

# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## 22-year-old Student Dies After Lightning Strike

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**Lander, Wyo.** — Wednesday, August 3, 2022 — In the early evening of August 2, 2022, a 22-year-old student on a NOLS Outdoor Educator Course was struck by lightning while in camp in the Absaroka Mountains, Wyoming. The student went into cardiac arrest; course members responded immediately and performed CPR for over an hour. Despite those efforts, the student died at the scene.

NOLS notified Teton County Search and Rescue, who arrived on scene via helicopter. Both the deceased student and a second adult student who was also injured were flown to Jackson, Wyoming within four hours of the incident. The president of NOLS notified the parents of the deceased student and remains in contact with them.

“This is a very sad day for NOLS, our students and our families. We extend our deepest condolences to the family of our student who passed away on this course and are focused on supporting their family through this difficult process,” said Terri Watson, president of NOLS.

NOLS is also supporting the injured student, who remains hospitalized and in stable condition. The course stayed in the mountains overnight and will return from their journey Wednesday, August 3. NOLS staff are preparing to support them upon their return.

“Out of respect, we will not release the names of those involved in this incident and we ask everyone to respect the privacy wishes of family and friends through this process,” Watson said.

NOLS would like to acknowledge Teton County Search and Rescue and is grateful for their professional assistance.

### **About NOLS**

NOLS is a nonprofit global wilderness school that teaches wilderness and leadership skills that serve people and the environment. Founded in 1965 by legendary mountaineer Paul Petzoldt, NOLS has graduated over 300,000 students across the school. For more info, visit [NOLS.edu](http://NOLS.edu).