



WILDERNESS FIRST AID INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in NOLS Wilderness Medicine. Attached you will find a copy of the position description with a list of requested application information for the Wilderness First Aid Instructor Training Course (WFA ITC). When organizing your resume, please emphasize and highlight the following areas:

1. Your level of wilderness medical training (minimum WFR with Professional CPR).
2. Your wilderness patient care experience. Please elaborate so that we may understand the scope of your experiences (number of patients, types of injuries, distance of evacuations, etc.).
3. Your wilderness experience, both personal and professional.
4. Your teaching experience, both outdoors and classroom.
5. Your teaching availability. Please be specific regarding the number of weekends per month you would be available to teach classes from January 1-June 30. While some courses are mid-week, most are scheduled on weekends
6. Your home location. Priority will be given to applicants who are located in regions where NOLS Wilderness Medicine has the greatest need in any given year.

Please see the subsequent pages in this packet for more details regarding qualifications. Applications are requested on a regular cycle posted at the end of this document. We will review applications and conduct a skills evaluation over the phone with the most qualified candidates. Invitations to the WFA ITC in Lander, WY are extended to those qualified candidates after successful completion of the skills evaluation cycle. Please note, though the price has not yet been set, there will be a tuition charge to cover food, lodging and materials during the WFA ITC. As this course is very heavily subsidized, there are no scholarships available.

We look forward to welcoming some excellent new staff onto our team of wilderness medicine educators. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

The NOLS Wilderness Medicine Staffing Department
[Wilderness_medicine_itc@nols.edu](mailto:wilderness_medicine_itc@nols.edu) 866-964-6657

NOLS Wilderness Medicine Wilderness First Aid Position Description

NOLS Wilderness Medicine Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Instructor teams teach Wilderness First Aid programs ranging in length from two to three days. Courses occur primarily on weekends, but occasional weekday classes will be scheduled. Though staffing plans are regionally centered, instructors may be expected to teach throughout the United States. Teaching days vary from 8 - 12 hours and may include evenings. Courses occur year-round throughout the United States with the majority of programs occurring from February to June.

Teaching seasons may be arranged to fit other seasonal employment schedules, however, highest consideration will be given to applicants who are available during the busiest teaching months. Teaching days are generally eight hours. The required annual teaching commitment is 20 days or 8 courses. The majority of an instructor's contract days will come in the first half of the calendar year.

Responsibilities and Travel Opportunities

The life of a NOLS Wilderness Medicine instructor includes traveling long distances to course locations and dealing with a variety of living situations. In addition to providing outstanding and thorough lectures on medical topics and supervising students' hands-on learning, responsibilities will also include keeping accurate paperwork, collaborating with course sponsors, managing challenges and overseeing course equipment.

In addition to meeting the basic qualifications, NOLS Wilderness Medicine instructors are expected to have excellent interpersonal skills, to be apt at creating analogies and metaphors, and to be great storytellers. A deep and abiding respect for colleagues, for NOLS Wilderness Medicine's philosophy, and for students is requisite. A sense of humor, including the ability to laugh at oneself, is paramount.

Qualifications

Education

- College degree preferred.
- Minimum Wilderness First Responder (WFR) required.
- A WFR, WFR Recert, or higher course within the past **two** years required.
- Professional level CPR certification is required.

Medical Background & Patient Care

- Direct experience managing common injuries, illnesses and evacuations in a wilderness setting is essential.
- This might be demonstrated through leading groups in wilderness environments, providing medical care for camps, or involvement with ski patrol or SAR organizations.

Outdoor Background

- Several seasons leading extended trips for youth or adults in wilderness settings.

Teaching Experience

- Teaching experience with adult learners in an outdoor education setting or classroom.
- Experience teaching first aid is a plus.

Other

- Since NOLS Wilderness Medicine courses are run primarily in the US, applicants must be able to read, write, hear and speak fluent English.
- Applicants must have reliable personal transportation and a good driving record.
- Part of the responsibility is transporting gear between courses, so a vehicle with some cargo space is preferred.

Benefits

Competitive salary: \$155- to \$250 per day plus travel and living expenses when traveling to courses.

FAQ's

- *Does taking the WFR ITC certify me to teach WFR courses on my own?*
No. The goal of the WFR ITC is to increase the number of instructors working for NOLS Wilderness Medicine.
- *Will you move my application into the WFA ITC pool if it seems I'm a better match there?*
Yes. If your application is a better match for a different ITC pool, we'll contact you and move it accordingly.
- *How many spots are available on the WFR ITC?*
We will offer spots to the number of qualified candidates to whom we can offer regular work.
- *Is the process any different for current NOLS employees?*
No. However, current NOLS employees planning to apply to the ITC should schedule a time to speak with the ITC Coordination team prior to submitting a cover letter and resume.
- *Can I host a WFR ITC at my location?*
No. We conduct the ITCs in Lander, WY in order to introduce potential employees to the support systems available at the NOLS headquarters.
- *My application did not yield an interview this year. What's next? Should I re-apply?*
It is not uncommon for applicants to apply multiple times over the course of a few years. Our needs continue to evolve as we expand into different regions. Additionally, we are committed to investing in our applicants in the form of feedback at every stage of the process. We encourage applicants to reach out with questions about where they stand in the process.

WFA Instructor Training Course Application Process

Email an application package (in .pdf format) to:

ITC Program Coordinator
NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute
Wilderness_medicine_itc@nols.edu

The application package must include:

- A cover letter describing yourself, why you strive to teach wilderness medicine for NOLS Wilderness Medicine, your anticipated home base, and your teaching availability.
- A current resume highlighting your medical, teaching and wilderness trip leading experience.
- Three references who can comment on your teaching abilities.

Following an application review, qualified applicants receive an invitation to complete a skills evaluation over the phone. Offers to attend the WFA Instructor Training Course (WFA ITC) will be made to the most suitable applicants after evaluations are completed. We will assess candidates at all stages of the ITC selection process. At the end of the WFA ITC, employment contracts are extended to participants who demonstrate competence. Ongoing evaluations occur after each course contract.