



NINEMILE WILDLANDS TRAINING CENTER

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

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

2013 Heritage Expeditions Course Descriptions

Stock Courses

Managers Horsemanship and Packing Clinic: This class is offered to Line Officers, Staff, and Managers who are interested in learning backcountry skills. The class is designed to fit the busy schedule of managers. This two-day course will focus on basic horsemanship skills and packing. You'll develop or further your horsemanship skills using Ninemile and Pack Train stock. You will learn basic packing including saddling, mending and leading pack stock. This course is designed to meet the need for mandatory safety training for stock users that is required by many Forest Service Regions. Class is taught by horse trainer and Ninemile Ranch Manager Marc Haskins and Northern Region Pack Train Manager Casey Burns. ***Agency employees only. This class fulfills the mandatory defensive horse certification.***

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 Casey Burns and Northern Region Pack Train Lead Packer, 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. This course also meets the Forest Service-Region One requirements for Defensive Horse Safety training. ***Note: This class is a prerequisite for the Back Country Packing, Camping & Stock Handling Techniques course offered in July.***

Defensive Horsemanship: This course is a refresher of safe and efficient stock handling techniques and practices. Participants will gain confidence in handling stock, and acquiring skills that add to your arsenal. The class is taught by Marc Haskins, horse trainer and Ranch Manager. Please bring your own mount to this class and look forward to being challenged and take home some great and safe skills. ***This class fulfills the mandatory Defensive Horsemanship Certification***

Advanced Packing Clinic: This six-day course begins at the Clearwater Crossing Work Center on the Ninemile Ranger District, Lolo National Forest. Casey Burns and Forest Service Packer 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: build on skills acquired in the Ninemile Packing Clinic (a prerequisite for this course), Learn techniques for packing more difficult items, spend time working with a Forest Service trail crew supplying them with water bars, bridge decking, gravel and/or tools. In addition, we 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. The class will culminate with a backcountry overnight in the Great Burn. *Class size is limited to ten students so apply early! Fulfills Defensive Horsemanship.*

Horsemanship and Safety: This course covers basic riding instruction for new riders or serves as a brush-up for more experienced riders. Professional horse trainer and Ninemile Ranch Manager Marc Haskins will make sure you're a confident and safe rider at the end of this two day class. The session includes hands-on instruction on bridling and saddling, mounting and dismounting, along with lots of riding. Safe handling techniques and practices with personal safety are stressed at all times. *Class size is held to ten students so that participants can receive individual attention. Fulfills Defensive Horsemanship.*

Horse Handling and Training Techniques: Almost every unit with a stock program has, at some time, had to deal with untrained or spoiled stock, or stock with bad habits. Participants in this course for experienced riders will learn safe, correct procedures for riding, handling, and training saddle horses and mules. Techniques for correcting bad habits or undesirable behavior in riding stock will also be presented. Professional horse trainer and Ninemile Ranch Manager Marc Haskins will teach this course. You are encouraged to bring your own horse to this session, although we will provide one if you're unable to bring your own. *Space is limited to ten riders, so sign up early! Fulfills Defensive Horsemanship.*

Leave No Trace (Stock) Master Educator: 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, Leave No Trace Master Educator. 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. This course is taught annually at Ninemile Ranger Station, Huson, Montana.

Firearms Safety for Packers and Stock Managers (Agency personnel only): This course will be held at Ninemile Ranger District. 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.

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.*

Complete Axmanship Skills: This 5-day course provides safe and proper instruction on use of the axe as a stand-alone tool, or as a tool that can be used in conjunction with crosscut saws or other relevant hand tools. Hands-on instruction topics will include axe types, handle replacement, sharpening, and proper felling and bucking technique. All instruction places primary emphasis on safety. This course will be taught by Lawrence Dowsett of Auburn, Wyoming. Lawrence is originally from Australia where chopping is a national sport. Lawrence has years of experience both as a competitor and as a logger.

Bear Spray Training: Encounters with bears and other predatory wildlife species have been on the rise in recent years. Bear spray has become the recognized best deterrent in these situations. This 8-hour bear spray course is designed to meet Forest Service-Region One requirements for employees, volunteers, or the general public who wish to carry bear spray. The course is taught by bear spray expert, Prime Johnson. Topics include confrontation avoidance techniques and product recommendations, as well as specific technique for transportation, storage, and use of bear spray. Students will participate in hands-on practice with inert bear spray canisters.

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 over 30 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. *Couples (husband & wife, father/daughter, best friends, etc) are welcome to take advantage of a reduced tuition but will receive only one instructional cookbook and Dutch oven per couple.*

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. *Couples (husband & wife, father/daughter, best friends, etc.) are welcome to take advantage of a reduced tuition but will receive only one instructional cookbook and Dutch oven per couple. Prizes will be drawn hourly!*

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.

Wood Shingle and Roofing Techniques: Ninemile District facilities manager, Shiffy Wellborn, and master carpenters from the Northern Region Historic Preservation Team will teach this formal hands-on training in wood shingle and wood shake roof replacement on historic and modern buildings. This five day course will be located at the OTO Dude Ranch in Gardner Montana. The class will replace the roof on a building which 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, and old roof removal. New roof application techniques consisting of single and double coursing, installing fasteners and flashing, and determining proper shingle exposure will be practiced during actual roof installation. *Food and a cook will be provided for the Wood Shingle class. 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 the Lolo National Forest at Monture Guard Station near Ovando, 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.usda.gov/goto/lolo/nwtc**