



2024 Interagency Wilderness Ranger Academy
June 3 – 7, 2024
Lee Vining, Inyo National Forest

Objectives

The Wilderness Ranger Academy provides an opportunity to access high quality skill building for those who engage in wilderness work in California. It offers an excellent platform for sharing information and connecting wilderness stewards – agency, partnership staff, and volunteers across the region both inside and outside of the classroom. Courses are designed to be interactive and provide skills-based training at various levels of experience. The training will take advantage of existing virtual modules in combination with site-based teaching of physical skills. In addition, the event will facilitate connections that promote camaraderie of participants developed while comparing notes and sharing stories around campfires.

Prerequisites

Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training class “Wilderness Act of 1964” online class – [The Wilderness Act of 1964 - Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center \(iu.edu\)](#)

This free online course is required before attending the Wilderness Ranger Academy. It includes reading short narratives, listening to audio, interactive graphics, and quizzes. The purpose of the course is to acquaint you with the contents of this law and equip you to consider its impact in managing a wilderness area; this is foundational material relevant to everyone working in wilderness stewardship. We have designed the sessions at the Academy assuming you have already taken this class and have learned this foundational material. Feedback from past years indicated that participants would prefer to take this class on their own before Academy, so that they can go at their own pace, have time to reflect on what they learned and have more interactive content during the week when we are all together. The average time it takes students is 2.5 hours. You can stop and start the class anytime you want – you don’t have to take it all at once. Once at the Academy, please be prepared to discuss what you learned from the class, what surprised you, and what was the most important thing you got from the curriculum.

[Leave No Trace 101 Course \(Int.org\)](#) - This free online course is required before attending Wilderness Ranger Academy. It includes reading short narratives, watching videos, and quizzes. This is an introduction to Leave No Trace and the actions we can collectively take to protect wilderness. The course shares a simple framework of minimum impact practices to apply when spending time outdoors and will provide important concepts you can draw on when making public contacts in the field. We have designed the visitor contact sessions at the Academy (Tuesday) assuming you have already taken this class and have learned this foundational material. The average time it takes students is 40 minutes. You can stop and start the class anytime you want – you don’t have to take it all at once.



Monday, June 3 – Moraine Campground	
Time	Activity
1:00 – 6:00 pm	Registration
8:00 – 9:30	Group Campfire (optional) – smores fixings provided

Tuesday, June 4 – Mono Lake Visitor Center	
Time	Topic
07:30 am	Morning Coffee (optional), sponsored by Pachamama Farmers Cooperative – bring your own mug
07:30 – 08:00 am	Registration
08:00 – 08:30 am	Leadership Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lesley Yen, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest - Jim Bacon, Director, USFS Pacific Southwest Region Public Services
08:30 – 09:00 am	Logistics/Safety/Agenda Overview/Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Togan Capozza, USFS Pacific SW Region Wilderness Program Manager
09:00 – 10:00 am	Wilderness Act: Why do we care? Exploring the Wilderness Act and Personal Connection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark Fincher, Retired Park Ranger, Yosemite National Park
~BREAK~	
10:15 – 11:15 am	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shelton Johnson, Park Ranger, Yosemite National Park
11:15 – 12:15 pm	Native Lands Panel Discussion
~LUNCH~	
1:15 – 4:00 pm	Making Safe and Effective Public Contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Rolloff, Professor Parks & Tourism Administration, California State University, Sacramento
4:05 – 4:30 pm	Closeout the Day, What to Expect Tomorrow
8:00 pm	Group Campfire (optional)



Wednesday, June 5 -- Concurrent Sessions, various locations	
Time	Course
07:30 – 08:00 am	Registration, Moraine Campground
08:00 am	Morning announcements, Moraine Campground
CONCURRENT SESSION (pick one)	
8:15 – 10:00 am	Ranger Field Preparation: Packing, Menu Planning, and Personal Care
8:15 – 10:00 am	Intro to Wilderness Stewardship: Wilderness Stewardship Performance, Wilderness Character Monitoring, Putting it all Together...
~BREAK~	
CONCURRENT SESSION (pick one)	
10:15 –12:15 pm	Coordinating With Other Natural Resources: Wildlife, Botany, Archeology and More
10:15 –12:15 pm	Fire in Wilderness: Prescribed fire, Wilderness Resource Advisors, Natural Role of Fire
~LUNCH~	
CONCURRENT FIELD SESSIONS (assigned during registration)	
1:15 – 4:30 pm	Campsite Naturalization, Campsite Inventory and Solitude Monitoring
1:15 – 4:30 pm	Working Safely with Pack Stock
1:15 – 4:30 pm	Communication Tools for Making Visitor Contacts
1:15 – 4:30 pm	Trail Maintenance Fundamentals
1:15 – 4:30 pm	Wilderness Field Leadership
1:15 – 4:30 pm	Wild and Scenic Rivers and other Special Designations
6:00 –7:00 pm	Group BBQ (optional) – grill provided, bring your own food to grill



Thursday- Friday, June 6 -7 -- Skills Sessions, various locations	
Time	Course
CONCURRENT SKILLS SESSIONS (assigned during registration)	
07:30 – 08:00 am	Registration, Moraine Campground
8:00 am – 4:30 pm	Crosscut Saw Certification
8:00 am – 4:30 pm	Wilderness First Aid
8:00 am – 4:30 pm	Leave No Trace Trainer
8:00 am – 4:30 pm	Advanced Wilderness Trail Maintenance
8:00 am – 4:30 pm	Introduction to Basic Horsemanship and Pack Stock Safety
8:00 am – 4:30 pm	Back Country Navigation
8:00 pm	Group Campfire (optional)