



Wilderness Medicine Instructor Course

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THANK YOU for your interest in the Sierra Rescue Wilderness Medicine Instructor Course! We are excited to welcome you into this experience and, hopefully, into our community of instructors.

This is a professional development course for wilderness medicine practitioners who want to deepen their teaching skills and learn how we do things at Sierra Rescue. Our goal is for every participant to leave a more confident, effective, and thoughtful instructor with a clear picture of whether working together as independent contractors makes sense for both of us.

A Bit About Sierra Rescue

Sierra Rescue has spent decades building relationships with guides, agencies, fire departments, park rangers, environmental consultants, universities, and the military. Our courses run because of an incredible community of independent contractor instructors who bring skill, passion, and professionalism to every course they lead. We take that community seriously and we invest in it.

We open the instructor course to a small group each year so we can give each participant real attention and feedback. This is a development experience, not a test. We are here to help you grow.

What You'll Work On

The course is built around how Sierra Rescue actually teaches - and how adult, kinesthetic learners actually learn. We will challenge you to:

- Design and deliver tight, engaging 10–20 minute teaching segments with clear student learning outcomes
- Adapt your content and language to different user groups: guides, rangers, medical professionals, military, athletes. The content stays fairly consistent, the delivery is dynamic
- Read your students and respond to what is actually happening in the room, not just what you planned
- Give and receive honest, useful feedback with your peers
- Reflect on your own teaching - what you do well and where you want to grow

You will present multiple times across the course and receive specific, direct feedback from our lead instructors on your content, your delivery, and your student management. We model the teaching approach we hope you will take forward.

Who Should Attend

This course is a strong fit for wilderness medicine practitioners who:

- Hold a current WFR certification or higher (EMT required to teach WFR courses independently)
- Have real-world professional experience in the outdoors - guiding, ski patrol, search and rescue, military, park service, or similar fields. We are looking for people whose wilderness experience comes from working in it, not just recreating in it.
- Have some experience passing skills on to others - guiding, trip leading, coaching, formal teaching, or any context where you've been responsible for someone else's learning



- Are genuinely excited about teaching - not just looking to add a certification or fill a schedule, but actually passionate about helping people learn
- Are curious about how SRI approaches wilderness medicine instruction and want to learn that methodology firsthand
- May be interested in teaching SRI courses independently as an authorized contractor or authorized training provider - or just want to be a better instructor wherever they teach

To attend, you must complete the SRI Wilderness Medicine Instructor Application and receive approval prior to enrollment. Contact info@sierrarescue.com to request an application.

Before the Course

About one month before the course, you will receive:

- The SRI student workbook and field guide for the course level(s) you want to teach
- The SRI Wilderness Medical Instructor Manual
- A pre-course lesson plan assignment - you will come to Day 1 with a prepared teaching segment

We ask that you arrive having read the materials and with a clear sense of the user group you most want to teach (guides? park rangers? college students? environmental consultants?). Much of the course will be built around adapting SRI content to that group specifically.

On the first day, come dressed the way you would for students: closed-toe shoes, a clean button-up or similar, long pants, and a fresh start. Finish all food before you arrive, and have your gear organized and ready.

After the Course

At the end of the course, our lead instructors will sit down with each participant for a direct, personal conversation about what they observed and what they recommend going forward.

For those who want to work with Sierra Rescue, there are two paths:

SRI Instructor Contractor (SRIC): Sierra Rescue books courses and works to fill your schedule. We match independent contractor instructors with clients we have cultivated over years. You set your availability; we bring the students. As an IC you will maintain your own liability insurance and have all required gear to teach independently.

SRI Authorized Training Provider (ATP): You run your own courses under the Sierra Rescue brand, using our curriculum and materials, and paying a per-person fee. ATPs operate as independent businesses or agencies with their own insurance.

We look at our relationship with instructors as a long-term commitment. You will have a mentor, a roadmap, and a community. We will always be available to support, encourage, and answer questions as you grow.

Questions before applying? Reach out at info@sierrarescue.com or 530-902-6122. We look forward to meeting you.

