

2026 Wilderness Basics Course Schedule

Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
January 13, 2026	1	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Student Check In		Do some conditioning hikes. Come ready to enjoy and explore!
January 13, 2026	1	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Backpack Try Ons	Joshua Ruhl	
January 13, 2026	1	7:00 PM	6	The WBC Experience Video	Cary Eskow	
January 13, 2026	1	7:06 PM	19	Opening Remarks & Staff Introductions	Bryan Pray	
January 13, 2026	1	7:25 PM	15	Class Processes, Policies & Expectations	Ellen Greenfield	
January 13, 2026	1	7:40 PM	20	The Ten Essentials	Cary Eskow	
January 13, 2026	1	8:00 PM	15	Day Hike Instructions	Linda (Boo) Briggs	
January 13, 2026	1	8:15 PM	5	Mid-Class Announcements	Cary Eskow	
January 13, 2026	1	8:20 PM	10	Break / Day Hike Sign-up		
January 13, 2026	1	8:30 PM	10	WBC Cost Projections	Leslie Schultz	
January 13, 2026	1	8:40 PM	25	Footwear	Bob Stinton	
January 13, 2026	1	9:05 PM	10	Trip Sign-Up Process and Trip Rating System	David Cowan	
January 13, 2026	1	9:15 PM		End		

January 17, 2026 or January 18, 2026	7:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Timed Day Hike at Iron Mountain - bring your day pack containing 15 lbs, including your 10 Essentials				
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Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
January 20, 2026	2	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Car Camp Leader Q&A	Angela Simoneau	Review online Car Camp trip descriptions and choose 2 or 3 options. Watch Land Navigation videos 1-3 and 8 on the WBC website. Read Chapters 5 and 7.
January 20, 2026	2	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Backpack Try Ons	Joshua Ruhl	
January 20, 2026	2	7:00 PM	5	Day Hike Results	Linda (Boo) Briggs	
January 20, 2026	2	7:05 PM	25	Car Camp Trip Overviews	Angela Simoneau	
January 20, 2026	2	7:30 PM	15	Car Camp Sign-up	Joshua Ruhl	
January 20, 2026	2	7:45 PM	20	Land Navigation Part I - Topo Maps	Doug Goepfert	
January 20, 2026	2	8:05 PM	15	Mid-Class Announcements and Break	Cary Eskow	
January 20, 2026	2	8:20 PM	25	Warm Climate Clothing	Bob Stinton	
January 20, 2026	2	8:45 PM	35	Backpacking Equipment	Bob Stinton	
January 20, 2026	2	9:20 PM		End		

Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
January 27, 2026	3	6:15 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Backpack Demonstrations	Sharon Young	Read Chapters 2, 3, and 6, plus pages 118-126 and 180-183.
January 27, 2026	3	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Backpack Try Ons	Joshua Ruhl	
January 27, 2026	3	7:00 PM	30	Car Camp Planning	Angela Simoneau	
January 27, 2026	3	7:30 PM	20	Fitness and Conditioning	Nancy Jungling	
January 27, 2026	3	7:50 PM	20	Food and Nutrition	Pauline Jimenez/Margaret Elizondo	
January 27, 2026	3	8:10 PM	15	Mid-Class Announcements and Break	Cary Eskow	
February 3, 2026	3	8:25 PM	10	Outdoor Ethics/Leave No Trace	Mary Elliott	
January 27, 2026	3	8:35 PM	20	Backcountry Hygiene 1	Jim Park	
January 27, 2026	3	8:55 PM	15	Backcountry Hygiene 2	Melody Eues/Margaret Elizondo	
January 27, 2026	3	9:10 PM		End		

January 31 - February 1, 2026	Car Camp					
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2026 Wilderness Basics Course Schedule

Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
February 3, 2026	4	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Mountain/Desert Backpack Leader Q&A	Blaine Hinckley	Review online Mountain/Desert Backpack trip descriptions and choose 2 or 3 options. Read Chapters 10, and 13.
February 3, 2026	4	7:00 PM	20	Mountain/Desert Backpack Trip Overviews	Blaine Hinckley	
February 3, 2026	4	7:20 PM	15	Mountain/Desert Backpack Sign-up	Joshua Ruhl	
February 3, 2026	4	7:35 PM	25	Lighten Your Load	John Plander	
February 3, 2026	4	8:00 PM	15	Mid-Class Announcements and Break	Cary Eskow	
February 3, 2026	4	8:15 PM	30	First Aid	Sascha Lopez Nusser	
February 3, 2026	4	8:45 PM	30	Animal Encounters	Fred Kramer	
February 3, 2026	4	9:15 PM		End		

February 7-8, 2026 Car Camp - alternate weekend

Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
February 10, 2026	5	6:15 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Gear Swap	Sushil Shintre	Bring your compass! Watch Land Navigation videos 4-7, 9-12 and Backpack Demo videos on the WBC website. Read Chapter 11 and pages 126-135.
February 10, 2026	5	7:00 PM	30	Mountain/Desert Backpack Planning	Blaine Hinckley	
February 10, 2026	5	7:30 PM	50	Desert Flora & Fauna	Diana Lindsay	
February 10, 2026	5	8:20 PM	5	GAIA Download Instructions	Cary Eskow	
February 10, 2026	5	8:25 PM	15	Mid-Class Announcements and Break	Cary Eskow	
February 10, 2026	5	8:40 PM	20	Land Navigation Part II - Compass Skills	Doug Goepfert	
February 10, 2026	5	9:00 PM	20	Water Treatment	Bob Stinton	
February 10, 2026	5	9:20 PM		End		

February 14-15, 2026 Mountain/Desert Backpack

Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
February 17, 2026	6	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Land Navigation Backpack Leader Q&A	Alice Fichandler	Review online Land Navigation Backpack trip descriptions. Choose 2 or 3 options. Review WBC Land Navigation videos. Read Chapters 4 and 8 and pages 135-155.
February 17, 2026	6	7:00 PM	20	Land Navigation Backpack Trip Overviews	Alice Fichandler	
February 17, 2026	6	7:20 PM	15	Land Navigation Sign-up	Joshua Ruhl	
February 17, 2026	6	7:35 PM	30	Weather	Natalie Goddard	
February 17, 2026	6	8:05 PM	15	Mid-Class Announcements and Break	Cary Eskow	
February 17, 2026	6	8:20 PM	20	Permits/Planning Your Own Outing	John Plander	
February 17, 2026	6	8:40 PM	30	Land Navigation Part III - Smartphone GPS	Doug Goepfert	
February 17, 2026	6	9:10 PM		End		

February 21-22, 2026 Mountain/Desert Backpack - alternate weekend

Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
February 24, 2026	7	6:00 PM - preclass		Community Night	Rachel LoSecco	Read Chapters 9, 12, and 14.
February 24, 2026	7	7:00 PM	30	Land Navigation Backpack Planning	Alice Fichandler	
February 24, 2026	7	7:30 PM	25	Snow Camp Presentation	Dave Voss	
February 24, 2026	7	7:55 PM	15	Mid-Class Announcements and Break	Cary Eskow	
February 24, 2026	7	8:10 PM	20	Emergency Sheltering & Fire Building	Angela Simoneau	
February 24, 2026	7	8:30 PM	40	Winter Clothing and Equipment	Bob Stinton	
February 24, 2026	7	9:10 PM		End		

February 28 - March 1, 2026 Land Navigation Backpack

2026 Wilderness Basics Course Schedule

Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
March 3, 2026	8	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Snow Camp Leaders Q&A	Dave Voss	Review online Snow Camp trip descriptions and choose 2 or 3 options.
March 3, 2026	8	7:00 PM	5	WBC Graduation and Reunion Weekend Presentation	April Armijo	
March 3, 2026	8	7:05 PM	75	Hypothermia, Hyperthermia, and Dehydration/Altitude Illness	Dr. Jeffrey Gertsch	
March 3, 2026	8	8:20 PM	15	Mid-Class Announcements and Break	Cary Eskow	
March 3, 2026	8	8:35 PM	20	Snow Camp Backpack Trip Overviews	Dave Voss	
March 3, 2026	8	8:55 PM	30	Snow Camp Sign-Up & Planning	Joshua Ruhl	
March 3, 2026	8	9:25 PM		End		

March 7-8, 2026 Land Navigation Backpack - alternate weekend

Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
March 10, 2026	9	6:00 PM - 6:30 PM - preclass		Make-Up Outings Planning	Bryan Pray	Review online Make-Up trip descriptions and choose 2 or 3 options (only if needed to graduate).
March 10, 2026	9	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Snowshoe Pick Up	Dave Voss	
March 10, 2026	9	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Sierra Club Groups Q&A	Linda (Boo) Briggs	
March 10, 2026	9	7:00 PM	40	Sierra Club Groups Presentations	Linda (Boo) Briggs	
March 10, 2026	9	7:40 PM	10	COL Training	Bob Stinton	
March 10, 2026	9	7:50 PM	15	Mid-Class Announcements and Break	Cary Eskow	
March 10, 2026	9	8:05 PM	60	Snow Camp Logistics and Equipment Check	Dave Voss	
March 10, 2026	9	9:05 PM		End		

March 13-15, 2026 Snow Camp

Date	Week	Time	Time	Topic	Full Name	Be Prepared:
March 17, 2026	10	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Snowshoe Turn In and Check Out	Dave Voss	Study for the Final Exam.
March 17, 2026	10	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - preclass		Photo Contest Viewing and Voting	Ryan Sargeant	
March 17, 2026	10	7:00 PM	5	Photo Contest Winners	Cheryl Kim	
March 17, 2026	10	7:05 PM	30	Provisioning for Multi-Day Trips	Matt Clapp	
March 17, 2026	10	7:35 PM	5	Mid-Class Announcements	Cary Eskow	
March 17, 2026	10	7:40 PM	10	Concluding Remarks	Bryan Pray	
March 17, 2026	10	7:50 PM	40	Final Exam	Mary Cruikshank	
March 17, 2026	10	8:30 PM		Last Class Bash!	Ellen Greenfield	

March 21-22, 2026 Snow Camp - alternate weekend (tentative)

March 21-22, 2026 Make Up Outings: Car Camp, Mountain/Desert Backpack - only for students who need a trip to graduate

March 28-29, 2026 Make Up Outings: Car Camp, Mountain/Desert Backpack, Land Navigation Backpack - only for students who need a trip to graduate

June 5-7, 2026 Reunion Camp and Graduation Ceremony - all students are encouraged to attend this final gathering!