



## ***Hello Guide Candidate!***

**Thank you for your interest in Wilderness Voyageurs!** Our 2019 whitewater season is just around the corner with our commercial rafting trips beginning in April. We are looking for an outdoor staff with the following interests: whitewater raft guides, safety boaters, historic float trip guides, kayak and canoe instructors, rock climbing instructors, & mountain bike guides. We also have a need for CDL Bus Drivers, photographers, guest services employees, retail positions, bike mechanics and restaurant staff. Employment for new staff is generally full time during the summer months with the spring and fall having predominantly weekend work. **The completion of the training program does not guarantee a candidate employment.** Before being considered for a hired position, you will have to perform a “check out run” on a commercial trip under the supervision of a qualified trip leader and demonstrate your competence. Consider it a final exam to your training. Guide training is not for the faint of heart. You will be cold, exhausted mentally and physically, pushed to breaking points, and having an adventure of a lifetime. If you persevere, you will be on the path to joining some of the most talented river guides around!! Qualified individuals with only part time availability through the summer months are always welcome to participate in the training program. Please remember that this training program is offered only to those individuals who are **serious about raft guide employment** with Wilderness Voyageurs. Those seeking employment for retail or guest services positions do not need to attend guide training, but should still fill out the application and submit it to us.

**Required Guide Training Dates:** The guide training for 2019 begins on Saturday, April 6, 2019 in Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania. The guide training will be conducted on the following 6 weekends (both Saturday and Sunday), and it is highly recommended that you attend all required weekends:

**April 6 & 7**  
**April 13 & 14**  
**April 27 & 28**  
**May 4 & 5**  
**May 11 & 12**  
**May 18 & 19**

**Cost:** There is a one-time fee of \$100 cash to enroll in the guide-training program. This fee is required for all guide candidates and must be paid on the first day. This fee covers equipment use, transportation, & river trips.

**Guide requirements:** Wilderness Voyageurs requires all guide candidates to go through a guide-training program, have a minimum of 20 commercial trips on the Lower Yough (or comparable river), and have current First Aid and CPR certifications. Don't worry, some days we

will do 2 trips on the river, so they add up fast. Our main concern is that each candidate has a clear understanding of what the job entails before becoming responsible for Wilderness Voyageurs' guests. **All guide candidates must complete a CPR and First Aid Class by their own arrangement.** Basic First Aid and CPR is the minimum requirement, but the more First Aid the better. The American Red Cross offers classes at a nominal fee. Many universities and vocational educational centers also offer classes.

**Guide Training Procedures:** We begin each Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. at the porch of the Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitter store. There will be a classroom session discussing whitewater terminology, skills and general information. Following these sessions we will head out to the river to practice what we have learned in the classroom. We will try to wrap-up each Sunday by 4:00 p.m. so you can journey home. A majority of the training is completed on the Lower Yough, but we do travel to other rivers during the training weekends. Advance notice will be given and we will help to coordinate travel arrangements via carpool. Be prepared: guide training takes some time, but those that have commitment will prosper by learning not only whitewater paddling and rescue technique, but also valuable communication and leadership skills.

### **Other Details**

**Where Do I Stay?** Tent platforms will be available to set up tents. We encourage you to come early and begin familiarizing yourself with OhioPyle. Many of our staff will arrive on Fridays to paddle, hike, bike, and socialize. Hot showers are available at our bathhouse.

**Clothing and Weather:** Guide training occurs when most are just putting away their skis, so yes it can be cold, but it can also be very nice. The temperatures can range between 30 and 80 degrees, with sun, rain, snow, or sleet. Clothing will be very important. I would not rush out and spend hundreds of dollars on gear at this time. Wilderness Voyageurs will have its retail store open for any last minute items you may need at a 10% discount. We will provide neoprene wetsuits and nylon paddling jackets at no charge during the guide training weekends. After April 28 you will be required to have your own clothing because of wetsuits being rented to our guests. The most difficult body parts to keep warm are your hands and feet. If you are a hearty individual, wool socks and tennis shoes may be enough, though I would strongly encourage having neoprene booties (or neoprene socks). Fit the booties so that you can get a wool sock into them. You don't want the booties loose so your foot sloshes around inside, but also not so tight that the blood circulation is restricted. Hands are difficult. The best item you will only find in whitewater stores. They are called pogies or river mitts. A good alternative will be neoprene gloves. Again, if you are a hearty individual, gloves will probably not be needed. Other layers may be necessary. Wool, poly pro, fleece or other synthetics are great. **DO NOT BRING COTTON LAYERS!**

**Pets:** Please leave your pets at home through training and through the season.

**Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters:** WVO is a true outdoor outfitter store and a great resource for you. It is open year round and will offer a 10% discount to all guide candidates during training. (The discount does not include bicycles or boats). You can also check the [store out online](#).

**What do I need to bring to Guide Training?** These are the items I would bring if I were going through guide training.

- \*Sleeping bag and pad
- \*Toiletries
- Your food
- \* Small camp stove to cook on
- \$100 cash for guide training
- \*Drivers license for deposit for wetsuit and paddle jacket use

- \*Wool hat
- \*Cap with bill (baseball hat) for rain
- \*Long underwear (polypro, or comparable synthetic, **NO COTTON**)
- \*Polar fleece jacket (or wool sweater, synthetic shirt)
- \*Cold water footgear
- \*Cold water hand gear
- \*Paddle pants and paddle jacket (unless you are using a wetsuit)
- \*Wetsuit if you have one
- \*Clothes for off the river (bring extra in case those get wet. We spend a lot of time outside.)
- \*Rain gear for off the river (gore-tex jacket, rain slicker...)
- \*Walking shoes / hiking boots for trail use
- \*Kayaking gear (if you own it)

**Note:** Remember; do not plan on using cotton clothing for wet, outdoor activities. You may have adequate clothing at home.

(\*) Indicates all items that may be purchased at Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters at a 10% discount.

Once employed guides will be given lifejacket, first aid kit, knife, whistle. Guides will receive a greater discount on all items at the outfitters store, and will receive a discount at the restaurant.

**Kayakers:** Please bring your kayaks because there is time for recreational paddling after the training runs. All candidates will participate in formal kayak instruction during the training process.

**Equipment Wilderness Voyageurs Provides:**

- Rafts
- Paddles
- Helmets
- Lifejackets
- Wetsuits and paddle jackets

**Restaurants:** [Falls City Pub & Restaurant](#) located just beyond the Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitter Store has a variety of food & is a great social dinner option. Rapid Java offers breakfast sandwiches, donuts & muffins along with great coffee and espresso drinks & is located on the porch of the store. Ohiopyle Bakery and Falls Market in town are other dining options. There are a number of other restaurants within a short drive from Ohiopyle. Candidates are responsible for their own lunch. We will try and break for about 30 to 45 minutes for lunch each day. Sometimes we will be on river, in which case Power Bars or other quick fixes are recommended.

**What do I do now?** If you have **not** yet completed your online application, [Fill out an application](#). We also ask that you provide uploaded copies of the following:

- Resume
- Cover Letter (please include any river, outdoor or camp / group experience)
- Photocopy of your driver's license
- Photocopy of your First Aid **and** CPR certifications (If you do not have cards currently that is fine. Just make a plan to get them)

**Questions:** Please email me at [bens@wilderness-voyageurs.com](mailto:bens@wilderness-voyageurs.com) or call 1-800-272-4141 if you have any questions. If I am not available to speak with, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I am able. Otherwise fill out your application and get ready for an

adventure!!

***See you on the river!***

Ben Scoville

Wilderness Voyageurs

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Wilderness Voyagerus/2019 guide candidate letter