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River Rescue Certification Course

Thanks so much for your interest in the River Rescue/Whitewater Rescue Certification Course. This dynamic curriculum is specifically designed for river guides, private boaters and kayakers, whitewater rafters, river boarders, and river enthusiasts!

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: Pacific River Supply (510-223-3675) 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 an opportunity to practice with your own gear.**

FULL IMMERSION!

Please plan for 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 class. We will make the course as 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:

- 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, and 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 of 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.

Please feel free to contact us directly if you have any questions before the class! Thanks for registering for this class, and we look forward to seeing you on the river soon!

