and travel decisions.

Day 22 — Expedition Management

Focus expands beyond daily leadership to logistics, time management, resources, group health and longer-term expedition planning.

Day 23 — Leadership Challenge

A deliberately demanding travel or navigation day. Leadership teams must balance expedition objectives against group capabilities and environmental conditions.

Day 24 — Independent Problem Solving

Instructor involvement decreases further. Students identify problems, develop alternatives, communicate decisions and evaluate outcomes.

Day 25 — Leadership & Followership

Students rotate leadership roles. Particular emphasis on understanding when to lead, when to follow and how effective teams distribute responsibility.

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Principles in Leadership — 32-Day Summer Semester *Continued*

Day 26 — Student Expedition Management

Students assume nearly complete responsibility for expedition operations while instructors observe, coach and maintain appropriate risk-management oversight.

Day 27 — Final Leadership Challenge

Students manage a culminating expedition day incorporating navigation, judgment, communication, group management and decision-making.

Day 28 — Expedition Exit / Return to Keystone

Complete the wilderness expedition, conduct an initial field debrief and travel back to Keystone College.

Days 29–32 — Keystone College Integration & Leadership Application

Day 29 — Recovery & Expedition Debrief

Equipment return and maintenance followed by comprehensive Expedition II debrief. Compare performance between Expeditions I and II.

Day 30 — Leadership Theory → Leadership Practice

Students connect their wilderness experiences to leadership concepts introduced during Days 1–5. Examine leadership style, communication, judgment, decision-making, followership, conflict and stress management.

Day 31 — Personal Leadership Development

Students evaluate their individual leadership growth and develop a personal leadership philosophy. Discussion focuses on transferring expedition leadership to organizations, careers, communities and everyday life.

Day 32 — Final Presentations & Course Closure

Student leadership presentations, peer/instructor feedback, final reflection and course evaluation. Students articulate how their understanding of leadership changed through the 32-day experience.