



Course Summary

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR: BOTH THOSE WHO WISH TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE RIVER INDUSTRY AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WISH TO LEARN THE SKILLS NEEDED TO CAPTAIN/GUIDE THEIR OWN RAFT WHILE LEADING A SUCCESSFUL MULTI-DAY RIVER TRIP

AGES: 18 YEARS OLD AND UP

LENGTH: EIGHT DAYS - TWO WEEKENDS, PLUS A FOUR-DAY MULTI-DAY TRIP

At Wet Planet we have an amazing wealth of river experience. Our guides, instructors, and staff have lived and worked in river communities all over the United States and world. From ½ day commercial trips to remote multi-week expeditions, our passion for river travel and the whitewater industry has generated experience as both guides and educators. We love being on the river, and love sharing our river experience with future guides and river travelers. Guide school is our way to share our passion with those who wish to seek employment in the river industry and for those who wish to learn the skills needed to captain/guide their own raft.

Meeting Time

We will meet at 9:00 am at the Wet Planet Headquarters on the first morning of the course. Please plan on arriving 10-15 minutes early to allow for time to check in.

See the Owyhee Trip Information sheet for meeting times and logistics for the multi-day portion of guide school.

Meeting Location

Wet Planet headquarters, located on the banks of the White Salmon. At our base, you will find private parking, changing rooms, an espresso bar, and other amenities to complement your river experience. You can find driving directions to our headquarters by following the link in your confirmation email. These directions, along with a basic map, are available on our website on the directions page.



General Course Information

General Course Schedule

- The first two weekends of the course will take place at the Wet Planet headquarters, utilizing area rivers.
- The final four days of the course will consist of a four-day multi-day river trip on the Owyhee River.

Rivers Utilized for Training (depending upon water level):

- White Salmon River
- Klickitat River
- Hood River
- Wind River (Optional additional day)
- Owyhee River (four-day trip)

4-Day Owyhee River Multi-Day Rafting Trip:

During our guide school, you will also have the opportunity to learn about rowing, boat rigging, overnight river camping, cooking, and group travel on the river during a four-day, multi-day rafting trip. Our Owyhee portion of guide school will begin in Rome, OR and end at the Birch Creek Ranch. We encourage you to make friends during the first two weekends of guide school, so that you can carpool out to the Owyhee. You can find travel logistics in the Owyhee Trip Information attachment.

What to Bring

Be prepared to be in the river in cold, wet weather. We recommend a dry-suit for maximum comfort. Please bring any river or rescue gear you would like to practice with. If you don't have your own river gear, we can provide wetsuits and any other river gear you need. If your doctor has given you any personal medications to carry (epi-pens, inhalers, heart medications, etc.), please make sure to bring these with you.

Lunch is included for each day of the course. All meals for the Owyhee multi-day are also included!

Lodging

If you need any help planning your trip to our area, don't hesitate to give us a call. We are close to both White Salmon, WA and Hood River, OR. There are numerous hotel and B&B options in and around both towns. You can also check out our lodging suggestions on the links page on our website. The Columbia River Gorge is a wonderful place to visit, and we always suggest that people spend extra time here to explore the area.



Optional Guide School Specials

Class V Rafting: A rafting trip on the Wind River will give participants an opportunity to train on Class V whitewater. This trip is offered at a special \$65 guide school rate, discounted from \$125 (during season in which guide school is completed and pending availability).

River Rescue Certification (RRC): Acquiring the skills necessary to perform rescues in a whitewater environment is essential for all paddlers and rescue personnel, from the professional raft guide, to the private kayaker, to a Search and Rescue team member. At Wet Planet, we offer our knowledge and experience to those looking to increase their swift water rescue skills. We provide two and three-day river rescue courses designed by paddlers for paddlers, utilizing experiential learning in actual river environments. The courses mix classroom instruction with hands-on practice in the river environment, focusing on quick and efficient techniques to respond to rescue situations that may occur in the whitewater environment. Typical topics for the courses include: rescue gear and preparation, rescue organization, practice with rescue ropes, whitewater swimming, strong swimmer rescues, shallow water diving and wading, victim stabilization, boat retrieval, ropes systems, mechanical advantage systems, and strainer management. These rescue skills are practiced and refined during a series of realistic river scenarios.

Wet Planet Guide School participants receive **25% off the course cost of our RRC or RRC-Pro courses** held in April. The 2-day River Rescue Certification (RRC) course is designed for private paddlers, while the 3-day River Rescue Certification Pro (RRC-Pro) is designed for boaters who will work as guides or instructors in the whitewater industry. These courses meet the requirements for either RRC or RRC-Pro certification by Sierra Rescue International.

Employment at Wet Planet: Wet Planet typically has very low employee turnover, hiring is competitive each season, and we hire guides with prior whitewater experience. Employment at Wet Planet after successful completion of the guide school is not guaranteed, and our guide school should not be considered as Wet Planet job training. Employment with Wet Planet depends upon skill level, personal dedication, and the company's needs. For those wishing to work in the whitewater industry after the course, we will help you determine appropriate rivers. Please realize that developing the skills needed to guide a raft commercially takes lots of practice, even after completion of guide school. While the Wet Planet Guide School will help provide the skills you need to apply to guide in the whitewater industry, each company you might work for will have its own training process in order to make sure you learn that particular company's practices and rivers.