



# 2018 Interagency Wilderness Ranger Academy

## Skills Course Descriptions

There will be five certification courses offered at this year's academy: Leave No Trace Trainer; Crosscut Saw; Wilderness First Aid; Backcountry Navigation (Map, Compass & GPS); and Stock Orientation. Attendees will identify their preferred courses during registration. All courses require two days for completion (June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>).

### SKILLS COURSES (Thursday, June 7 – Friday, June 8)

#### Leave No Trace Trainer

The Trainer Course is a vital component of the nationwide LNT program. It is a shortened version of the Master Educator course, in which participants receive introductory training in LNT skills and ethics in a condensed two-day format. The 16-hour course will be in a setting where the skills can be observed and practiced. The course will entail a short backpack trip to a nearby destination. You are required to bring your own food and backpacking equipment.

The LNT curriculum focuses on techniques for learning and teaching minimum impact outdoor ethics. The course is focused on the 7 principles of LNT:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

Each participant will be assigned to teach at least one of the seven principles to their peers. **Be prepared for an overnight wilderness backpacking trip. This includes bringing your writing instrument, food, water containers and proper equipment (including food storage) for an overnight backpacking trip. Backcountry camps may be without water. Dromedary bags are recommended.**

#### Crosscut Saw

The crosscut saw training and certification course is for sawyers of all experience levels. Groups will be broken up based on experience. Training and evaluation scenarios will reflect group skill levels. Please come prepared for two full field days and arrange to have adequate tools, including saws, axes, wedges, and all other necessary gear. Experienced sawyers expecting to be certified at an advanced level should arrive with appropriate gear and tools needed for leading a small logout crew.

You must also provide your own Personal Protective Equipment. This includes hardhat, work gloves, eye protection, long sleeve shirt, long pants, and boots. Please ensure that all enrollees from your unit have enough tools to split into fully equipped groups of 2 or 3.



## **Wilderness First Aid**

This 18-hour class, includes the complete Wilderness First Aid curriculum covering patient assessment, traumatic injury, and environmental illness/injury. The class will include several field scenarios, so be prepared to work outside both days.

## **Stock Orientation**

The focus of this class will be to learn how to safely work around and with riding and pack animals. Basic stock handling and packing techniques will be demonstrated and there will plenty of hands on practice working with the animals, building loads, and tying hitches. Students will have time to practice with both pack barrels and live pack animals.

Topics to be covered in this class will include:

- Staying safe while working with riding animals
- Basic Riding Skills
- Introduction to pack stock
- Selection of gear and equipment
- Building pack loads
- Tying the box hitch
- How to safely pack trail tools

## **Backcountry Navigation (Map, Compass & GPS)**

This course will offer an exploration into backcountry navigation. Rangers will gain experience using maps, compasses, and various forms of GPS enabled devices. Data collection tools and methods will also be explored. Please bring your compass, smartphone, tablet or GPS device, if you have one.

This course will not require overnight backpacking. It will include two day-trips with participants returning to base camp Thursday night. Thursday will be a long day so please be prepared with lunch and have plenty of water.

### **Course Objectives**

Rangers will:

- Read a topo map
- Understand how to read and use a compass
- Find their pace
- Take a field bearing
- Navigate using a field bearing
- Orient maps
- Take a map bearing
- Use declination and convert from map and field bearings or from field to map bearings
- Understand different mapping grids
- Choose an ideal route of travel to reach a destination



- Understand GPS abilities
- Use GPS, maps, and compasses together to ensure navigation redundancy
- Explore GPS enabled data collection methods