



# WILDERNESS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## Outdoor Leadership Experience Guidelines

The goal of the WEA Outdoor Leadership Experience (OLTE) is to expose students to the WEA Educational Components and provide a model of WEA teaching styles. The OLE is a “certificate of completion” program only—NOT a “certification” program.

**An OLE can only be provided through an Approved Organizational Member Host by the supervision of a Certified Outdoor Educator (COE) or Certified Outdoor Leader (COL):**

1. An Approved Organizational Member Host is defined as an Organization that:
  - Is current with WEA membership dues.
  - Has submitted to the WEA National Office an OLE Host application (or previously an OL course application) that has been reviewed and approved by the WEA National Office.
  - Has annually submitted to the WEA National Office all other required documents including but not limited to a signed OLE Agreement.
2. A COE is defined as:
  - Individual with a current WEA Professional membership.
  - Holding a confirmed current account in the International Registry of Outdoor Educators and Leaders (IROEL).
  - Holding a certificate stating that they are an approved COE.
3. A COL is defined as:
  - Individual with a current WEA Professional membership.
  - Holding a confirmed current account in the International Registry of Outdoor Educators and Leaders (IROEL).
  - Holding a certificate stating that they are an approved COL.

**For each OLE the Approved Organizational Member Host must submit the following to the WEA National Office prior to the course (unless otherwise noted):**

- Course dates and description.
- COE’s or COL’s name and contact information.
- A completed OLE roster, submitted to the WEA National Office prior to the course or within 30 days of course completion. An invoice will be created from the information submitted on the roster. Participant certificates will not be released to Organization until invoice is paid.
- WEA Trip Plan or equivalent documents required by their organization.

**An approved Organization can structure the OLE as needed as long as it meets the following criteria:**

*Minimum Requirements for Outdoor Leadership Experience*

1. Minimum of 2 consecutive field nights included in the course. Organizations can add more days and traditional classroom hours to the minimum if desired.
2. A COL(s) or COE(s) will manage, supervise and otherwise be responsible for the design and delivery of the courses to ensure introductory exposure to all six WEA Educational Components. The COL is required to be present during course time. If the OLE is operated under the oversight of a COE, then the COE is not required to be present during the field portion.
3. Instructor role-modeling must take place in the field. Course design is not required to include student teaching or LOD experiences.
4. A brief history of Outdoor Leadership, including but not limited to the role of the WEA, needs to be introduced during the course.
5. There is no minimum participant requirement though the WEA recommends 4 or more participants for a richer learning environment. Maximums should be based on industry standards for participant/instructor ratios and course area permit regulations.
6. The course fee is a minimum of \$25 per participant which DOES NOT include a membership. If you wish to provide a WEA membership to your students, the cost is \$50. Beyond this expense, it is up to the Organizational Member Host to determine the cost of the course per participant.

***Note: All documents mentioned above can be found on the member portion of the WEA website. Required course minimums, required documentation, and course fees are subject to change. Please contact the WEA National Office with any questions [nationaloffice@weainfo.org](mailto:nationaloffice@weainfo.org) or 740-607-9759.***