



## 2015 Course Descriptions

### 2015 Wilderness Skills Institute

May 18-29, 2015

The Cradle of Forestry – Pisgah Forest, NC

[www.trailcrews.org/wilderness-skills-institute/](http://www.trailcrews.org/wilderness-skills-institute/)

Please read the course descriptions and note the required skill levels for each course before completing an [application](#) for the 2015 Wilderness Skills Institute. Accepted students must be present for the full duration of each course they attend. Courses run from 7:45 am – 5:30 pm each day, with the exception of check-in days on May 18 and May 26. On check-in days, check-in will run from 10 am – 1 pm and courses will run from 1 pm – 5:30 pm.

If you have any questions regarding course descriptions, requirements, or the application process, please contact Brenna Irrer ([brennairrer@trailcrews.org](mailto:brennairrer@trailcrews.org)).

#### Week One: May 18-22, 2015

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##### **Wilderness First Aid Certification**

Lead Instructor: Landmark Learning

Skill Level: Beginner

Dates: May 18-20, 2015

The Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course will help you prepare for the unexpected. This fast paced, hands-on training is designed to meet the needs of trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts, and individuals working in remote locations. It will introduce you to caring for people who become ill or injured far from definitive medical care. Classroom lectures and demonstrations are combined with realistic scenarios where mock patients will challenge you to integrate your learning. At the end of the course, you'll have the knowledge, skills and ability to make sound decisions in emergency situations.

Learning takes place both in the classroom and in outdoor settings regardless of weather conditions. Come prepared for wet, muddy, cold or hot environments.

*This course has been combined with the A/B Crosscut Certification course on the application form, as a First Aid certification is required for certified sawyers. Priority in this course will be given to those applicants who apply to take both Wilderness First Aid and A/B Crosscut. You may elect to only take Wilderness First Aid, but only limited spaces will be available.*

##### **A/B Crosscut Certification**



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Lead Instructor: Carl Deitz, U.S. Forest Service

Skill Level: Beginner

Dates: May 21-22, 2015

The A/B Crosscut Certification Course provides students with both classroom-based instruction and field experience in the use of the crosscut saws and axes. Students will learn how to safely utilize these tools in a trail maintenance capacity. The course will cover tool history, best practices in the field, one-on-one instruction in tool use in the field, tool care, safety, and transportation of the tools. Successful completion of this course is required to legally use these tools on national forest lands while participating in stewardship efforts. Certification is a product of completion of this course and the ability to demonstrate safe and competent use of both the crosscut saw and axe.

*This course has been combined with the Wilderness First Aid Certification course on the application form, as a First Aid certification is required for certified sawyers. You may elect to only take A/B Crosscut Certification, which will not impact your application.*

### **C Crosscut Certification**

Lead Instructor: Carl Deitz, U.S. Forest Service

Skill Level: Advanced

Dates: May 18-22, 2015

This course will provide seasoned and advanced sawyers a training platform to build skills to become certified C Sawyers, an advanced sawyer level that can teach and certify new and intermediate sawyers in the classroom and in the field. Students will build a broad array of techniques to impart the skills needed to safely and effectively utilize crosscut saws, axes, and related equipment. Students will also learn advanced techniques in the use of these tools, including felling techniques. Students in the course will assist with the A/B Crosscut Certification course upon receiving their C Sawyer Certification. The course is limited to advanced sawyers that are committed to becoming an active trainer and have the support of their federal land management agency.

### **Wilderness Stewardship**

Lead Instructor: Jimmy Gaudry, U.S. Forest Service

Skill Level: Beginner

Dates: May 18-22, 2015

This course is designed for field-going volunteers and staff who interact with the general public. Students will learn about field safety, public encounters, Leave No Trace, and wilderness history, policy, and law. This course will cover basic skills for being safe while working in a public contact capacity.



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Students will gain proficiency in making public contacts in a field setting. Upon completion of this course, students will earn a Leave No Trace Trainer Certification.

### Week Two: May 26-29, 2015

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#### **Trail Maintenance**

Lead Instructor: Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Skill Level: Beginner

Dates: May 26-29, 2015

This course is designed for those new to stewarding public lands, or those wishing to revisit basic principles of trail maintenance and mitigating visitor use impacts. Students will learn design and maintenance standards for trails, maintenance techniques, tool use, safety in the field, and planning field days for volunteers and/or staff. Techniques for brushing a trail corridor, reestablishing trail tread, mitigating erosion impacts, maintaining trail structures, and other similar topics will be covered.

#### **Wilderness Visitor Use Management**

Lead Instructor: Jimmy Gaudry, U.S. Forest Service

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Dates: May 26-29, 2015

This session will address wilderness visitor use and recreational impacts. Students will discuss the requirement that wilderness provide "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation" under the Wilderness Act and the meaning of this requirement. Students will spend time in the field assessing high use sites and visitor use management issues. Students will use their assessments in discussing and designing solutions.

#### **Advanced Trail Structures**

Lead Instructors: Chris Ingui & Artie Hidalgo, Jolly Rovers

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Dates: May 26-29, 2015

This course will focus on utilizing stone as a building material in providing solutions for numerous trail problems, such as stabilizing muddy areas, crossing seasonal streams, ascending steep slopes and reducing grade to prevent erosion. Students will be introduced to the various uses of stone in trail work, including the reasoning and construction concepts behind basic stone steps, check dams, turnpikes, stepping stones, paving and crib walls. Illustrations of these concepts will be made available to the class



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along with explanations of the construction practices necessary to build them. Afterwards, students will learn the use of mechanical advantage using rock bars and pick mattocks along with the techniques of stone shaping using hammers, chisels and wedges to create usable building materials. Students will utilize these skills in assessing project site on the trail before designing and implementing solutions.