



## SOL APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in OP's Student Outdoor Leadership (SOL) program. This program is designed to develop students to lead pre-orientation outdoor trips as well as trips for Outdoor Pursuits (OP) during the academic year. We are looking for motivated students who can bring a wide variety of experiences and backgrounds to OP. These individuals should be excited about working with others while learning and teaching new skills in the outdoors. The goal of the SOL program is to develop knowledgeable, highly skilled and trained instructors. Those who take part in this course can expect professional training in group dynamics, teaching techniques, decision making, risk management, backcountry travel, technical mountain skills and Leave No Trace principles. This training will be both exciting and demanding.

We want individuals who are willing to make a commitment, not only to the program, but also to themselves. There is a significant time commitment associated with this program. Participants should have motivation, leadership skills, good physical ability, and fundamental outdoor skills. Those who do stay with the program will be rewarded with an unforgettable experience that begins to lay the foundation for a future in outdoor leadership

### **Selection Process:**

- Attend **one** of the SOL informational meetings: **Wed., Dec 11<sup>th</sup> & Thur., Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.**
- Participate in an OP trip (or several!). This lets you get to know the OP staff as well they get to know you. Additionally, going on a trip or two will offer insight into the philosophy of the program, as well offer a first-hand taste of the workings of Outdoor Pursuits. See the OP website or program guide for a current list of trips.
- There is an application and interview process. If your application has met our basic requirements, you will be invited to an interview.

### **Applications must include:**

- Completed application form (Pages 2 and 3)**
- Professional resume including contact information for three references**
- Outdoor experience inventory including most recent relevant experience.**

-Participants will be notified of their selection via email no later than February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at which point a 50% training deposit will be due by the first class, and the full amount by the first expedition.

We feel that this application process adequately represents the expected level of commitment within the program. We cannot emphasize enough how the return will be more than worth it! If you have questions please e-mail Sam Hensold at [sthensold@fortlewis.edu](mailto:sthensold@fortlewis.edu) or call (970) 247-7293.



Please complete the following application in type or clearly legible handwriting.

Name:	_____		
Major:	_____		
Year in School:	_____	Expected Graduation:	_____
Phone:	_____	Email:	_____
Certifications & Coursework (WFR, NOLS, AMGA etc.): _____			

**Required Trainings and Commitments**

**One Year Commitment**

We expect that students participating in this program will commit to it for at least one full academic year. This program demands a significant amount of time leading trips, but also attending trainings, meetings and preparing for trips. Ideally, we hope that student leaders will stay involved with the program for their remaining time at FLC.

\_\_\_ I am aware of this commitment (please initial)

**SOL Training**

**On Campus:** *Thur., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> & Thur., Feb 20<sup>th</sup> (6-10PM); Sat., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> & Sun, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> (all day).*

**Weekend Expeditions (2):** *Each expo runs from Friday PM-Sunday PM: March 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>*

**August Expedition:** *August 4<sup>th</sup>-August 15<sup>th</sup>*

**Cost:** \$325 *(includes food, equipment, transportation to and from Durango, instruction, and course materials).*

This is an intensive wilderness leadership training that is required for all students who will be leading trips for Outdoor Pursuits. Participants **MUST** be available the entire time. If you have over 10 weeks of paid, outdoor leadership experience, you *may* qualify to attend only the Winter Semester portion of the training. See the *SOL Application Part 2* (page 4) for more information.

\_\_\_ I will be able to attend this training (please initial)

**Wilderness First Aid & CPR Training**

All student leaders are required to have and maintain both Wilderness First Aid and Basic CPR certifications (Wilderness First Responder is preferred). These are prerequisites for the SOL training and are not offered during the SOL training. OP does offer the following trainings during the spring semester:

*Wilderness First Aid: 3/12 & 3/14 (evenings), and 3/15 & 3/16 (all day)*

*Wilderness First Responder: 3/22-3/30/2013*

\_\_\_ I have a minimum of a WFA & CPR or will have them by the SOL Training (please initial)

**OP Van Driver Training—Offered as part of the SOL Training**

This course must be passed (along with a check of your Motor Vehicle Record) to drive any vehicle owned or rented by Fort Lewis College.

\_\_\_ I am aware of this requirement (please initial)

Please provide your license number: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_



### **Peak Experiences Trips—August 23<sup>rd</sup> through August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Students who complete the SOL training will lead freshman students on pre-orientation trips (*Peak Experiences*). These will be backpacking trips with 10 participants and 2 student leaders.

\_\_\_I am aware of this commitment (please initial)

### **Two OP Trips per Semester**

Student leaders will be expected to lead or assist on a minimum of **2** trips per semester. (Typically 1 day trip and 1 overnight trip). This includes planning, packing and preparation before the trip, as well as clean-up after the trip. Student leaders are also strongly encouraged to lead or assist on longer trips during winter and spring breaks.

\_\_\_I am aware of this requirement (please initial)

### **Monthly SOL Meetings** (3-4 per semester - normally the first Wednesday of each month @ 7 AM)

These meetings allow all SOL leaders to stay up-to-date, discuss issues and concerns, as well as contribute to the broader program as a whole. Dates and times for these meetings are determined by the SOL staff at the beginning of each semester.

\_\_\_I am aware of this requirement (please initial)

### **In-services**

These are continuing education trips and clinics that are planned by the SOL coordinator with leader input. There are both required and optional in-services throughout the year.

\_\_\_I am aware of this requirement (please initial)

## **ADDITIONAL APPLICATION MATERIALS**

### **Please type the answers to the following questions:**

1. What do you think the role is of a SOL leader within OP and the greater FLC community?
2. What do you believe will be your most difficult challenge by participating in SOL and how will you overcome it?
3. How does participation in SOL fit into your future goals (school, career, personal, etc.)?
4. Please list any other experiences or items that may contribute to your application.

### **Please include:**

- Professional resume including references contact information
- Outdoor experience inventory including most recent relevant experience and both personal/professional experience

**Please submit a completed application with all of the above materials to Sam Hensold, Assistant Coordinator of Outdoor Pursuits by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Partial applications will not be considered for participation in the SOL program.**

Sam Hensold  
Student Life Center  
1000 Rim Dr.  
Durango, CO 81301  
970-247-7293  
[sthensold@fortlewis.edu](mailto:sthensold@fortlewis.edu)  
[www.fortlewis.edu/outdoor-pursuits](http://www.fortlewis.edu/outdoor-pursuits)





## SOL APPLICATION PART 2—Extensive Experience Waiver

**This portion of the application must accompany the standard SOL APPLICATION (pages 1-3) and is only for individuals who have substantial previous outdoor leadership experience and who meet the below requirements.** If you do not meet the below requirements, please submit only the standard SOL application (pages 1-3). Based on this application, interview, and references, you may be assessed at a level that allows advanced involvement with the Winter Semester Training, and then *potentially* a waiver from the August field training. This waiver application takes substantially longer time to complete than the basic application, so if you have questions about whether you should complete it or not, please contact Sam Hensold.

### Basic Requirements:

- Previous paid employment in the outdoor leadership field with a cumulative *backcountry* field time of 10+ weeks.
- Two Letters of Reference from previous employers (one of which must be from the above field time).
- Submit a Field Log documenting both personal and professional backcountry experience (including any technical competencies). This must show at least 10 weeks of employed field experience and will count as the same field log requested for the standard SOL application (you only need to do one).

**On a separate sheet of paper, please share with us why you are qualified to lead trips for OP without attending the full training. Include the following:**

- Describe the most challenging course you've worked and what you learned from it.
- Please give two examples of your experience with hazard evaluation, individual/group assessment, and risk management. In your answer, please be sure to include lessons learned from mistakes made—candid and honest answers are valuable to us.
- If we determine you are not eligible to waive the August expedition (either initially or after the Winter Semester Training), would you be willing to participate in the full training?
- Describe your teaching and leadership styles, providing examples of each.

**SOL Application Part 2: Extensive Experience Waiver must include:**

- Standard SOL Application
- Field Experience Log, showing at least 10 weeks of paid backcountry time
- A separate document containing answers to the application questions above
- Two Letters of Reference

**Please submit a completed application with all of the above materials, including the Standard SOL Application to Sam Hensold, Assistant Coordinator of Outdoor Pursuits by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Partial applications will not be considered for participation in the SOL program.**

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