

# Maymester Outdoor Leadership Experience



## What is the Outdoor Leadership Field School?

The Outdoor Leadership Field School is a for-credit course held over the May term. It is an expeditionary, adventure-based experience where you can develop and practice leadership skills through immersion in the wilderness. Over the duration of the course, you will gain confidence and learn skills to travel (hike, backpack, climb, and paddle) in the outdoors and work effectively as a team. You will have the chance to earn certificates from the Wilderness Education Association in outdoor leadership and from Leave no Trace in environmental ethics. Outdoor adventure in a wilderness setting over multiple days is an unique opportunity for fun, escape, interaction with the natural environment, self-reflection, a shared experience, as well as a transformative educational experience.

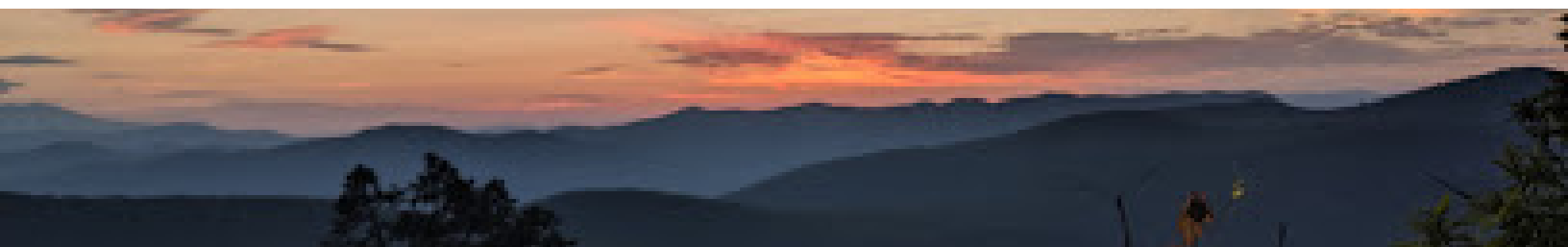
In 2024, we begin the course in Arkansas to canoe America's First National River, the Buffalo National River. This river received national scenic designation in 1972 and offers 135 miles of free-flowing water. It is one of few remaining undammed rivers in the lower 48 states. After 3 days on the river, we will establish base camp in Black Mountain, North Carolina to prepare for exploring the Blue Ridge Northern Appalachian Mountains. Highlights include backpacking a section of the Mountain to Sea Trail, rock climbing in the Linville Gorge Wilderness and a summit of Mt. Michell, the highest peak north of the Continental Divide. We wrap off the course with a visit to downtown Asheville and a celebratory meal. Register soon!

## Who should participate?

- This course is beneficial for any student who wants to develop leadership skills that are transferable to any field/profession. It is a unique intra-professional opportunity. Gain confidence, refine public speaking skills, learn conflict-resolution skills, develop decision-making skills, and consider cultural humility.
- Recreation and Leisure Services Majors/Minors
- It is ideal for HKLS majors who need RLS classes, Environmental Studies/Science majors, Campus Recreation Outdoor Adventure staff, OA LLC members or students minoring in Leadership, or any student who wants to develop technical outdoor skills.
- RLS majors interested in a career in outdoor leadership. This course develops and documents competencies in specific areas required for job entry and full certification as a certified outdoor
- educator with the Wilderness Education Association.

## What if I have a conflicting summer camp job?

- Many summer camp directors will accept participation in the field course as a substitute for the training required for certain summer camp positions. If you are interested, we will work with your camp director to assess if your position is eligible.





## Important Details:

### DATES

On campus: May 10 (8-10 hour days)

Depart: Saturday, May 12

Return: Sunday, June 2

**Mandatory Pre-Trip Meeting Days:** There will be three pre-trip meetings. Exact dates/times will be determined after registration deadline. The meetings will occur during the following weeks: March 28, April 11, May 2

### COST

Tuition plus \$1250 course fee\*

Deposit of \$400 due Friday, March 22

Second installment of \$400 due Friday, April 12

Balance of \$450 due Friday, April 26

### REGISTRATION

Registration Opens: Friday, February 23

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 28

*\*Course fee includes; food in the field, transportation, base camp lodging, course instruction, permits, and equipment rentals, and backpacking/climbing/paddling equipment, and at least 1 RLS embroidered technical clothing item. List of personal items required can be found [here](#).*

Forms of payment: checks made out to Baylor University or credit card

### REFUND POLICY

Full refund for any payments made if cancelled before Friday, March 18. All payments refunded, minus \$200, for cancellation made between March 25 and April 12. After April 26, all payments are non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled by the RLS department. *\*If a trip is cancelled, it will be determined well in advance to avoid penalty fees of dropped courses.*

### COURSE CREDIT

Students may register for up to 2 hours of LF credit and no more than 6 total credit hours. A minimum of 6 credit hours is required for 2024 due to the 8-participant max limit.

### COURSES OFFERED

- RLS 3303 Outdoor Leader Certification (approved elective course for Student Learning & Engagements Leadership Majors/Minors)
- RLS 4V13 Field School in Outdoor Leadership
- RLS 4V90 Internship in Leisure Services (RLS majors only)
- LF 1113 Advanced Wilderness Pursuits
- LF 1162 Outdoor Adventure Sports
- LF1112 Backpacking & Camping

## How do I apply?

To apply or for more information visit [www.baylor.edu/hhpr/outdoorleadership](http://www.baylor.edu/hhpr/outdoorleadership). You can also contact Kelli McMahan at [Kelli\\_McMahan@Baylor.edu](mailto:Kelli_McMahan@Baylor.edu) or 254-710-3712

## How can I get prepared?

This trip is physically and mentally demanding but is designed for the beginner. Students will be responsible for carrying personal and group gear through rough terrain. Students need to be willing to contribute to the safety and well-being of the group as well as maintaining a positive attitude. We recommend that participants prepare ahead of time to be at a good fitness level by the time the trip begins.

Here's a good gauge of an expected fitness level by the beginning of the trip:

1. Complete a 1-hour hike in Cameron park while carrying a 25lb pack.
2. Climb up Jacob's Ladder 3 times while carrying a 25lb - with no more than a 1-minute break
3. Run one loop around the bear trail in under 30 minutes.
4. Successfully complete two consecutive routes at the Rock at the Student Life Center (at the 5'7 grade).

## What are the academic requirements?

Regardless of the specific course or course credit hours associated with your participation, there are academic expectations associated with this trip. Some pre-trip homework and reading will be required in addition to preparation for field presentations. While on course, students will engage in field assessment and be expected to journal regularly. In addition, there are other assignments in the course including book reviews, written post course reflections and two class meeting post-trip. You may access the syllabus [here](#).

## What should I bring?

You will need a wide range of clothing in order to be prepared for fluctuating weather and both the land/water activities. We will provide the climbing, backpacking, camping, and paddling equipment required for activities. Students are responsible for personal items. You may access an equipment list [here](#).

## Who leads the experience?

### **Kelli McMahan, PhD**

*Associate Clinical Professor  
Coordinator of the Outdoor  
Education & Leadership*  
Loves rock climbing,  
swimming, running with her  
dog Marlee, outdoor travel and  
all outdoor/ fitness related  
activities; Favorite outdoor  
dish: Cowboy coffee!



### **David Copeland**

*Director of the Outdoor  
Adventure Living & Learning  
Community*  
Loves rock climbing,  
backpacking, building forts  
with his kids, and listening,  
watching or reading stories;  
Favorite outdoor dish: Dutch  
oven pizza!

