



MOUNTAIN GATEWAY TRAINING

Wilderness Intensive

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Features

- Backcountry hiking and camping in the Bob Marshall Wilderness “the Bob”
- Experience the beauty of God’s creation
- Take time to be alone with God and hear his voice
- Forge friendships that last a lifetime
- Location: Mountain Gateway Ranch in Condon, Montana
- Learn to lead and communicate well
- Group size: Up to 12 participants with up to 3 instructors

Overview

Go on an expedition that will change your life! Adventure in the 5th largest wilderness area in the United States with world class instructors. Enhance leadership skills, develop character, and be spiritually transformed. Complete your course with the tools to lead more effectively in your church, workplace, community, family, and marriage!

This course has been designed specifically for believers with a commitment to group over self and a willingness to get out of their comfort zone and learn from others. Participants should be committed to teamwork, discipline, responsibility, and camaraderie. Time is built into the daily schedule to spend alone with God to allow Him to work in their hearts and time to spend with others to connect relationally and spiritually. Instructors address who we are as children and soldiers in the Family of Christ and the Army of God. We eliminate the distractions of daily life, school, church, and work so that we can direct our eyes solely on our main goal: transformation - in ourselves first, then in others, all unto the glory of God.

Class times focus on leadership topics such as self awareness, communication, tolerance for adversity, conflict resolution, giving and receiving feedback, and more.

Daily devotions keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Daily debriefs offer the opportunity to grow.

Anticipated Schedule

- **Travel Day**
- **Course Start Date:** Arrive in Condon, Montana at the Mountain Gateway Rumble Creek Ranch. **Your course starts at 12 noon.** You will meet your instructors, pack your gear and supplies and embark on an adventure of a lifetime!
- **Hiking Days:** Backpack in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, learn about leadership and relationships, and experience God's beauty. Experience what few people will ever see! There is a planned layover day mid-week in one of the most beautiful locations in the lower 48 with plenty of time to rest and explore while seeking the Lord.
- **Course End Date:** Hike to the trailhead and travel back to the Rumble Creek Ranch in the morning. You'll shower, deissue your equipment and debrief your course. You will have a celebratory dinner. **You may spend the night at our staging location; however, your course officially ends at 10pm if you wish to leave after that. You may leave the next morning.**
- **Travel Day.** Depart for home with great stories!

A Typical Backpacking Day: (Times are estimates and will vary)

6:00 AM: Time alone with God

7:00 AM: Breakfast: cook breakfast with your cook group

8:30 AM: Class Time

10:00 AM: Pack-up camp and head to your next campsite

Noon: Lunch: Enjoy lunch at a scenic spot on the trail

3:00 PM: Get to your new campsite and setup camp

4:00 PM: Class Time

5:00 PM: Dinner: Make a tasty dinner with your cook group

7:00 PM: Family Time – debrief day, worship, and devotional/teaching

9:00 PM: Bedtime

What To Expect

You will begin with basic travel and camping skills: stove use, cooking and baking, camping, map reading, protocols for hiking and camping in bear habitat, and Leave No

Trace principles. You may also have the opportunity to climb a non-technical peak. The curriculum will be practical, reflective, and transferable to work and personal settings.

You'll start traveling slowly to get used to the weight of your pack, new boots, and the elevation. As the group becomes acclimatized, the pace will increase and hiking distances will grow.

You'll be divided into groups of three to four people for cooking and camping. You'll get lots of coaching from your instructors while you learn new skills.

Bear avoidance techniques while camping and traveling will be integrated into this course. **Note that precautions against bear encounters will decrease the opportunities for solitude and privacy on this course.** To minimize risk, group size in bear country is generally four persons and you will always camp and travel in a group. This is a challenging aspect of living in grizzly bear country. We will protect all food and attractants from bears. Other bear avoidance tactics include meticulously maintaining cleanliness at the cooking sites, making loud calls to warn bears of your presence, and hiking with bear spray.

Identifying and managing mountain hazards—falling rock, weather, animals, moving water, and steep terrain will be a constant theme in our instruction. Managing risks and being responsible for yourself and your colleagues will help make your expedition in these wild mountains healthy and fun.

Weather and Other Challenges

Weather

Summer weather in the mountains is unpredictable. You'll learn to live comfortably outside in blizzards, rainstorms, and high winds. Cold and snowy conditions can occur any month of the year, and early season courses may spend much of their time camping on snow.

Terrain

You may be bushwhacking off-trail through thick vegetation, scrambling over refrigerator-sized boulders, or battling sleet. Rivers are icy from snowmelt and can be

difficult or impossible to cross. You may have to traverse slopes of loose rock and carry a heavy backpack up steep passes.

Wildlife

Your course will travel through grizzly and black bear habitat. Specific practices have been developed by bear biologists to minimize the risk of a bear encounter, including carrying pepper spray, hanging food or protecting it in an electrified fence, and maintaining a meticulously clean campsite. Your Mountain Gateway instructors have been trained to teach these practices to you, and you'll follow them every day. These precautions may decrease opportunities for solitude and privacy on your course.

Remoteness

Identifying and managing hazards—such as falling rock, stormy weather, animals, moving water, and steep terrain—will be a constant theme on your course. You're often miles from the amenities of civilization, including medical care; telephones may be several days away. You are expected to demonstrate the highest regard for risk management in the field.

Personal Electronics

The key element to a Wilderness Intensive is time spent in wilderness. The benefits of this include being closer to nature, time away from society and civilization, and being in an environment where natural forces predominate and students have the opportunity to develop good judgment and practice self-reliance. Mountain Gateway does not permit students to use personal cell or satellite phones or other communication devices including personal tracking devices (e.g. SPOT), while in the field. Additionally, students are not permitted to take personal music players (iPods, MP3 players, CD players, etc). Instructors will be carrying sufficient communication equipment (usually a satellite phone) to handle any emergencies that may arise. Drone technology is also not allowed in the field.