WFR Information Resource Sheet

About Your Certification:

All Aerie Backcountry Medicine WFR and WFR-Refresher (WFR-R) certifications are valid for 2 years from the course completion date. Complete a refresher course within this time to stay current and valid.

WFR and WFR-R certifications also have a 1-year grace period following the expiration date. Your certification is not current during this grace period; it is **considered expired**.

1. If you complete a WFR-R course during your grace period, your certification will be refreshed for another 2 year period (i.e., it will become valid again).
2. If a WFR-R course is not completed within your 1-year grace period, you will be required to complete the full course again.

We encourage students to retake the entire WFR every six years to keep their skills current; however, this is not a requirement.

Note about CPR: A non-expired CPR certification is required to keep your WFR certification valid.

Can I Recertify with Other Organizations?

Yes. While we hope you return to Aerie and offer discounts to Aerie alumni, you are welcome to take courses from other organizations if their schedules and/or locations better meet your needs.

To be eligible for recertification, you must possess a current (unexpired) WFR/WFR-R certification from a provider whose programming meets or exceeds the guidelines established by the Wilderness Medicine Education Collaborative (WMEC).

We want to make your recertification process easy:

- If your Aerie certification is valid & not in its grace period:
    - Enroll in a WFR-R course with another company. We encourage you to confirm with them before registering to ensure they'll accept your current certification.
    - After successful completion of that course, you can keep your certification with that new company or you can request an Aerie certification.

- If your Aerie certification is in its grace period:
    - Another company may not accept a certification in its grace period (since the certification is officially considered 'expired'). However, you can still request to take a WFR-R course with them by asking for a 'letter of completion' instead of a certification card.

- Submit the 'letter of completion' to Aerie. Aerie will generate a certification for you.

Note: A WFR-R course must be taken to recertify; we cannot accept a WFA course in lieu of a WFR-R course. Aerie accepts certifications from many other wilderness medicine educators, however, if we are unfamiliar with a particular certification we will ask for the following information. Share with us via info@aeriemed.com:

- Company name & instructor name(s)
- Course dates
- Course location (Aerie will not accept WFR-R courses taught 100% online)
- Total course length (in hours)
- A copy of the curriculum/schedule/topics covered

What Happens If My WFR Expires?

Your certification is valid for two years; you then have a one-year grace period. If you do not recertify before the end of your grace period, you will have to retake an entire Wilderness First Responder course.

Help! I Lost My Certification Cards!

Aerie Backcountry Medicine can provide replacement Aerie-issued eCert cards at no charge. A replacement American Heart Association CPR e-card will be provided for a fee of $20. Contact info@aeriemed.com with your name, course type, course dates, and the email address where you'd like the eCerts sent.

Thinking about taking your WFR to the next level?

We offer two course types that may interest you. They are the Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician and Semester in Wilderness Medicine. Below are brief descriptions of these courses. Please, call the Aerie office if you have questions about either of these courses.

Wilderness EMT

Aerie's 200+ hour Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician courses are unique in the industry. The differences are due to the experience of our instructors and the focus and realism of our scenarios. Our MD, Paramedic, RN, and EMT instructors not only bring years of professional medical experience to their lectures, but they are also leaders in the outdoor and risk management fields, ensuring that the information they give is practical and appropriate, providing students with skills and information that they truly need. Aerie students participate in days of intense wilderness rescue scenarios. They may work with Search and Rescue teams on overnight simulated rescues. In many cases, they learn anatomy and physiology in a human cadaver lab and participate in vehicle extrication practice with professional firefighters. Students spend 10 hours in an emergency department to complete their clinical experience.

All Aerie WEMT courses follow the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) curriculum and are approved by the NREMT and the State of Montana Board of Medical Examiners; however the classes go into significantly more detail concerning care for patients in remote settings. At Aerie, we design our WEMT classes to prepare students to care for patients in the most challenging

environments and conditions, whether urban or backcountry. Our past students have graduated and gone on to work as EMTs, MDs, RNs, medics, firefighters, guides, field biologists and other outdoor leaders. As such, this course is ideal for outdoor leaders involved in extended backcountry trips and those individuals seeking employment with ambulance services, search and rescue units, and ski patrols. It is also appropriate for anyone wanting the best EMT training available.

Certifications/Credits Received (note that some are optional, may require additional fees, and are dependent upon successful course completion):

- WEMT – 2 years
- National Registry EMT – 2 years
- State of Montana EMT – 2 years
- American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR – 2 years
- University of Montana, ECP 331, 3 credits

Semester in Wilderness Medicine

Aerie's Semester in Wilderness Medicine program is unique in the wilderness medicine field, providing students with industry-leading certifications earned through experiential learning opportunities. Our rigorous academic program employs realistic scenarios, interactive lectures, as well as clinical observations in a variety of settings (an urban American emergency room and advanced life support ambulance service, as well as - during the Spring Semester - a developing-world rural health clinic) to ensure a well-rounded, challenging and rewarding educational experience. Our goal is not only to provide professional-level certifications, but also a broad education in wilderness skills to ensure that our students are capable of preventing and responding to emergencies in any environment. Our Semester students receive the most comprehensive education in wilderness and emergency medical skills available anywhere.

Certifications/Credits Earned (dependent upon successful program completion):

- 15 upper-division university semester credits
- Aerie Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT)
- National Registry EMT (EMT)
- State of Montana EMT
- American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR
- Swiftwater Rescue Technician (SRT)
- Search and Rescue Technician (SARTECH) *Summer Only
- Rope Rescue Technician *Summer Semester Only
- Level 1 Avalanche *Spring Semester Only
- Visit https://aeriemedicine.com/swm for more information!

How to Contact Aerie

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