



[SierraRescue.com](http://SierraRescue.com) ~ [info@sierrarescue.com](mailto:info@sierrarescue.com) ~ 530-902-6122

## **Hello from Sierra Rescue!**

Congratulations and thanks for signing up for the Wilderness First Responder & River Rescue Certification Course. We are going to have a great time learning and playing together. This dynamic curriculum is specifically designed for people who live, work and play in the great outdoors!

## **WHAT TO BRING!**

For the water:

- **Drysuit or Full Wetsuit!** (Drysuits are always recommended because we spend so much time getting in and out of the water and the weather is always variable).  
Drysuits can be rented from:

The River Store (530-626-3435) in Lotus, CA. This is a 5 minute drive from the training site. If you can pick them up the night before that's great!, otherwise, you can pick them up the morning of class **AFTER** you check-in for the course.

Pacific River Supply (510-223-3675) is another option and they will ship you the drysuit by UPS and you only pay for the days you use it. We **highly recommend this option** as we have NEVER had any problems with PRS drysuits!!

- **PFD:** Type 3 or Type 5 with whistle and knife (knife optional)
- **Helmet:** Lightweight swiftwater or climbing helmet.
- **Footwear:** Hard soled wetsuit booties or good shoes for walking in the river and on the banks with wool socks and/or wetsuit socks
- **Wetsuit gloves** ( optional)
- **Food and water:** Lunch, snacks and water for each day!
- **Extra warm clothes**
- **Any personal rescue gear that you currently have: Throw Bag, etc. This is for you to have an opportunity to practice with your own gear.**

## **FULL IMMERSION!**

Please plan on very active days and homework at night. We integrate the classroom materials throughout the course and you will be in the water a lot during the class. We will make the course as much scenario and case study based as possible. We will emphasize self rescue, throw bag rescue, entrapments, thinking through a rescue, simple rope tricks and rescue techniques that have been tested and proven successful in real rescues. Please feel free to let us know what is most important to you as we go through the training and we will make it as relevant as possible to your whitewater interest.

## **OVERALL BASIC OUTLINE OF THE River Rescue Course:**

- Introductions and paperwork
- Shallow Water Crossings
- Entrapment Rescues: Wading, Swimming, Throw bag techniques, Foot and Body Entrapment, Kayak Entrapment
- Swimming: defensive, aggressive, barrel rolls, accessing eddies
- Throw bags: when, where, coils, belay, back-up, vector pull
- Contact rescues: defensive, counter panic passengers
- Live-Bait jackets; use, release, self-rescue techniques
- Knots, Hitches, Anchors
- Heads Up DVD: Prevention, Equipment, Organization, Orientation to Swiftwater Rescue
- Homework: Group tabletop scenarios
- Mechanical Advantage
- Wrapped boats: rafts and kayaks: The real scoop on freeing them.
- Mechanical Advantage
- Zip Lines
- Flip drills in the current or in a rapid; boat and passenger recovery drills
- Scenarios
- Debrief written homework, test, paperwork completion
- Fill in the gaps

The outline will evolve based on the focus of the participants. Our goal is to give you as much as you can handle in a couple days and still keep it fun and supportive. We will integrate many scenarios based on the swiftwater situations you may face as rafters or kayakers.

## **Wilderness First Responder**

Thank you for your interest in our Wilderness First Responder Course. This is a very hands-on class and we have a great time learning and playing together. We look forward to spending long days with you and sharing the excitement of knowing more about wilderness medicine!

We will be spending quite a bit of time outside (possibly rain, hopefully sun, etc.). You will be getting dirty during many of the skills sessions and simulations. Bring clothing appropriate to the weather. It should be tough enough to withstand a beating, get your hands dirty and keep you warm or cool depending on weather conditions.

**You will need to bring:**

- Notebook, pen, pencil
- Watch
- Two full sets of old clothing (two long sleeve shirts, two long pants, two t-shirts) that can be cut up and dirtied with fake blood for scenarios
- Backpack big enough for course materials and other gear as we will be on the move to various different sites around campus
- Water bottle
- Snacks
- Camp chair or crazy creek chair if you have one
- On some days (not the first day) you may be asked to bring gear that you would have when you are out playing to practice splinting and using for other uses. This is totally optional as we will have lots of gear there, but it is nice to know how YOUR gear works as a wilderness medicine tool. Example: trekking poles, paddles, snow shovels, snowshoes, skis, axes, backpacks, chairs, sleeping pads.

**Expectations and Certification:  
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Your full attention and participation will be required in the course. This is an 80 hour curriculum and class time can exceed 10 hours a day plus the required homework. The WFR will need your full commitment for the duration of the course. There will be simulations in which you are required to act as patient and as a rescuer; this requires physical contact where you will touch and be touched. You should also be physically capable of lifting 50 pounds without injury. You will be reading, writing and communicating with other students.

This is a **VERY** interactive course. To protect your personal space you should wear your jog bra, bathing suit, boxers/ and or shorts (these will not be cut) under your simulation clothes for all Patient Assessment Skills labs. You are responsible for your emotional and physical safety at all times.

Sierra Rescue presents skills and techniques according to practice guidelines established by the Wilderness Medical Society as outlined in the Wilderness Medical Society Practice Guidelines. Sierra Rescue is not liable if you do not adhere to those standards in a field situation, nor can we authorize you to use the skills presented. Your authorization will need to come from a licensed medical control.

When you have successfully completed the Wilderness First Responder Course, you will receive a certification card from Sierra Rescue. This card acknowledges that you have successfully demonstrated the skills presented during your course according to the above practice guidelines. It does not certify that you will be able to perform at that level. It is your responsibility to stay current with both your understanding and practice. Most medical control personnel require certification as a baseline for authorization.

Your certification will be valid for three years. You **MUST** recertify within this three-year period at a course specifically designed as a "Wilderness First Responder Recertification" course. Your Sierra Rescue certification will be recognized world-wide! When you go to Re-Certify, you may Re-Certify with a responsible and recognized provider of Wilderness Medicine Instruction. We recommend that you go to a three-day recertification course. If you fail to recertify within the three year time period, you will have to take the FULL 80 WFR again. Do not ever let your WFR expire!

You will be asked to sign an "Agreement of Responsibility" that acknowledges your understanding of the above information on the first day of your course.

### **What the course includes:**

The course price includes instruction, patient SOAP notes, case studies and the text/field manual. It includes all lab materials and all supplies; except for personal clothing. Please feel free to contact us with any questions that you may have.

### **Objectives and Outline**

**GOAL:** Our Wilderness First Responder course is designed with the outdoor professional and outdoor enthusiast in mind. It focuses on developing skills for treating problems outside the "golden hour" of first response, under extreme conditions or forced to improvise. It is based on the protocols set by the Wilderness Medical Society and instruction encourages the students ability to think through body systems in an effort to determine the best response to traumatic, environmental or medical situations. Classroom sessions are followed with hands on practice to integrate the information in a field setting. 100% attendance is required and there will be a night scenario included. The students will get to see their skills in action as video coverage of intensive scenarios will be reviewed towards the end of the class. A comprehensive written exam is also administered. The course includes AEHS adult, child and infant CPR certification which is OSHA approved.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Some of the many skills student will be able to do:

- Understand basic Anatomy and Physiology
- Perform solid CPR and BLS skills

- Make an improvised splint
- Clean and manage wounds in the backcountry
- Know how to clear someone who has MOI for spinal injury
- Be able to package patients on both backboards and litters
- Understand allergic reactions and when and how to administer epinephrine
- Recognize serious trauma injuries
- Recognize serious environmental issues
- Recognize serious medical issues
- Make improvised litters and alternative carrying methods
- Triage and know how to handle mass casualty incidents
- Pass final written exam
- Pass final practical exam

### **WFR OUTLINE (80 hours)**

#### **Basic Life Support Skills/ Anatomy and Physiology**

- Opening and Course Paperwork
- Course Introduction and Expectations
- Student and Instructor Introductions
- Medical Legal Overview
- Evolution of Patient Care System and how WFR's fit in
- Patient Assessment System (PAS) Part 1 How to approach a scene!
- General Review of Anatomy and Physiology (All Systems)
- Specific exploration of Respiratory System
- Hands on practice establishing an airway/airway management
- Specific exploration of the Circulatory System
- Hands on practice for checking for pulse, controlling bleeding, cpr
- Specific exploration of Nervous System
- Evaluating Level of Consciousness and maintaining Spine stability
- Optional Examination of a pig's heart, lungs, kidneys and liver
- Basic Life Support Lab / AED's/ AEHS CPR testing

#### **Traumatic Injuries**

- Understanding the Inflammatory Response/ Review of cellular physiology
- Autonomic Stress Response/Acute Stress Response
- Nervous System injuries/ Increased ICP, Concussion, Head wounds, Unstable Spine
- Respiratory injuries/ Respiratory distress
- Circulatory Injuries/ Volume Shock
- Stable and Unstable Musculoskeletal Injuries
- Patient Assessment System (PAS) Part 2
- Hands on field exercises/ Two on One Patient Assessment : 3 Rotations
- Quiz 1 -Wounds, Infections, Burns
- Pigs Foot Lab/ Includes wound irrigation, punctured objects and fish hook removal
- Exploration of the Musculoskeletal System/ Anatomy and Physiology

- Stable and Unstable Musculoskeletal Injuries
- 1:1 Splinting Lab -Spine Assessment and Lab/ A conservative process for checking the spine
- Dislocations Lab

### **Environmental Injuries**

- Spine ruling-out quiz
- Hypothermia
- Heat Problems (Heat Stroke, Heat Exhaustion, Electrolyte Sickness, Sunburn)
- Cold Injury ( Frostbite, Trench Foot, Chilblains)
- Near Drowning
- Spine Management Lab/ Moving spine injured patients, back-boarding, litters
- Quiz 2 -Toxins, Bites and Stings/ Includes BBC video
- Anaphylaxis/Allergies
- Injections Lab
- Altitude
- Lightning -More two on one patient field assessments: 3 rotations

### **Introduction to Medical**

- Quiz 3 -Introduction to medical problems
- Infectious diseases -Gastrointestinal System/ Anatomy and Physiology and Problems (diarrhea, constipation, ulcers, hernias, signs and symptoms of serious problems)
- Genitourinary System/ Anatomy and Physiology and Problems (UTI, vaginitis, testicular torsion, pregnancy)
- Diabetes
- Ears, Eyes, Nose and Throat/ Teeth Problems
- Asthma -Heart Attack, Angina BBC Video
- Stroke -Seizures
- Mini-Medical Scenarios
- Improvised Litters and Final Written Exam
- Improvised Litters /Carries and Passes
- Obstacle course with litters constructed
- Triage lecture and drill
- Mass Casualty scenario
- Final Written Test

### **Improvised Litters and Final Written Exam**

- Improvised Litters /Carries and Passes
- Obstacle course with litters constructed
- Triage lecture and drill
- Mass Casualty scenario
- Final Written Test
- Video Simulation #1

- Debrief VS #1
- Video Simulation #2
- Debrief VS #2

### **Video Simulation #3 and Course Closure**

- Debrief Night Scenario -Video Simulation 3
- Review of Written Exam -Medical Equipment, First Aid kits, Survival kits
- Finish any testing -Course Debrief/ Cleanup and Closing

#### **Additional Information:**

Fake blood and make-up is used to create realistic wounds, bruising and bleeding. Students will need at least one or two pairs of clothes that may be cut and stained. All scenarios are created with realistic outdoor scenarios and patients will be in role. Various materials from expedition type gear will be used for splinting, hypo- wraps and insulating patients from the environment.

The video simulations will allow students to work through their simulations and be able to review immediately afterward. The pressure of being filmed will add an element of anxiety, which would be there in a real incident.

### **YOUR INSTRUCTORS**

Sierra Rescue is committed to providing quality rescue instruction based on integrating information into practical skills while developing the ability to think through complicated wilderness and rescue problems. We integrate knowledge into practical field exercises that work on developing judgment as well as providing hands on training.

### **OUR EXPERTISE**

Sierra Rescue was founded in order to offer quality professional courses for a multitude of individuals. We specialize in designing the best rescue course for each group's specific needs. We are flexible with our curriculums and love the challenge of creating a course that is perfect for the environment and activities that you do. Sierra Rescue offers you the skills and the certification that you and your organization need. We also travel to your site or pick a site near you that would be appropriate. We have over 28 years of experience as front country and wilderness EMTs, wild-land and structure fire fighters, river guides, climbing and mountaineering guides, instructors in outdoor leadership, members of search and rescue teams. With our diverse background and our 15 years of teaching experience we strive to offer you the best and most fun course for your time and money. We are very passionate about what we do! Please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions about the course or curriculum.

Please feel free to contact us directly if you have any questions that you need answered before the class!

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THIS CLASS!**  
We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Abigail Polsby & Julie Munger  
Sierra Rescue