



Course Summary

THE COURSE IS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LEARN TO ROW A RAFT, OR IMPROVE THEIR EXISTING SKILLS, AND WHO WISH TO LEARN THE SKILLS NEEDED TO GUIDE THEIR OWN RAFT WHILE LEADING A SUCCESSFUL MULTI-DAY RIVER TRIP. UPON REQUEST IT IS POSSIBLE TO LEARN BASIC PADDLING GUIDING IPO ROWING DURING THE FIRST WEEKEND.

AGES: 18 YEARS OLD AND UP

LENGTH: EIGHT DAYS - ONE 4-DAY WEEKEND ON RIVERS IN THE GORGE, 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 everyone who wants to learn the skills needed to captain/guide their own raft and organize successful multi-day river trips, as well as those who wish to seek employment in the river industry.

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 4-day weekend 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
- Owyhee River (four-day trip)

4-Day Owyhee River Multi-Day Rafting Trip:

During our guide school, you will 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. If you don't have your own, the companies below offer dry-suit rentals by mail. 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 any other river gear you need, including wetsuits (if you cannot secure a drysuit). 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!

Drysuit Rental Companies: Immersion Research, Pacific River Supply, Kayak Academy, & Love Boat Paddle Co.

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.



Multi-Day Packing List

Appropriate clothing on a multi-day river trip is important for both comfort and risk management. While on the river, we could experience warm sunny days, cold rainy days, or anything in between. We need to be prepared for all possibilities. When planning for your trip, try to use the “layering system”. By bringing clothing that can be worn under or on top of others, in layers, you will have the flexibility to adjust to a variety of weather conditions. Make sure that you have warm layers made of synthetic materials (not cotton), such as polypropylene, capilene, or wool. Cotton does not keep you warm when it is wet!

For river travel, use the same gear you have already been using on your course. Make sure you have enough to stay warm! If you were using Wet Planet gear, we can make this available for the multi-day trip as well.

While we provide all group camping equipment, sleeping pads and meals, you will need to provide clothing and gear for off the river and at camp in addition to your river gear. Below is a suggested packing list to use for your river expedition. Feel free to contact us at any time with packing questions. **Always be prepared for changing weather!**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Tent (available for rent) | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm sleeping bag (available for rent) | <input type="checkbox"/> One pair waterproof boots/shoes (for off river if it is raining) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paco pad (river-specific sleeping pad) (available for rent) | <input type="checkbox"/> One pair lightweight hiking shoes (for off river in good weather - can be same as above) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> Wool or polypro/capilene/fleece socks (stay away from cotton) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large dry bag (Wet Planet can provide) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shade hat/visor (baseball cap) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small “day” dry bag (Wet Planet can provide) | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm hat and gloves for camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One pair of shorts for camp and hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Wool/synthetic hat or neoprene cap for on river under helmet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One or two t-shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags for wet/dirty clothing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain jacket & pants (available for rent) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunblock/moisturizing lotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One set long-sleeved light clothes (for sun and/or camp) | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick with SPF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pants for camp (can be same as above) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses with securing strap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Synthetic thermal underwear layers (top & bottom) | <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with securing strap (1 liter minimum, more if hiking) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down or synthetic jacket (puffy and warm, but compressible for packing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight/small headlamp & extra batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fleece or pile top & bottom for camp (top can be pullover or jacket) | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal medications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra fleece pullover or jacket to wear on the river, under your paddle jacket or dry-suit | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries/small towel, etc. (keep to minimum) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Optional Comfort Kit (available for rent): rain jacket and pants, sleeping bag, small camp pillow, and ground tarp |

Optional Items: Binoculars, diary, sketchbook, a good paperback book, , camera and batteries, small travel pillow, musical instrument.

All rafting gear, group camping equipment, and meals are provided!



Guide School Specials

River Rescue Certification (RRC): Acquiring the skills necessary to perform rescues in a whitewater environment is essential for anyone who spends time on rivers. Wet Planet offers two-day River Rescue Courses designed to help students develop the ability to choose good actions when a river rescue becomes necessary. 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. These courses will complement the introduction to River Rescue that you receive in Guide School. 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.

Guide School Special: 10% off a River Rescue Course in the same season in which you complete Guide School

Main Salmon River Multi-Day Trips: The Main Salmon is a stunningly beautiful river flowing through Idaho's Frank Church River of No Return wilderness area, the largest tract of a protected wild landscape in the lower 48 states. It features fun, big volume class II-III whitewater in an unmatched wilderness setting, with nights camping on white, sandy beaches underneath the stars. Although Guide School will arm you with the skills necessary to plan your own multi-day trip, it's notoriously tough to draw private permits on the Salmon River. If you'd like to get out on another multi-day trip and spend more time with your favorite guides, join us on the Main Salmon.

Guide School Special: \$100 off a trip on Idaho's Salmon River in the same year or following year from which you complete Guide School

Employment in the river industry: The bulk of our guiding occurs on the White Salmon River. This technical Class III-IV river isn't the best place for raft guides to start their careers, so we hire guides with prior commercial raft guide experience on Class III-IV rivers. Thus, our guide school should not be considered as sufficient Wet Planet job training. 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.