



Wilderness First Responder Syllabus

Survival Med

Affiliate of the Wilderness Medical Society (WMS)

Welcome to Wilderness First Responder (WFR). We offer the only WFR course in the world that is completely online and self-paced. Our innovative curriculum was developed by wilderness and emergency medicine physicians at the University of Utah and Southern California, in response to an international need to improve the accessibility and affordability of outdoor education and wilderness certifications. It is widely accepted, both nationally and internationally, including by the National Association of Search and Rescue, American Canoe Association, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, expedition and guide companies, and many more.

This 16-part class is tailored to a variety of learning styles- video lectures, skills instruction, podcasts, worksheets, and virtual medical scenarios. We highly value the hands-on practical skills, and we require proof of demonstration as part of the certification process. The content of this course exceeds the Established Minimum Guidelines and Scope of Practice for Wilderness First Responder, produced by the Wilderness Medicine Education Collaborative in 2016.

Certification requirements include completion of all portions of the class, passing the final written exam (>70%), and submission of all additional materials, including SOAP notes and practical skills. Each component is checked thoroughly, and feedback is provided before certification is granted.

For questions about the curriculum or certification, requests for group courses, or inquiries for partnerships, please contact us at **survivalmedteam@gmail.com**.

Wilderness First Responder (WFR) Syllabus

Part 1. Basic Life Support

- a. Establishing priorities in an emergency
- b. Evaluating a scene
- c. Primary assessment
- d. CPR
- e. Emergency respiratory management
 - i. Pulse oximeters
- f. Airway complications
- g. Manual airway techniques and ventilation
- h. Automatic external defibrillators
- i. Secondary survey
- j. SOAP Notes
- k. Evacuation decisions and calling EMS

Part 1 Interactive Skills to submit:

-Video of performing a complete physical exam

Part 2. Circulatory System

- a. Recognizing cardiovascular shock
- b. Field treatment of shock and evacuation guidelines
- c. Acute Coronary Syndrome
 - i. Nitroglycerin and other treatments in the wilderness
- d. Vascular injuries
- e. Bleeding control
- f. Arrhythmias
 - i. Carotid sinus massage
 - ii. Diving reflex
- g. Syncope

Part 2 Interactive Skills to submit:

-Two SOAP note medical cases

Part 3: Respiratory System

- a. Respiratory Distress, Respiratory Failure, and Respiratory Arrest
- b. Primary Survey
- c. Signs of Respiratory Distress
- d. The Flu
- e. Foreign Body Aspiration
- f. Anaphylaxis
- g. Asthma
- h. Panic Attacks
- i. Pneumothorax
- j. Pulmonary Embolism

Part 3 Interactive Skills:

-Two SOAP note medical cases

Part 4a: Nervous System and Nontraumatic Brain Injuries

- a. Primary survey
- b. Glasgow Coma Scale
- c. Secondary assessment
- d. Non-Traumatic Brain Injury
- e. Altered Mental Status
- f. Altitude Illness
- g. High Altitude Cerebral Edema
- h. Epilepsy and seizures
- i. Diabetes
 - i. Hypoglycemia
 - ii. Hyperglycemia

- j. Stroke
- k. Traumatic Brain Injuries

Part 4b: Traumatic Brain Injuries

- a. Direct brain injuries
- b. Epidural hematomas
- c. Subdural hematomas
- d. Cushings triad
- e. Neuro exam
- f. Subarachnoid hemorrhage
- g. Intracranial hemorrhage
- h. Drunk patients
- i. Basilar skull fracture

Part 4 Interactive Skills:

-SOAP note medical case

Part 5: Spinal Injury

- a. Spinal Assessment Protocol
- b. Focused Spine Assessment
- c. Stabilizing the spine
- d. Moving patients
- e. Evacuation guidelines and prolonged rescue

Part 4 and 5 Interactive Skills:

- Two SOAP note medical cases
- Submit video demonstrating Spinal Assessment Protocol
- Submit video demonstrating rolling a patient and back inspection
- Submit video demonstrating improvised litter and moving a patient

Part 6: Soft Tissue Injury

- a. Closed wounds
- b. Open wounds

- i. Abrasions
 - ii. Lacerations
 - iii. Punctures
 - c. Major traumatic injuries
 - i. Avulsions
 - ii. Amputations
 - d. Bleeding control
 - i. Direct pressure
 - ii. Tourniquets
 - e. Preventing and recognizing infection
 - f. Blisters
 - g. Burns

Part 6 Interactive Skills:

-Submit photos demonstrating bleeding control wrap and tourniquet

Part 7: Musculoskeletal Injuries

- a. Recognizing fractures and Dislocations
- b. Compartment syndrome
- c. Fracture treatment
- d. Dislocation treatment
- e. Sprains
- f. Tendinitis

-Video of reducing shoulder dislocation

Part 7 Interactive Skills:

-Submit photos demonstrating upper and lower extremity splints

Part 8: Heat Illness

- a. Physiology of heat illness
- b. Heat cramps
- c. Heat syncope

- d. Heat exhaustion
- e. Heat stroke
- f. Acclimatization
- g. Gauging hydration status
- h. Finding water in the wild
- i. Basic water treatment steps

Part 9: Cold Injury

- a. Hypothermia
- b. Hypothermia wraps
- c. After-Drop
- d. Cold Water Shock
- e. Frostbite
- f. Trench Foot

Part 9 Practical Skills:

-Submit photo demonstrating hypothermia wrap

Part 10: Lightning, Altitude, Flash Floods, and Drowning

- a. Surviving lightning
- b. Treating lightning injuries
 - i. Reverse triage
- c. Flash floods
 - i. Weather patterns
 - ii. Surviving the flood
- d. Altitude
 - i. Altitude illness and adaptations
 - ii. High Altitude Cerebral Edema
 - iii. High Altitude Pulmonary Edema
- e. Drowning

Part 11: Common Outdoor Medical Problems

- a. Flu and Sore Throat
- b. Gastroenteritis
- c. Kidney stones
- d. Appendicitis
- e. Hemorrhoids
- f. Allergic reactions

Part 11 Interactive Skills:

-SOAP Note medical case

Part 12: Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Genitourinary

- a. Vaginal bleeding
- b. Pregnancy and exercise
- c. Air travel
- d. Obstetrical emergencies in the outdoors
- e. Trauma in pregnancy
- f. Labor and Delivery in the outdoors
- g. Ectopic pregnancies
- h. Vaginal infections
- i. UTIs
- j. Testicular torsion

Part 13: Eyes and Teeth

- a. Eye examination
- b. Removing foreign bodies
- c. Lid lacerations
- d. Corneal abrasions
- e. Subconjunctival hemorrhage
- f. Hyphema
- g. Snow blindness
- h. Dental infections

- i. Lost fillings and crowns
- j. Chipped teeth
- k. Tooth avulsions

Part 14: Toxins

- a. Ingested poisons
- b. Poison control
- c. Inducing vomiting
- d. Diluting poisons
- e. Carbon monoxide
- f. Absorbed poisons

Part 15: Animals and Insects

- a. Grizzly bears
- b. Black bears
- c. Mountain lions
- d. Snake bites
- e. Scorpions
- f. Ticks
- g. Mosquitoes
- h. Rabies
- i. Bees
- j. Spiders

Part 16: Medical Legal Concepts in Wilderness Medicine

- a. Scope of Practice and Standard of Care
- b. Associating with a medical director
- c. Documentation
- d. Consent
- e. Confidentiality
- f. Abandonment

- g. Medication administration
- h. Good Samaritan laws
- i. Gross Negligence
- j. Affirmative Obligation to Help
- k. Tort
- l. Jurisdiction

Course Contributors

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