



The Outdoors Experience

Join us for the outdoor skills and leadership program!

The California Great Outdoors is a non-profit organization for gays and lesbians or anyone who enjoys outdoors recreation.

Our annual outdoor skills and leadership program is two weekends of hands-on instruction while camping. Whether you're new at camping and want to learn how to camp safely and responsibly, or if you're a hike/trip leader taking care of people on your trips, this wonderful program is for you!

Topics covered:

- equipment
- planning
- navigation
- cooking
- wilderness survival techniques
- medical considerations
- places to explore under the sun or under the stars...

You may take Phase I by itself to obtain the Day Hike Leader Certification, or you may take both phases to also obtain Trip Leader Certification.

Phase 1: March 10 & 11 @ LaJolla Canyon Group Camp (Just north of Malibu)
Includes Day Hike Leader Certification

Phase 2: April 28 & 29 @ Malibu Creek State Park
Includes Full Trip Leader Certification

Sign up now! www.regonline.com/OE2012
Only 16 spots available.

For more info about this program contact Chris Fava at chair@greatoutdoors.org and check our website www.greatoutdoors.org



THE OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE

P R O G R A M

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Phase One
March 10 & 11

Phase Two
April 28 & 29

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** (March 10 & 11) and **PHASE TWO** (April 28 & 29) are outdoor camping weekends. 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 an outdoors camping weekend held at group camp 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. Please bring a tent, sleeping bag and ground pad. ***We have loaners if you need them, so please inform us if you would like to use the loaners***

OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE II WEEKEND Building upon what was learned in the first session, this outdoors 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. ***We have tent/sleeping bag/sleeping pad loaners if you need them, so please inform us if you would like to use the loaners*** 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 \$70.00. Cost for people taking only the Day Hike Certification and for Non-Members and Guests is the same. (Other organizations charge over \$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.

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 TWO ways to register:

*Register Online Quickly and Easily at www.RegOnline.com/OE2012

*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 the **OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE 2012 PROGRAM** Committee Chairperson:

California Great Outdoors, Inc.

Chris Fava

3721 Via Pacifica Walk

Oxnard, CA 93035

chair@greatoutdoors.org

(805)509-8240

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: 20 Participants

PHASE II: 16 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 MARCH 5, 2011

People registering between March 1 to March 5, 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: February 27, 2012 (\$20.00 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.

