

**NRRT-350: Wilderness Leadership**  
**Fall 2023 Course Syllabus**  
**Section 001 Tuesdays 4-6:50pm**  
**Section 002 Wednesdays 4-6:50pm**  
**Location: 222 W Laurel Ave**  
**Instructor: Ethan Billingsley**

**NOTE: This syllabus might change slightly as readings and details are added.**

**Course Objectives:** This course develops the fundamental skills of teaching and leading in the outdoors away from the trailhead---also known as wilderness. Emphasis is placed on creative thinking, hands-on learning, and direct experience.

Week 1 Introduction of instructors, course policies, syllabus, and field session overview. Information forms, student introductions and learning inventories exercise. What is Wilderness? Leadership Compass exercise. Group dynamics.  
**READING** for next class Ch. 1 & 2 AMC guide to outdoor leadership

Week 2 Discuss AMC reading. Map & compass. OP overview. (Knot #1)  
**READING** for next class Ch. 3 Adventure Programming

Week 3 Discuss Protected areas. Field trip discussion and cook group planning. Gear demo: backpacking and hiking gear, sleeping bags and clothing. (Knot #2).  
**HW:** Reflective Journals  
**READING** for next class: Ch. 16 AMC guide to outdoor leadership

**Sept. 9-10 Field Session #1: Wilderness Navigation Trip and 14'er**

Week 4 Field session debrief and reflective journals due. Leave No Trace (LNT) techniques and philosophy. QUIZ (Knot #3)  
**READING** for next class: Ch. 1 How to Rock Climb, Ch. 3 Mastering Rock Climbing

Week 5 Rock climbing ground school including knots and technical demonstrations. belay check-offs (Knot #4)  
**READING** for next class: Mountain Guide Manual Ch. 4, Ch. 5 & 8 Mastering Rock Climbing,

Week 6 Sport climbing gear selection/care and sport lead practice. (Knot #5).

Week 7 Anchor clinic, traditional gear placement and Anchor cleaning demonstration. Field trip discussion.

**Oct. 7-8 Field Session #2: Rock-Climbing Skills in Practice Tuesday section on Oct 7. Wednesday section on Oct 8.**

Week 8 Field session debrief. Larimer County search and rescue guest. Climbing documentary review. Exam review.  
**HW: Student Field Lectures.**

Week 9 Mid-term exam. Reflective journal due.  
**READING** for next class: Ch. 11 AMC Guide to outdoor leadership

- Week 10      **Quiz.** Expedition behavior and experienced based judgment. Intro to mountaineering. (Knot #6). **READING** for next class: Ch. 5 AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership Ch. 22 Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills
- Week 11      **Student Field Lectures.** Leadership attributes exercise, leadership theories in the outdoors, leadership compass. (Knot #7) **READING** for next class: Ch. 1 NOLS Wilderness Medicine
- Week 12      **Student Field Lectures. Quiz.** Wilderness Medicine: Environmental Injuries (hypothermia, frostbite, heat stroke, high altitude) first aid kits, basic field assessments (Knot #8)  
**READING** for next class: Ch. 7 AMC guide to outdoor leadership
- Week 13      **Student Field Lectures. Quiz.** Field safety. Rappelling (Knot #9) **READING** for next class: Ch. 21 Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills
- Fall Break (no class).**
- Week 14      **Student Field Lectures. Quiz.** Expedition planning. (Knot #10)
- Week 15      **Student Field Lectures.** Mapping technology OR Mountain biking gear and technique. **Exam review**
- Week 16      Final Exam (written and knot practical)