



*Linking the past to the future by
teaching traditional
back country skills*



NINEMILE WILDLANDS TRAINING CENTER

*USDA Forest Service
Lolo National Forest
Ninemile Ranger Station
20325 Remount Road, Huson, MT 59846*

2009 Heritage Expeditions Course Descriptions

Stock Courses

Defensive Horse Safety This 8 hour stock safety awareness course is designed to meet the need for mandatory safety training for stock users that is required by many Forest Service Regions. This mandatory training requirement applies to volunteers, as well as Forest Service employees. (This course is the beginning day of the Ninemile Packing Clinic). Topics include: horse anatomy, tack (good & bad), and safe techniques for catching, leading and tying, grooming, trucking and hauling stock, loading, saddling, bridling and mounting.

Ninemile Packing Clinic Learning how to pack mules and horses is what this class is all about. Stock use and packing has been the tradition at Ninemile since the Remount was established in 1930. We've offered the packing clinic at Ninemile since 1980, and we're still going strong! The clinic is taught by Montana outfitter and author, Smoke Elser. He is assisted by Forest Service packers Bob Hoverson and Mark Pengelly. Topics covered in this five-day course include: stock anatomy, saddles and tack, feeding and care of stock, safe stock handling techniques, packing the Decker saddle, and minimum impact camping and stock use techniques. An overnight pack trip with an opportunity to use your newly learned skills, rounds out the week. ***Note: This class is a prerequisite for the Back Country Packing, Camping & Stock Handling Techniques course offered in July.***

Back Country Packing, Camping & Stock Handling Techniques This six-day course will originate from Clearwater Crossing Work Center on the Ninemile Ranger District, Lolo National Forest. Bob Hoverson and Mark Pengelly, along with the Forest Service Northern Region Pack Train will team up again to take you on this enjoyable week of learning to safely pack, travel and camp in wilderness and backcountry areas. During the weeklong session you will: cover all aspects of trip planning and preparation, learn to camp safely in bear country with stock, learn to practice state-of-the-art Leave No Trace principles for stock use, and practice several methods of backcountry stock management. Students will use skills acquired in the Ninemile Packing Clinic which is a prerequisite for this course. In addition, you will spend time working with a Forest Service trail crew supplying them with water bars, bridge decking, gravel and/or tools. Class size is limited to ten students so apply early!

Leave No Master Educator (Stock) This course is designed to teach participants the principles of Leave No Trace (LNT) as it applies to stock users and packers. Students learn “hands-on” teaching methods and techniques for teaching outdoor ethics to diverse audiences. Graduates are expected to share the knowledge gained in this course with others, in a “train-the-trainer” format. All material and information presented is based on the latest wildland recreation research. The course is taught by Bob Hoverson, Program Manager for the Ninemile Wildlands Training Center and the Northern Region Pack Train. He is assisted by other Master Level Instructors. Class size is limited to twelve students. This course is sanctioned by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and students will receive a “Master Educator” certificate.

Firearms Safety for Packers and Stock Managers (Agency personnel only) This course titled “Firearms Training (Handgun) for Packers & Stock Managers” will be held in Missoula, Montana. This one day course is restricted to agency personnel only, and will focus on safe handling, storage, and use of handguns for the specific purpose of dispatching injured or sick government stock (horses or mules). Topics include: firearms safety and handling, proper firing techniques, including the demonstration of weapons proficiency on a firing range, legal and ethical aspects of firearms use, and animal anatomy and behavior. The course will include both classroom and shooting range exercises. Graduates will receive a certificate of completion and a credential qualifying them to apply for a concealed weapons permit under Montana law. Gary Marbut, President of the Montana Shooting Sports Association will conduct this training.

Traditional Skills Courses

Crosscut Saw Maintenance & Sharpening Saw expert, Warren Miller teaches this five-day course. Warren, along with the Missoula Technology and Development Center wrote the “Crosscut Saw Manual” which is currently used by the Forest Service. This class is an intensive hands-on course emphasizing the art and science of fitting up and properly caring for crosscut saws. Discussion topics include: styles of saws, qualities to look for when buying a saw and tools required to fit-up a saw. The majority of class time will be spent learning to properly sharpen your saw. At the end of the week you’ll have an opportunity to spend an afternoon in the field practicing falling and bucking techniques and testing your newly sharpened saw! Bring two or three saws if you have them and all of the filing tools you can lay your hands on. We’ll discuss the different tools and make sure they’re properly adjusted. There will be plenty of tools and saws if you’re unable to bring your own. Sign up early as space is limited to five students per week.

Back Country Survival Techniques Survival expert Peter Kummerfeldt conducts this training that is suitable for individuals age 15 and older. The course is designed to provide the practical knowledge needed to travel safely in the back country knowing that should some emergency occur, a night out does not have to be a life threatening event, just an inconvenience. The following will be covered during the course: the psychology of survival, survival medicine, assembling a useful survival kit, emergency shelters, fires and fire building, water and water procurement, and signaling-the art of attracting attention. The two and a half day course consists of a combination of classroom activity, instructor demonstration and lots of time for student practice. Participants will be required to sleep out one night.

Practical Map, Compass and GPS This land navigation course consists of two and a half days of both classroom instruction and field exercises. Topics presented include: introduction to USGS topographical maps, overview of mapping software, determining position-terms and concepts, topographical map border information, contour lines and map symbols, geodetic datum's, grid systems, compasses, declination and map orientation, determining distance and bearing, measuring and estimating distance, navigation techniques, and using the GPS.

Field exercises will be conducted throughout the course to allow for practical application of the academic material. This will include at least one night time exercise. Note: Participants are encouraged to bring their own compass and GPS. Maps will be provided.

Back Country Survival Techniques/Practical Map, Compass & GPS This course is a combination of the two above courses taught by survival and outdoor safety expert, Peter Kummerfeldt. A discount is given for those attending the full five days.

Dutch Oven Cooking Basics Colleen Sloan has been teaching Dutch oven cooking across the United States for the past 25 years, but she's been a Dutch oven cook all of her life. If you've attended classes at the Ninemile Wildlands Training Center the past few years, you've likely experienced her excellent cooking! Now, Colleen has offered to share her skills with you. This one-day class covers: equipment for low impact cooking, seasoning and cleaning Dutch ovens, cooking for a crowd, back country menus and packing for back country trips. Come to class with an empty stomach, we'll start cooking first thing in the morning and continue right on through to a first class dinner! Tuition includes an instructional cookbook, a Dutch oven to take home and meals for the day. Additional supplies will be available for purchase at the course. *Note: This class is a prerequisite for our Advanced Dutch Oven Cooking course.*

Dutch Oven Basics for Couples A new class with opportunity for couples (husband & wife, father/daughter, best friends, etc) to learn the art of Dutch oven cooking together. Attendees can take advantage of a reduced tuition while experiencing the same fun filled days as our traditional Low Impact Dutch Oven Cooking class. Our expert Dutch Oven Chef, Colleen Sloan, will furnish each couple with a Dutch oven to take home, plus extra supplies will be available for purchase. This one day class is packed with food, fun and complete instruction in the art of Dutch oven cooking. Ninemile Ranger Station is a beautiful setting for this course.

Advanced Dutch Oven Cooking Here's the class you Dutch oven cooks have been asking for!! Come hungry to the Advanced Dutch Oven Cooking class and learn how to make candy, ethnic dishes and gourmet meals; plus learn to cook on a cast iron wok and fry pans. Bring your own Dutch ovens and stoves, if you have them. Our Dutch Oven Chef Colleen Sloan, will furnish what you need if you don't. You will leave this class with a full stomach, a new piece of cast iron cookware, and a wealth of new knowledge on the art of Dutch oven cooking.

Leave No Trace Master Educator (Backpacking) This five day course is designed to teach the principles of Leave No Trace (LNT) outdoor skills and ethics. The course includes a 4-day/3-night backpacking journey in the pristine back country of Montana. Participants learn "hands-on" methods and techniques for teaching outdoor ethics to diverse audiences. Graduates are expected to share the knowledge gained in this course with others, through a "train-the-trainer" format. All material and information presented is based on the latest wildland recreation research. Lead instructor for this course is Roger Semler, former Wilderness Manager at Glacier National Park, career wilderness ranger and manager with the National Park Service, and highly experienced Master Educator. He will be assisted by an additional highly qualified LNT Master Educator. Class size is limited to ten students. This course is sanctioned by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and students will receive a "Master Educator" designation and certificate.

Historic Building Preservation & Maintenance

Introduction to Shop Tools for Cabinet, Window & Door Construction Participants will work in the Northern Region Preservation Team's wood shop in Missoula, Montana, to learn basic skills in set up and operation of shop power equipment to construct and repair windows and doors. Power tools covered will be radial arm saw, sliding compound miter saw, jointer, surface planer, drum sander, table saw, shaper, tenoner machine, and mortise machine. The course will include tool maintenance and tool safety. Students will construct and repair windows and/or doors for actual use and will gain knowledge of historic maintenance techniques, understanding of the Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance process, and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. In addition, a lead awareness certification class will be held.

Paints & Coatings for Historic Structures/Lead Awareness Training This class, taught by the Northern Region Preservation Team, will focus on understanding the Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance process and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. The course covers paint failure causes and cures; mold, mildew, and paint discoloration; surface preparation techniques, including scrapers, heat guns, steamers, and sanding; OSHA standards and regulations; lead paint removal techniques; respirators and air monitoring; suitable paint and coating products and application tools and techniques. In addition, students will receive lead awareness training and certification.

Synthetic Shingle Roofing Techniques Kirby Matthew of the Northern Region Historic Preservation team and roofing specialist Shiffy Wellborn will teach this pilot program testing synthetic shingles. The formal hands-on training will be located at the Ninemile Ranger Station where the class will replace a roof on a building that is listed on the National Historic Building Register. Each trainee will learn skills in material selection, ground staging (scaffolding), roof staging (toe boards), use of specialty roofing tools, new roof application techniques and installing flashing.

Identification and Cleanup of Hazardous Biological Materials This course is for managers, supervisors, workers and residents who are or could possibly be exposed to hazardous biological materials such as mold, hantavirus, rats, mice, snakes, bears, ticks, spiders, pigeons or bats. Topics will include identification of hazards, personal protection, disposal techniques and cleanup. Protective coveralls, gloves and respirators will be provided. This course will be located at the Historic OTO Dude Ranch, a Forest Service facility near Gardiner, Montana.

Food and a cook will be provided. Students must furnish their own sleeping bag and personal gear.

Log Repair and Replacement for Historic Buildings The Northern Region Preservation Team will conduct this training on a Forest Service cabin located on the Lewis and Clark National Forest, between Neihart and White Sulfur Springs, Montana. Each trainee will learn skills in material selection, ground staging (scaffolding), repair and replacement of deteriorated sill and wall logs and crown ends, layout and cutting of notches, half-lap splicing, epoxy techniques, shaping and fitting logs, chinking and daubing techniques, and cribbing and lifting log structures. In addition, topics such as the Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance process, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation, common structural problems and various preservation techniques will be discussed.

Food and a cook will be provided. Students must furnish their own sleeping tent, sleeping bag and personal gear.

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www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/resources-cultural/nwtc**