



Hello Guide Candidate!

Thank you for your interest in Wilderness Voyageurs! Our 2008 whitewater season is just around the corner with our commercial rafting trips beginning in April. We are looking for an outdoor staff with the following interests:

Whitewater Raft Guides
Rock Climbing Instructors,

Historic Float Trip Guides,
Mountain Bike Guides.

Kayak and Canoe Instructors,
Fly Fishing Guides

No experience is necessary! But ... a desire to be outside having fun, teaching people and getting paid to do it, is required. We will train you for these positions!

Required Guide Training Dates: The guide training for 2008 begins on Saturday, April 12th, 2008 in Ohioptyle, Pennsylvania. The guide training will be split into two phases. Phase I starting on April 12th will last for three weekends; both Sat. and Sun.

Phase I

April 12 & 13

April 19 & 20

April 26 & 27

Break for Cheat River Festival

Phase II

To be Announced/ Explained more thoroughly

Phase 1: We start at ground zero of the whitewater world, regardless of your background or experience; it is a level playing field. Even if you are an experienced kayaker, professional guiding is a different ball of wax. Time will be spent on the water and in the classroom, roughly 2 hrs of class room each day, and at minimum a river trip a day, sometimes 2 trips in a day. You will be introduced to river rescue skills, raft navigation, river reading.

It is a physically demanding and competitive scenario for these jobs. At the end of phase 1, candidates' abilities will be evaluated; it is at this point that you will have a good idea whether guiding is for you. It may be the time to explore one of the other fun job opportunities within the company.

The first weekend of May is Cheat River Festival and we are very busy with commercial trips on many rivers that you are welcome to join.

Phase 2: Guide School Week, will be highly structured, and focused on learning the mechanics of running commercial river trips, advanced rescue techniques, evacuation methods and routes etc. This portion of training will be conducted on specific dates, that will be in part be determined based on candidate schedules, attendance will be mandatory. The other portion of phase 2 consists of honing all the skills necessary to pass your "Check-Out Run", and is accomplished through participating in commercial trips based on your availability.

The majority of our guide candidates are college students and Guide School Week, is scheduled in May after folks have finished the spring semester. For those who are teachers, high school students etc, alternative plans are available.

The completion of the training program does not guarantee a candidate a position on our outdoor staff. Employment is achieved through the successful completion of a skills test administered by a senior staff person. Please remember that this training program is offered only to those individuals who are serious about **raft guide employment** with Wilderness Voyageurs.

Guide Training Procedures: We begin each Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. at our base camp on Garrett Street, in Ohioptyle (next to the railroad tracks). Mornings start with a classroom session, then we will head out to the river to practice what we have learned in the classroom. We will try to wrap-up each

Sunday by 4:00 p.m. so you can journey home. A majority of the training is completed on the Lower Yough, but we do travel to other rivers during the training weekends.

Cost: There is a one-time fee of \$75 cash to enroll in the guide-training program. This fee is required for all guide candidates and must be paid on the first day. (By the end of the first weekend of training you will have participated in river trips with a value of more than \$200.)

Guide requirements: Ohiopyle State Park requires that all river guides meet basic requirements before working on the Lower Youghiogheny River. Wilderness Voyageurs requirements are more stringent than those of the State Park. Wilderness Voyageurs requires all guide candidates to go through a guide-training program, have a minimum of 20 commercial trips on the Lower Yough (or comparable river), and have current First Aid and CPR certifications. Don't worry, some days we will do 2 trips on the river, so they add up fast. Our main concern is that each candidate has a clear understanding of what the job entails before becoming responsible for Wilderness Voyageurs' guests. **All guide candidates must complete a CPR and First Aid Class by their own arrangement.** Basic First Aid and CPR is the minimum requirement, but the more First Aid the better. The American Red Cross offers classes at a nominal fee. Many universities and vocational educational centers also offer classes.

Be prepared: guide training takes some time, but those that have commitment will prosper by learning not only whitewater paddling and rescue technique, but also valuable communication and leadership skills. Most of our staff return to work for 3-5 seasons, and we connect many of our staff with other throughout the US and in places such as Costa Rica and Mexico.

FAQ

How old do I need to be for a guiding position? You must be 18 years of age prior to your first day of work.

What do I need to bring to Guide Training? These are the items I would bring if I were going through guide training.

- *Sleeping bag and pad
- * Small camp stove to cook on
- \$75 cash for guide training
- *Cap with bill for rain
- *Polar fleece jacket (or wool sweater, synthetic shirt)
- *Cold water hand gear
- *Paddle pants and paddle jacket (unless you are using a wetsuit)
- *Long underwear (polypro, or comparable synthetic, **NO COTTON**)
- *Clothes for off the river (bring extra in case those get wet. We spend a lot of time outside.)
- *Rain gear for off the river (gore-tex jacket, rain slicker...)
- *Walking shoes / hiking boots for trail use
- *Cold water footgear
- Your food
- Drivers license
- *Wool hat
- *Wetsuit if you have one

(*) Indicates items that may be purchased at Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters at a 10% discount. You can also check the store out online at gearfetch.com

Clothing and Weather: Guide training occurs when most are just putting away their skis, so yes it can be cold, but it can also be very nice. The temperatures can range between 30 and 80 degrees, with sun, rain, snow, or sleet. Clothing will be very important. I would not rush out and spend hundreds of dollars on gear at this time. The retail store will be open for any last minute items you may need. We will provide neoprene wetsuits and nylon paddling jackets at no charge during the guide training weekends. The most difficult body parts to keep warm are your hands and feet. If you are a hearty individual, wool socks and tennis shoes may be enough, though I would strongly encourage having neoprene booties (or neoprene socks). Fit the booties so that you can get a wool sock into them. Hands are difficult. The best solution you will only find in whitewater stores, they are called pogies. A good alternative will be neoprene gloves. Wool, poly pro, fleece or other synthetics are great. **DO NOT BRING COTTON LAYERS!**

Where Do I Stay? Tent platforms will be available to you. We encourage you to come early and begin familiarizing yourself with Ohiopyle. Many of our staff will arrive on Fridays to paddle, hike, bike, and socialize. Hot showers are available at our bathhouse.

Once you have been hired- we have a number of staff housing options available.

Can I bring my pet? No. Please leave your pets at home through training and through the season.

Should I bring my kayak? You betcha!! There is time for recreational paddling after the training runs. All candidates will participate in formal kayak instruction during the training process.

Where Do I eat during training: [Falls City Pub & Restaurant](#) located just beyond the Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitter Store has a variety of food & is a great social dinner option. [Rapid Java](#) offers breakfast sandwiches, donuts & muffins along with great coffee and espresso drinks & is located on the porch of the store. Falls Market and the Fire Fly Grill in town are other dining options. There are a number of other restaurants within a short drive from Ohiopyle. Candidates are responsible for their own lunch. We will break for about 30 to 45 minutes for lunch each day. Power Bars or other quick fixes are recommended.

What if I am only available part time (have a "real job" , student, etc)? Great!! We even give you a cool name--- Weekend warrior. Qualified individuals with only part time availability through the summer months are always welcome to participate in the training program.

If hired...How much will I work? During the summer months, work is full time (5-6 days a week), during the spring and fall, work is available on weekends. We do have a core activity staff that work full time April through November. Let us know if this is of interest.

What do I do now? If you have **not** yet completed your application, do so and include the following:

- Resume & Application (available to download from our website)
- Cover Letter (please include any river, outdoor or camp / group experience)
- Photocopy of your driver's license
- Photocopy of your First Aid **and** CPR certifications

Questions: Please e-mail me at bens@wilderness-voyageurs.com or call 1-800-272-4141 if you have any questions. If I am not available to speak with, please ask for Seth or Eric. Otherwise fax your application & information to 724-329-0809

See you on the river!

Benjamin Scoville
Operations Manager

Wilderness Voyageurs
PO Box 97
Ohiopyle, PA 15470
1-800-272-4141