

Sea Kayaking Instructor Course

Travel and Logistics

Welcome to NOLS! We look forward to meeting you at the start of your course and hope the following information will help you get here with a minimum of difficulty and expense. Please read this entire document prior to booking any travel.

The Quick Run-Down

- Your course will be traveling to Canada. Please carefully review Canadian admissibility requirements (detailed below) and ensure you arrive with a valid passport or passport card.
- You are responsible for booking a flight to Seattle, WA for the day before your course start date.
- From Sea-Tac Airport arrange transportation north to Mount Vernon, WA and spend the night at a hotel (either the Days Inn or Wingate (formerly Best Western Skagit Valley Inn)) you are responsible for these arrangements.
- NOLS will pick you up at 7:00 am on the start date of the course outside each hotel and drive you to our Pacific Northwest campus in Mount Vernon, WA.
- The day after the course ends, NOLS will return students to the hotels in Mount Vernon around 1pm (after lunch). Please note that **the morning after the course ends will be spent on a mandatory new employee orientation**. You are responsible for your own lodging that night.
- Please wait to make travel arrangements until NOLS Admissions clears your health form.

Meeting Time and Location

On the day your course begins, we will meet students before breakfast at 7:00 a.m. at both of the following locations. Please meet in the parking lot outside the main door of the hotel. We'll stop at one hotel, and then stop at the next hotel (the two hotels are about one minute apart). From there, we'll drive to the NOLS PNW campus.

Days Inn

2009 Riverside Drive
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-424-4141 or 800-329-7466

Wingate by Wyndham Mount Vernon*

**recent name change - formerly Best Western Skagit Valley Inn*

2300 Market Place

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360-428-5678

If your arrival is delayed for any reason, please call NOLS Pacific Northwest at 360-445-6657, and/or email us at pacific_northwest@nols.edu. Email can be more reliable.

Airport Shuttle Service

Bellair Charters Airporter Shuttle (866-235-5247 or 360-380-8800/www.airporter.com) offers bus service from Seattle-Tacoma Airport (Sea-Tac) to Burlington (five minutes north of Mount Vernon). Reservations are required. **They run a limited number of shuttles each day, so it's very important to double-check that the bus schedule works with your flight itinerary before booking your flight.**

Once in Burlington, make your way to the hotel. Options include Quick Cabs (360-757-6222) or other local taxi companies. Reservations are recommended for taxis. Rideshares such as Uber and Lyft are sometimes available in Burlington, but they are not consistent.

Train Service

Amtrak (800-872-7245 / www.amtrak.com) offers daily train service to Mount Vernon. A taxi can be arranged from the train station to either hotel (see above for taxi information).

Driving Directions

If you choose to drive, getting to the meeting location by car is easy. From Interstate-5, take the College Way exit (#227) for Mount Vernon. Head east on College Way to Riverside Drive (second set of lights). Turn left onto Riverside Drive, heading north. The Days Inn and Wingate (formerly Best Western Skagit Valley Inn) are both about ¼-½ mile down on left. We will meet you at your hotel. Please do not come directly to our campus since our staff will be involved with course preparations. If you wish to park your vehicle at NOLS Pacific Northwest while you are on your course, you may follow us there after we meet in Mount Vernon.

Canadian Immigrations

Your course will enter Canada. Check the Canadian Immigration website www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/apply-who.asp for admissibility requirements.

Note: If you have been convicted of a crime or have been arrested, you are likely inadmissible to Canada. Please contact your nearest Canadian consulate to confirm your admission eligibility.

1. Visas are not required for US citizens entering Canada from the US.
2. Many nationalities other than US will need a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) to enter Canada. This must be obtained at a Canadian Consulate or Embassy before entering Canada. It can take several weeks to process TRV applications. Check the Canadian Embassy website to see if you need a TRV (www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp). You must have your TRV in hand before starting your NOLS course.

For current information contact the U.S. State Department's website at:

<http://travel.state.gov/>

First Days to Last Days

The first several days are spent at NOLS Pacific Northwest. You will be busy when you arrive, so all phone calls, letters, and personal matters must be taken care of before your arrival. After an early breakfast the first morning, you'll begin several days of classroom-based training, as well as outfitting gear and rations for the expedition. Your instructors will check any gear you've brought from home, and you will be able to rent or purchase additional items from our outfitting department.

There will be classes, presentations and opportunities to ask questions with NOLS instructors and managers to acquaint you with NOLS administrative and organizational structure. You will have access to the NOLS library to research and prepare field classes.

On the fifth day we will take care of last minute details before heading to Vancouver Island. The next day we will continue our travel to Port Hardy and then to the central B.C. coast, where we will begin the paddling expedition.

We'll return to the NOLS Pacific Northwest campus on the evening before the course ends. We'll spend the final day cleaning and de-issuing course gear. A final banquet and

graduation will mark the official end of the course. Participants will stay at NOLS PNW the night after the course ends.

Note: the day after your course officially ends, NOLS offers a mandatory new employee orientation and gives new instructors the opportunity to secure upcoming contracts.

Please plan to leave no earlier than noon, the day after your course ends.

Student Mail

You will be able to send and receive mail on the first and last day of the course. Please have your family and friends include your COURSE CODE & START DATE (e.g. KIC 8/19/2021) along with your name and our mailing address. USPS mail, FedEx or UPS packages should be sent to:

(Your Name) - COURSE CODE & START DATE (i.e., KIC and course start date)
c/o NOLS Pacific Northwest
20950 Bulson Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Telephone and Course Communication

Cell phones have good coverage at NOLS Pacific Northwest. There is no scheduled communication between the NOLS campus and courses in the field. You will be out of telephone contact for the duration of the expedition.

Storage of Luggage and Valuables, Student Parking

Extra baggage and vehicles may be stored at the Pacific Northwest base for the duration of your course. Valuables are stored in a locked cabinet. Cars will be parked in an unfenced parking lot and keys left with NOLS staff. Although due care will be taken, NOLS assumes no liability for baggage, valuables, or vehicles while stored at the NOLS campus or elsewhere. It may be possible for you to obtain personal insurance to cover such risks.

Behavior In Town

While in town, students are expected to behave responsibly at all times and to be sensitive to customs and traditions of the local people. Violation of law or conduct that could damage NOLS' reputation may result in expulsion from the course. There is no use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco allowed on course. Possession or use may lead to expulsion.

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 at admissions@nols.edu or calling NOLS Headquarters in Lander, Wyoming at 800-710-NOLS. Our headquarters are open 8:00am and 5:00pm MT, Monday through Friday.