

THE OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE

P R O G R A M 2 0 0 9

Phase One: **September 19 & 20**

Phase Two: **October 2, 3 & 4**

You're invited to join us for **THE OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE!** Conducting oneself amongst nature is the basic intent of Great Outdoors. What you know about hiking skills, camping equipment, and the wilderness environment, can make your outdoor adventure much more fun--and safer too!

Perhaps you'll never need some of the skills we'll teach you, but it never hurts to be prepared for things unexpected. Not only will you learn about keeping warm, choosing a campsite, and making water safe to drink, but you'll be taught minimum impact camping techniques so that you leave the natural environment for others to enjoy as well. A portion of the training covers group management and GREAT OUTDOORS leadership skills. Each student will be provided with their own training and reference manual.

The basic program consists of two valuable weekend sessions. **PHASE ONE** (September 19 & 20) is mostly an indoor weekend held at a cabin site. **PHASE TWO** (October 2, 3 & 4) is an outdoor camping weekend. The two sessions must be taken in order, but not necessarily in a single year. Another option is to take only the first day of training. Completing the first day of Phase One will provide participants with **DAY HIKE LEADER CERTIFICATION**. After completion of the entire program, you'll receive **FULL TRIP LEADER CERTIFICATION**, a certification patch, wall certificate and certification cards. When supplemented by the Red Cross Basic First Aid Course (taken on your own), you'll be certified to lead others on both weekend and day trips. It is also strongly recommended that CPR be taken independently.

OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE I WEEKEND: An open forum presented by experienced GREAT OUTDOORS leaders is just the beginning. Learn from their successes and past mistakes. Explore such topics as choosing an outing location, candid evaluations of equipment, water purification, philosophy of minimum impact camping, hiking resources and field guides, outdoor travel, guiding others, emergency gear and specific first aid principles for the outdoors traveler. You will also participate in a short day hike.

This session is mostly an indoor weekend held at a cabin site. Food arrangements are on an individual basis, unless otherwise announced. You are responsible for bringing your own food. You might want to "food group"--a great way to involve a friend or buddy in the program. Sleeping accommodations are also indoors, but you will need a sleeping bag and ground pad. You may also pitch a tent outside and sleep there, if inclined to do so.

OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE II WEEKEND: Building upon what was learned in the first session, this **OUTDOOR CAMPING WEEKEND** covers practical field work and gives you a chance to put to real use the skills you've learned so far. Among the highlighted topics are camp management, leading day hikes, map and compass, knot craft, outdoors cooking, and much more. This is a fun way to apply those fundamentals you've been shown, as well as an opportunity to unlearn habits which may be harmful to the environment and which may be unsafe to you and to your fellow campers.

This car camping weekend will be at a site, which may be primitive. Participants will provide their own gear including compasses. Topographic maps of the area will be provided. You must bring your own food (as well as WATER if it is not available at the site).

ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SKILLS OPTIONS: In the past, a number of optional training sessions have been offered during the year, which are beyond the scope of the present program. These can allow you to refine and put into practice those techniques you have already learned. Among those offerings might be rock climbing, advanced map & compass, outdoor photography, backpacking, fishing, desert survival and outdoor gourmet cooking.

EQUIPMENT: If you already have an item of equipment, bring it, but don't go out and buy a lot of gear until after you've completed weekend I of **THE OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE**, in which we deal with the selection and evaluation of various types of gear. Not only will you save money by not buying unwanted or impractical gear, but the retail environment will seem less hostile when you have a knowledge of why certain equipment is recommended over others. Among the items we will examine are tents, sleeping bags and camping mattresses, stoves, cooking gear, warm clothing, pocket knives, ice chests, compasses, etc. For **THE OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE II** weekend, you will need warm clothes, a hat, dark glasses, lip balm, sunscreen, compass, and of course, food and water. You might want to borrow or rent some of these items until you know exactly what you want to buy.

COST: Instructional Fee for the program is \$60.00. Cost for people taking only the Day Hike Certification and for Non-Members and Guests is the same. (Other organizations charge up to \$250.00 for the same program). WHAT A BARGAIN! Fee entitles Day Hike students to finish the complete course instruction now or in the future at no further charge. Everyone participating in the OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE weekends will also be required to pay regular outing fees (Phase II only--\$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for Non-members). **No Chapter Coupons are accepted.**

WELCOME AGAIN! Once you've taken the OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE you may retake the program, again in future years, without paying the instructional fee again. Some chapters even have a policy of reimbursing the fee to members who go on to lead chapter trips. There is no better value in any outdoor training program anywhere!

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION: To register complete the registration form and mail to the address below along with your check. Make your check payable to Great Outdoors. For further information, contact your local Great Outdoors chapter one of the Trip Leaders:

California Great Outdoors, Inc.

Mario Voce | 730 Catalina Avenue, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5848

mariovoce@yahoo.com | (562)-431-4760

Once your registration and check are received, you will be sent; your manual, trip notes for Phase I and other documents, in a package, sent by Priority Mail, within a few days after your check is received. **If you do not receive your package within a week** after sending in your registration and check, call the trip leader.

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! Sign Up Early! This is a popular event and there are space limitations: **PHASE I:** 30 Participants | **PHASE II:** 24 Participants

FOR THOSE PLANNING ON ATTENDING ONLY PHASE II:

You must have already completed Phase I in a previous year and you must call or e-mail trip leader for Trip Notes and Registration Form for Phase II. ***DO NOT SEND IN THIS FORM!***

DEADLINE FOR ENROLLMENT IS September 5, 2009!!!

People registering after, should call before sending in registration to see if there is still space and to make arrangements to pay in person and pick up their manual and other materials in person, if needed. There is a reading assignment, of certain portions, of the manual, which is required to be fulfilled by each participant prior to arriving at Phase I. You will need enough time to receive those documents and complete the assignment before arriving at Phase I.

Refund Deadline: September 10, 2009 (\$30.00 is refundable if notified of cancellation by that date).

DON'T CARE ABOUT CERTIFICATION? That's Fine! Maybe you are a new hiker or camper or have never gone camping or hiking and just want to learn the basics of these activities. Or, you may just want to brush up on your skills or just want to learn how things have changed in the area of camping and hiking since you first began these activities. Then sign up. The program is designed to cover all these needs.



Please register me in:

THE OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE PROGRAM 2009

One person per form - Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Great Outdoors Chapter (or none) _____

E-mail Address _____

Reason for taking this course:

___ Want to learn more about outdoors skills

___ Want to lead groups for my chapter

___ Other _____

I am planning to attend (check all that apply):

___ Day Hike Training (first day only)

___ Complete Phase One Weekend

___ Phase Two Weekend

I have (check all that apply):

Hiked: ___ a little ___ a lot

Camped: ___ a little ___ a lot

Backpacked: ___ a little ___ a lot

___ Experience leading groups with _____

___ A current Red Cross Card

___ Had some first aid training

with _____

___ Taken the Sierra Club Wilderness Travel Course in _____ (Year)

___ Had other outdoor training _____

FOR INSTRUCTORS USE ONLY:

Received \$ _____ on (date) _____

___ Cash ___ Check # _____