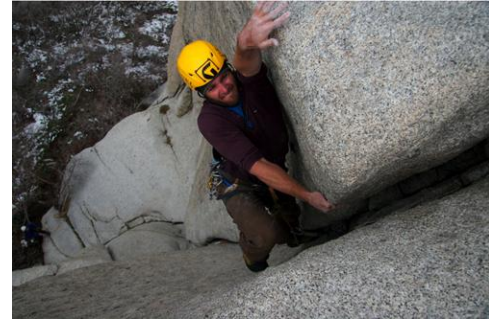




IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School

12 -Day Utah Rock and Ice Climbing Leadership Course Information



Course Location

Utah is home to some of the most spectacular terrain in the Continental United States. Deep powder snow, lofty peaks, towering sandstone spires, quality granite cracks, long frozen waterfalls and beautiful broad vistas are some of the characteristics that make Utah an excellent place for your outdoor education experience.

The west desert of Utah hosts a wide variety of rock climbing opportunities. Even in the middle of winter, the sunny days provide an enjoyable climbing experience. From top-roping on granite slabs to multi-pitch limestone cliffs, the variety of terrain features set amidst the vast expanse of Utah's west desert are a playground for the rock climbing enthusiast.

The Wasatch Mountains are renowned for high-quality, long ice routes. The limestone shelves of Provo Canyon offer tiers of varying length, great for honing technique on a top-rope or managing belay stations on multi-pitch climbs. Joe's Valley, situated in the Manti-La Salle National Forest, provides a great desert ice climbing experience in secluded canyons.

Course Goals:

- Students will gain a technical ice and rock climbing skill set and appropriate decision making skills.
- Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to professionally deal with emergency scenarios while in the field and the considerations therein.
- Students will be able to use and teach state-of-the art minimum-impact camping and travel techniques to move a group through a glaciated terrain with minimum impact.
- They will be able to exercise good quality judgment and decision-making skills within a leadership position to help avoid potential accident and survival situations and develop a comprehensive understanding of safety considerations in the vertical world.

They will be able to recognize their own leadership abilities and limitations within the context of a group. Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to make decisions and lead small groups top-rope ice climbing and rock climbing.





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Course Itinerary

Day 1: We meet up in Salt Lake City, organize all of our group and personal gear, and head to Provo Canyon for an introduction to ice climbing skills.

Days 2 – 5: We will cover a wide spectrum of ice climbing skills including but not limited to: cramponing, ice axe use, ice anchors, ice assessment, rappelling, top-roping, mixed climbing, ice assessment, belaying, emergency protocols, route finding, mock leading, and more.

Day 6: Transition day: we'll finish off the ice climbing portion, and then head south to warmer rock.

Days 7– 11: Rock climbing. We will cover a wide spectrum of rock climbing skills including but not limited to: rock climbing technique (face/crack/etc...), rock assessment, rock anchors, belaying, top-roping, mock leading, emergency protocols, rappelling, and more.

Day 12: After debriefing from the course (evaluations, assessments, etc...) we'll return to Salt Lake City.



A Typical Day

A typical day starts around 7am with breakfast and hot drinks. If a long climb is planned, you may find yourself awake just before sunrise. While water is heating you will most likely be preparing for the days' adventures.

You will play an integral part of the expedition team by setting up camp, cooking meals, or carrying a portion of the group gear. You may be leader of the day, responsible for planning the day, accomplishing objectives, or facilitating a lesson plan.

The day's activities will vary depending on weather, location, and progression of the course. We may work on developing your technical skills set, learn about different leadership styles, or get an alpine start and climb a large peak in the area. Regardless of the day's activities, it will be full of learning and adventure.

Dinner could be anything from thanksgiving to pasta, to backcountry pizza. Students often walk away from our courses with a newfound love for cooking good and original food.

The day will finish with a debrief session where we'll discuss the days events, what you learned, and how you'll be able to use your newfound skills in the near future.

Course Curriculum



The International Wilderness Leadership Schools' educational model nurtures leadership development and creates an awareness of the guiding mentality that is essential for leading safe, fun adventures in the mountains. The combination of technical skills training, practical leadership experience and a true wilderness expedition make the IWLS curriculum world class.

We believe that experiences drive our learning and therefore we use formal and informal classes taught by both instructors and students. Instructors are eager to help facilitate the learning process but ultimately, how much you learn will be dependent on the amount of effort you put into the course.

A detailed curriculum will be provided at the beginning of the course. Below is a partial list of curriculum points that will be covered throughout your course.

IWLS General Curriculum outlines essential components for effective outdoor leadership. Below are a few points that will be covered in this course.

Decision Making and Problem Solving: Over the course of 12 or 24 days, we'll discover ways to assess problems, explore solutions and evaluate options in order to make effective and safe decisions in the field.

Leadership: Opportunities to lead the group will be abundant, and you'll have the time to learn and practice multiple styles of leadership in varied situations.

Expedition Behavior and Group Dynamics: Because this course is a true wilderness expedition, interactions between group members need to be supportive and contribute to the efficacy of the group. The daily dynamics of the group, combined with instruction, will teach participants not only how to be a member of a team, but how to influence and lead an expedition.

Environmental Ethics: As adventurers in some of the most pristine environments on the planet, it is our duty to respect the natural world. All of our courses practice and teach Leave No Trace® principles.

Basic Camping Skills: Mastering these essential skills will prove valuable whether you are pitching a tent in gale force winds or melting snow for drinking water.

Equipment/Clothing Selection and Use: You'll learn to choose the right gear for the correct application, whether enjoying a sunny afternoon on a snow slope or trekking through a tropical rainforest.

Weather: Will the storm arrive in the next 12 hours or the next 48? Understanding weather patterns and trends will help you plan successful trips in a wilderness setting.

Health and Sanitation: You'll learn water treatment techniques and waste management skills for healthy backcountry living.

Travel Techniques: Course instruction will help you discover ways to safely maximize your efficiency, whether hiking down a well-beaten path or traversing an exposed ridge.

Navigation: Learn how to take a bearing, read a topographical map, triangulate your position, or navigate in a whiteout.

Safety and Risk Management: Safety is always the #1 consideration. As the course progresses, you'll develop an awareness to appropriately assess risk and make safe decisions.

Wilderness Emergency Procedures and Treatment: Learn how to effectively manage safe, efficient and timely backcountry rescues.



Natural and Cultural History: Having a strong understanding of cultural history, flora, and fauna is an integral part of leading people in an outdoor environment. You'll learn some of the botany, ecology, and geology that apply to these remarkable areas.

Communication Skills: Speaking in public, managing a personal conflict, or leading a group in the wilderness, all of these situations require effective communication. You'll gain confidence in your communication abilities as you develop your personal leadership style over the length of this course.

Trip Planning: The first day of the 24-day course is devoted to planning, packing, and organizing the logistics, food, and equipment for the expedition.

Teaching: You'll have the opportunity to develop lesson plans, teach in front of the group, and learn the importance of progressions for teaching technical skills and leadership.

IWLS Rock Ice Climbing Curriculum is designed to create safe and strong technical climbers. Below is an example of what you'll learn:

Knots: Learn the appropriate applications for the figure 8, water knot, double fishermen, bowline, and other essential climbing knots.

Climbing Technique: Whether stemming an inside corner, jamming an off-width, or friction climbing on a blank slab, you'll learn the techniques to climb on a variety of different features.

Ice Climbing Technique: You'll hone your technique on vertical ice and learn the importance of keeping your heels low, getting full extension on each swing of the ice axe, and keeping your head down.

Belaying: Should we use a fixed belay or a running belay? Our team will learn and practice the finer points of different belay techniques such as the fixed belay, running belay, hip belay or munter hitch.

Rappelling: Rappelling down a steep rock face is a thrilling moment and our team will learn how to do it safely. We'll also look at different methods for teaching rappelling and dealing with incapacitated climbers.

Ropes: 50 meters or 70 meters? 8.0mm or 10.5mm? Single, double or twin? These are all questions you'll be able to effectively answer. We'll also learn how to care for and maintain these important pieces of equipment.

Top Rope Setup: Top ropes allow people to push their limits and learn solid climbing technique in a fun and safe environment. We'll cover sight selection, rope management and group management.

Ascending & Descending: Fixed lines are an important tool for large groups and guiding applications. We'll learn how to efficiently build, use and maintain them.

Route Selection: Where to set up the fixed belay? How to avoid objective hazards? How to select the most appropriate route from far below? You'll learn the answer to these questions and more as we climb a variety of established routes in addition to possible first ascents.

Rock Protection: Pitons, nuts, cams, hexes... learn the nuances of quality placements. You'll have the opportunity to place protection in a variety of settings and rock quality.





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Anchors: Anchor building is a fun, yet intricate subject. We'll examine single double, triple and complex anchors, and their different applications.

Objective Hazards: Loose rock and lightning storms are some of the objective hazards that exist for rock climbers. Learn to manage these hazards and climb safely when conditions don't cooperate.

High Angle Rescue: What happens when things go bad? We'll practice escaping the belay and getting to the aid of an injured climber.

Multi-pitch Climbing: Towards the end of the course, you'll put your technical skills to the test on multi-pitch climbs, refining skills such as belay site selection, rope management and routefinding.

Ice Protection: Ice screws, ice pitons, v threads... learn how to assess ice quality and placements. You'll have the opportunity to place protection in a variety of settings.

The Wilderness Education Association

The WEA has been training and certifying outdoor leaders around the world for nearly 25 years, and teaching students to safely and effectively lead groups in the outdoors without harming the environment.

Legendary mountaineer Paul K. Petzoldt, Chuck Gregory, Robert Christie, and Dr. Frank Lupton, founded the WEA in 1977. The organization's mission includes "...promoting the professionalism of outdoor leadership and to thereby improve the safety of outdoor trips and to enhance the conservation of the wild outdoors..."

Journal Writing

Keeping a wilderness journal can help students to record, reflect, and gain from experiences throughout the expedition. The following are examples of topics that may be assigned throughout the course: First-Aid SOAP notes, incident management forms, leadership analyses, trip reports, lesson plans and decision making analyses

Evaluation and Grading

Students who take this course for credit will receive a letter grade. Grading is a measurement of one's knowledge of material, participation, written and oral communication, and one's judgment and awareness. Students will be evaluated on their skills, level of participation, their knowledge and awareness of their own abilities as outdoor leaders, their level of judgment as applied to decisions, and written projects assigned during the trip. Students that don't take the course for credit will receive an evaluation in place of a grade.

Additionally, the grading will be a reflection of student's peer and instructor evaluations as per the IWLS assessment rubrics.

Certifications

Upon completion of the 12-day rock and ice leadership and guide training course, student may be eligible for the following certifications.

- IWLS certificate of completion



Experts in **Technical Instruction**
and **Outdoor Leadership Training**

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