



All American Leadership Expedition

Course Description

Course Features

- [All American Leadership](#) partnering with NOLS
- **LOCATION:** backcountry hiking and camping with llamas in the Wind River Mountains, out of the NOLS Rocky Mountain in Lander, WY,
- **LENGTH:** 7 days and 6 nights in the field
- **ALTITUDE:** approximately 7,000 – 10,500 ft
- **GROUP SIZE:** 8 participants and 2 instructors
- **HIGHLIGHTS:** Saddling/packing/leading/picketing pack animals (llamas), options for fishing and non-technical peak ascents

Course Outcomes

- Recharge your entrepreneurial self through close personal interaction with other seasoned, accomplished, and intrepid leaders
- Disconnect and enjoy a beautiful pristine wilderness areas in North America
- Cross-pollinate ideas and increase your coast-to-coast network
- Put into practice protocols for expedition leadership and safe & enjoyable extended outdoor living and travel
- Learn to care for llamas as pack animals
- Enjoy yourself and live one of those magic moments in life that you'll always remember.





Overview

This expedition has been designed in coordination with All American Leadership, specifically for mature and experienced leaders with a commitment to group over self, and a willingness to get out of one's comfort zone and learn from others. Participants should be proven leaders, with a commitment to the values of teamwork, discipline, responsibility, and camaraderie. The expedition's curriculum will focus on the needs of the participants, as well as adding llama- support to keep pack weight down.

You will begin with basic travel and camping skills: stove use, cooking and baking, camping, map reading, practices for hiking and camping in grizzly bear habitat, and Leave No Trace techniques. Llamas will carry the bulk of your supplies. Having pack animals will help lighten your load and provide an opportunity to learn about traveling with livestock in the mountains. You'll start traveling slowly to get used to the weight, new boots, and the elevation. As the group becomes acclimatized, the pace will increase and hiking distances will grow. You may also have the opportunity to climb a non-technical peak and fly fish. The leadership curriculum will be practical, reflective, and transferable to work and personal settings.

You'll be divided into groups of three to four people for cooking and camping. You'll get lots of coaching from your instructors while you learn new skills. NOLS instructors will play evolving roles as your knowledge, skills, and abilities increase throughout the expedition.

Weather and Other Challenges

Weather

Summer weather in the Rockies is unpredictable. You'll learn to live comfortably outside in blizzards, rainstorms, and high winds. Cold and snowy conditions can occur any month of the year.

Terrain

You may be bushwhacking off-trail through thick vegetation, scrambling over refrigerator-sized boulders, or battling sleet. Rivers are icy from snowmelt and can be difficult or impossible to cross. You may have to traverse slopes of loose rock and carry a heavy backpack up steep passes.



Wildlife

The area your course will travel through is home to grizzly and black bears. NOLS, in collaboration with bear biologists, has developed specific practices to minimize the risk of a bear encounter. Your instructors will teach these practices to you and you will have to follow them every day. Bear avoidance practices include carrying bear deterrent pepper spray, meticulously maintaining cleanliness at the cooking sites, not having food in tents, and proper food storage. In some situations in grizzly bear country, the minimum group size is four people. You will live, travel and take care of personal necessities with a group of your peers always close by. Precautions against bear encounters will decrease the opportunities for solitude and privacy on this course, one of the most challenging aspects of living in grizzly bear country.

Remoteness

Identifying and managing the risks from hazards—such as falling rock, stormy weather, animals, moving water, and steep terrain—will be a constant theme on your course. You're often miles from the amenities of civilization, including medical care; telephones may be several days away. You are expected to demonstrate the highest regard for risk management in the field.

Personal Electronics

A key element to a NOLS education is time spent in wilderness. The benefits of this include being closer to nature, time away from society and civilization, and being in an environment where natural forces predominate and students have the opportunity to develop good judgment and practice self-reliance. NOLS does not permit students to use personal cell or satellite phones or other communication devices including personal tracking devices (e.g. SPOT), while in the field. Additionally, students are not permitted to take personal music players (iPods, MP3 players, CD players, etc). Instructors will be carrying sufficient communication equipment (usually a satellite phone) to handle any emergencies that may arise. Drone technology is also not allowed.

Anticipated Schedule

- **AUGUST 21:** Arrive in Lander, Wyoming. Check into your hotel. Meet at NOLS Rocky Mountain at 5:00 p.m. for dinner and an orientation meeting.

- **AUGUST 22:** NOLS shuttle to NOLS Noble Hotel for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. We'll issue gear and learn how to pack backpacks and llama panniers. Depart for the trailhead to meet your llamas that afternoon.
- **AUGUST 23 - 27:** Travel in the Wind River Mountains. There is an intended layover day mid-week, to enjoy fishing, exploring and/or resting in camp.
- **AUGUST 28:** NOLS transport back to Lander in the morning, to deissue equipment, shower and have lunch at NOLS Noble Hotel. Post-lunch, you'll debrief your expedition and then check in at your post-expedition accommodations. At 5:00 p.m. enjoy happy hour and dinner at a local restaurant, The Cowfish.
- **AUGUST 29:** Depart for home with great stories!



*We believe positive, ethical leaders change the world.
Join NOLS and become one of these leaders.*