

Outline: Spring 2017 WKU Outdoor Leadership Program

Instructors: Steve Spencer 2023 DA, WKU
Phone: 270-745-6073(w) E-Mail: steve.spencer@wku.edu
Tammie Stenger-Ramsey, 2034 DA, WKU
Phone: 270-745-6063(w) E-mail: Tammie.stenger@wku.edu

Program Description: This is the capstone course of the Outdoor Leadership Program. It involves field experiences which include camping, traveling on water and foot in backcountry settings emphasizing teaching/learning/leadership using the Wilderness Education Association and Leave No Trace curriculums.

Program Course numbers REC 330, 335, 337, 435, 437

Program Objectives: Students completing the **WKU Outdoor Leadership Program** will:

- A. Use and enjoy the back-country with minimum impact.
- B. Apply sustainable and safe practices for groups in outdoor recreation activities.
- C. Recognize his or her leadership abilities and limitations.
- D. Demonstrate a sustainable standard of outdoor user knowledge and leadership skills.
- E. Receive the **Leave No Trace Trainer** certificate with satisfactory demonstration of skills and teaching (REC 335).
- F. Receive the **American Canoe Association, Instructor Certification** with satisfactory demonstration of skills and teaching (REC 337).
- G. Receive the **American Canoe Association, River Canoe Trip Leading Certificate and the ACA Canoe Camping Endorsement** with satisfactory demonstration of skills and teaching (REC 337, 437).
- H. Complete Required Service Projects: 1. Training in the KY Water Watch Program and collect stream related stream data.2. Warren County Blueways Maintenance, 3. Kelly Autism Program Canoe day.

Program Design: This semester-long **Outdoor Leadership Program** includes numerous days in the field and includes multiple-day expeditions. Participants will teach skills and

concepts throughout the semester. Students will keep a journal while in the field and participate in daily debriefings. The course includes peer review. The extended field segments are capstone experiences of the Outdoor Leadership Professional semester and integrate all learning into field application.

Regarding This Program:

- 1) This is leadership training held in semi-wilderness settings. It is not a pure wilderness adventure. You will spend considerable time evaluating your decision-making ability in group sessions and through journal entries.
- 2) This program involves multiple interrelated courses (REC 330, 335, 337, 435, 437) which fit together to meet the objectives of the Outdoor Leadership Program.
- 3) Parts of this program may be perceived as a physical, mental, and emotional challenge. A significant aspect of learning comes through challenge. However, no activities are designed for failure. The emphasis is on experiential learning in a challenging environment. It is essential that all students be in good physical and mental condition. A current physical examination is advised and immunizations should be current.
- 4) Participants must realize that any form of wilderness travel involves risk. The group will be paddling whitewater rivers and traveling on a variety of terrain both on and off of trails. In realizing these dangers, there will be a continual emphasis on safety procedures. During most of the program we will be isolated with no mechanical transportation and no outside communication except in the case of extreme emergency. Students should have insurance. No electronic aids will be taken in the field unless serving as prosthesis, navigation or for photography (**no cell phones**). (Note: cell phones will be taken by instructors for emergency use only).
- 5) Participants will teach lessons during the program. Course textbooks provide lesson plans for many of these assignments. It is the student's responsibility to research all teaching responsibilities.
- 6) Bulk rations will be supplied. Meal/ration planning will be completed by students (Nutrition will be emphasized). Our philosophy is to travel lightly, safely, and economically.
- 7) Student behavior will be in accordance with normal WKU course expectations. Alcohol and drugs are prohibited. Tobacco is discouraged.

Planned Field Trip Locations:

Feb. Mammoth Cave National Park
Savage Gulf, TN
Mar/April Buffalo National River
May Big South Fork National Recreation Area

Required Texts for Outdoor Leadership Semester:

The Audubon Society Field guide to Southeastern States -- NSP (REC 332, 435, 437)

WKU OLP Field Manual – Spencer/Stenger/Ramsey (REC 435, 437) (Included in fees)

The Backcountry Classroom--Drury and Bonney (REC 435, 437)

NOLS Outdoor Cookery --Richard (REC 235,335,435, 437)

The Campers Guide to Outdoor Pursuits -- Drury and Holmlund (REC 235,335)

Canoeing: Outdoor Adventures – ACA. Editors: Dillon & Oyen (REC 337)

ACA Instructor Manual (REC 337) (Included in fees)

Wilderness and the American Mind --by Roderick Nash (REC 330 text)

Leave No Trace Text (Included in fees).

Enrollment: 12 students. Mandatory: Protocol for selection. Clearance by instructor required

Program (Lab) Fees for all field courses in Professional Semester, REC, 335, 337, 435, 437, over normal course tuition:

• \$800 Lab Fee (paid with tuition). Includes: LNT Master Educator membership/course fees, OLP Field Manual, Leave-No-Trace certification materials/texts/membership, American Canoe Association Membership, ACA text, ACA membership/instructor Training fees, and food, equipment, transportation and supplies while in the field. Challenge Course Fees.

Lab Fees are non-refundable if a student drops the course.

Student Evaluation (437): Grades from REC 437 will be determined **from:**

Journal 20%, Peer and Self-Assessment 20%, Instructor Assessment 50%, Service Projects 10%

Student Disability Services

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is 270 745 5004.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.