

Backcountry Rock Climbing

Travel and Logistics

Course Start Location

NOLS Noble Hotel
288 Main Street (corner of Third Street and Main Street)
Lander, WY 82520

Arrival

No later than the day before the course start date.

Check your enrollment letter or your NOLS Dashboard for your course start and end dates. You will meet your instructors in the lobby of the Noble Hotel at 8:00 p.m. on the evening before your course start date. This meeting gives you an opportunity to get acquainted with your fellow expedition members, as well as to review the course's logistics and ask a few questions.

Departure

No sooner than the morning after the course end date.

All courses wrap up late in the evening on the noted ending date. You should plan to leave Lander no sooner than the following day. Please do not make travel plans that will require you to arrive late for your course or to leave early once your course is over. You may end up missing the start of your course or missing your plane home.

[Book Airfare with STA Travel](#)

STA Travel is NOLS' recommended travel agency. While you are free to book your travel on your own, we recommend you book with STA Travel because:

- They offer the lowest and most flexible airfares with their Price Beat Guarantee
- They are trained in NOLS programs and are available for 24/7 travel help before and during your travels
- You can Book Now, Pay Later for International Travel (Except Mexico/Canada)
- They offer exclusive deals on airfare for college/high school students under 30
- [Helpful Information for Unaccompanied Minors](#)

- *Depending on your course location, you may be able to book your lodging and ground transport through STA Travel.

Visit the STA/NOLS Portal to get started: www.statravel.com/solutions/nols.htm

- To contact STA Travel, call 1-800-428-0004 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (AZ time)

Preferred option

We recommend that you book your travel into and out of Casper, Wyoming (CPR). Shuttle service between Casper and Lander is provided by [Share-A-Ride Wyoming](#), in partnership the [Wind River Transit Authority](#) (WRTA). The fare is determined by the number of other passengers traveling on the shuttle and ranges from \$65–188, per person, each way. Details on flying into Casper and reserving your seat on the shuttle are below.

Alternative options

The commercial airport nearest to Lander is forty-five minutes away, in Riverton (RIW). A new public charter, [Denver Air Connection](#), now flies twice daily between Denver and Riverton. Making a connection between a charter and a commercial flight in Denver requires more time than usual, as you will need to recheck your bag and possibly re-clear security; details are available on DAC's website.

The Jackson airport (JAC) is a three-hour drive from Lander. Rock Springs (RKS) is a similar distance. Taxi service from Jackson or Rock Springs is available from one of the providers below; however, it may be expensive.

Again, we recommend that students book their travel through Casper and take the Share-A-Ride shuttle to Lander. Depending on the day and season, it will likely be cheaper—and more reliable—to utilize this option.

Shuttle and Taxi Service

Your transportation needs will depend on your flight itinerary and airport choice.

Preferred option for students flying into Casper

Arrival

Please see Share-A-Ride's website for up-to-date fare and schedule information. In general, Share-A-Ride shuttles to Lander depart the Casper airport at 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM. The 5:00 PM shuttle will accommodate students arriving on flights as late as

4:30 PM into Casper. *It will not accommodate students arriving on later flights.* When booking your travel, you should arrange to arrive on an afternoon flight. If you arrive after 5:00 PM, you will need to arrange a charter with Share-A-Ride or use a taxi service, both of which can be expensive.

Please be advised that the shuttle departs promptly at 5:00 PM; if a flight delay arises, the driver may accommodate by waiting up to 60 minutes. However, if your afternoon flight into Casper is significantly delayed and you miss the shuttle, you will need to arrange alternative transportation to Lander. (See *Alternative options* below.)

Departure

Please see Share-A-Ride's website for up-to-date fare and schedule information. In general, Share-A-Ride shuttles to the Casper airport depart Lander at 3:45 AM and 9:10 AM. The 3:45 AM shuttle will accommodate students departing on 7:25 AM flights. *It will not accommodate students departing on earlier flights.* When booking your travel, you should select a flight departing no earlier than 7:25 AM, in order to allow time for security. If you depart on a flight before 7:25 AM, you will need to use a separate taxi service, which can be expensive.

Reserving your seat

Advance reservations are required for the shuttle and are handled by Share-A-Ride. We ask students to give Share-A-Ride the courtesy of making their reservation well in advance, as the company has a staff of one; please don't wait until the day before you arrive, or you may have to pay a late-booking penalty. To reserve your seat, contact [Share-A-Ride](tel:3076966116): (307) 696-6116 or cs0090265@gmail.com. Please have your flight details ready when you call, as Share-A-Ride will require that information.

Meals

The Casper airport has limited food options, so we ask students to pack a substantial sack lunch and dinner on the day they travel. If you arrive on a noon flight, you may have several hours to wait before the shuttle departs. The shuttle does not stop for food on the way to Lander, and you will arrive just in time for your 8:00 PM pre-course meeting. Please be sure to eat dinner in Casper or on the shuttle.

Unaccompanied minors

At this time, NOLS Rocky Mountain can only accommodate 14- and 15-year-old students flying as unaccompanied minors. **We require that all students 16 and older**

fly as adults. If your student is under the age of 16, please contact your admission officer for more information.

Alternative options for students flying into Casper

If your flights into or out of Casper do not permit you to take advantage of the Share-A-Ride shuttle, you will need to arrange your own transportation. **Classic Cruise Control** (classiccruisecontrol.com or 307-575-8602) offers taxi service between Casper and Lander for \$175, plus \$25 for each additional passenger, and can accommodate up to six riders; 24 hours' advance notice is requested. **Wind River Shuttle** (windrivershuttle.com, 307-438-9740, or windrivershuttle@gmail.com) offers taxi service between Casper and Lander for \$175, plus \$10 for each additional passenger. **Wyo Ride** (307-577-4950 or wylamie@gmail.com) offers taxi service between Casper and Lander for \$320; this cost may be split between as many as six riders; at least an hour of advance notice is requested.

For students flying into Jackson

WRTA can provide charter service between Jackson and Lander; the cost ranges from \$70–210, depending on the number of passengers, and an advance reservation is always required. **Please note: between November 15th and February 28th, WRTA will not offer service to Jackson except for large parties.** Classic Cruise Control offers taxi service to Jackson for \$190, plus \$25 for each additional passenger. Wind River Shuttle offers taxi service between Jackson and Lander for \$225, plus \$10 for each additional passenger.

For students flying into Rock Springs

WRTA can provide charter service between Rock Springs and Lander; the cost is \$200, and an advance reservation is always required. Classic Cruise Control offers taxi service to Rock Springs for \$175, plus \$25 for each additional passenger. Wind River Shuttle offers taxi service between Jackson and Lander for \$135, plus \$10 for each additional passenger.

For students flying into Riverton

Share-A-Ride offers shuttle service between Riverton and Lander; the cost ranges from \$15–35, depending on the number of passengers, and an advance reservation is required. Classic Cruise Control offers taxi service to Riverton for \$40, plus \$25 for each additional passenger. If Share-A-Ride and Classic Cruise Control are unavailable, you can contact **BDS Taxi** (307-840-0954), which requests 24 hours' advance notice. Wind River Shuttle offers taxi service between Jackson and Lander for \$35, plus \$10 for each additional passenger.

Luggage

Carry essential items onto the plane with you, including prescription medications, and retain your baggage claim stubs. These are important tools for tracking any missing luggage. Upon your arrival in Lander, promptly inform the Noble Hotel desk clerk and your instructors if you are missing luggage.

If Delayed

If your arrival to Wyoming is delayed and you are not able to make the pick-up at the airport, please do the following:

1. Rebook for the next available flight. You can call STA Travel for help on their 24/7 number, 1-800-836-4115.
2. Then, contact NOLS Rocky Mountain to let us know of your new plans: the NOLS Admission Office during business hours at (800) 710-6657, or after business hours at (307) 335-2265

Accommodations

Accommodations are dormitory style and are for NOLS students and staff only. Rooms will be available at the NOLS dorm—the historic Noble Hotel, built in 1918—one or two days prior to your course start. The dorm is located at the corner of Third Street and Main Street in Lander, with entry on Third Street.

The Noble desk clerk is on duty from 8:00 a.m. to midnight MT, seven days a week. You can reach the desk clerk by calling (307) 335-2265. All student messages should be directed to this phone number. If the desk clerk is not available, you will have the option to leave a voicemail. There is no charge to room at the Noble either the night before your course begins or the night it ends. Please do not call to reserve a spot for these dates, as we will be expecting you. Reservations are not necessary unless you plan to arrive earlier than the day prior to your course, in which case you will need to contact the Noble desk clerk for confirmation. The charge is \$15 per person per night, payable upon arrival. Other accommodations are available in Lander, and you are welcome to make reservations for additional nights at any number of motels in town. Please contact the [Lander Chamber of Commerce](#) for more information.

Vehicles and Valuables

Personal belongings and vehicles may be stored at the NOLS facility for the duration of your course. Valuables may be checked into our safe. Due care will be taken to prevent theft or damage of your stored items. NOLS does not assume any liability for lost,

stolen, or damaged personal property while in our care. NOLS will not honor any personal claim for property loss while in our care. If you want insurance coverage for your personal belongings, you must provide it yourself.

Parking is generally available on a NOLS lot for the duration of your course in an unfenced parking lot with little or no security. If all available spaces are filled or you want more secure storage, private companies offer such facilities for a modest fee. Arrangements can be made on the morning your course begins.

Student Mail

You will be able to receive mail before and after your course; however, you will not receive mail while you are in the field. Inform your family and friends that letters and packages they send to you must include your course code (e.g. WRW-1 6/23/15). For example:

Your Name
Course Code
NOLS
288 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

Telephone

You will be out of telephone contact for the duration of your field experience. Your family and friends should not expect to hear from you until the final day of your course.

Personal Expenses

Bring enough cash to cover expenses encountered while traveling to and from Lander. Additional expenses may include phone calls, shuttle fees, and any miscellaneous purchases like snacks, toiletries, etc. We suggest a minimum of \$300 and, if possible, an ATM card.

Fishing

Fly fishing can be an important part of the NOLS curriculum. Depending on the season and location of your course, you may have an opportunity to fish some of the West's finest trout streams. You must possess a Wyoming fishing license, which you will have the option to purchase during your prep day in Lander, in order to fish on your course.

The cost of a license is not included in your tuition. Please bring a credit or debit card to purchase your license; if you do not have a charge card, the cost will be added to your equipment bill.

Please also bring to Lander the last four digits of either your:

- Social Security number (for US citizens)
- Tax Identification Number (for US legal aliens)
- Passport number (for foreign visitors)

Wyoming Game and Fish requires this information to process your license. The cost of your license will depend on your age, where you are from, and how many days you hope to fish. (Non-resident youth, annual: \$25; non-resident adult, annual: \$102; non-resident adult, 5-day: \$56; non-resident adult, daily: \$14/day. All annual licenses must also purchase a conservation stamp for \$12.50.) Your instructors will have details on fishing opportunities, and can help you decide between purchasing an annual, daily, or multi-day license.

Briefing and Reentry

The first day of your course is busy! All phone calls, emails, and personal matters must be attended to the evening before leaving for the field. After an early breakfast, instructors will check your equipment and issue any items you need for your course. You will prepare rations and then pack up to leave town. Once last minute details are completed, just after lunch, you will be transported to the field.

You will travel back to Lander on the final morning of your course. There, you will de-issue gear, debrief with NOLS administrators, and have a final celebratory dinner, where diplomas will be awarded. Your course officially concludes that evening.

Contacting NOLS

If you have questions concerning course content or travel logistics, or to submit enrollment forms and tuition payment, you can reach us by logging onto www.nols.edu or calling 800-710-NOLS between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM MT, Monday through Friday.