

Learn More - WTS Curriculum Enhancement

Enhancing the Curriculum: The WTS Manual, Instructor Supplement, class exercises, homework, and videos are regularly updated to incorporate new circumstances, information, and techniques. We encourage your contributions through the following process:

1. Get an idea that motivates you to help create or modify the curriculum and confirm that the enhancement aligns with the Course Scope outlined later in this document.
2. Submit the following details below for approval by the Director(s) and Curriculum Reviewer. Any enhancements to the WTS Manual or Instructor Supplement will also require approval by the Manual Editor.
 - a. People – main author, interested helpers, and other reviewers
 - b. Product – manual, video, exercise, learn more, train the trainer, etc.
 - c. Timing – timing, page count, video length, etc. Ideally, suggest replacement of existing text or activity. Course time is limited so if we can't identify adequate things to remove, the enhancement may not fit into the course at this time.
3. Main author and helpers create the new content and attain approval by the reviewers.
4. Integrate new and replaced content into the next available session. New material must be ready by 3 weeks before a session's Instructor Orientation Night to allow for proper incorporation into the larger course materials, acceptance by the committee, and review by the session's instructors.

Changes to the Student Manual or Instructor Supplement: Master copies of the Student Manual and Instructor Supplement are managed by the Manual Editor. Small changes can be emailed to the Manual Editor with the specific location and desired change. Large edits can be captured by creating a working copy of the section of interest, modifying with track changes on, and then forwarding this edited section to the Manual Editor.

Course Scope: Wilderness Trekking School educates and trains adult CMC members in a supportive environment to become competent, confident, and safe four-season backcountry day-hikers in the Colorado mountains. WTS provides an introduction to the CMC and opportunities to meet new people, to take on new challenges, and to accept new responsibilities.

- **"educate and train"** - Although this course provides exposure to a wide breadth of information, exposure isn't always enough. It's critical that some of the skills or knowledge be used frequently enough during the course that the student will be able to use that skill or knowledge after the course. The course is focused on teaching knowledge and skills, not providing physical exercise training.
- **"adult CMC members"** - Teaching material and exercises are designed for adult learning theory and assume the student can perform homework without oversight. On field trips, the student is their own guardian. The course doesn't assume any prerequisite knowledge or skills and adults of all skill levels will both learn from and contribute to the course.

- **"supportive environment"** - The course creates a pleasant non-confrontational non-militaristic learning environment. This is not a "boot camp".
- **"competent"** - We teach techniques that will work when students need them. We avoid skills, knowledge, or gear that is particularly burdensome so students are more likely to practice, remember, and carry what is needed. We also teach techniques that are legal and environmentally sound.
- **"confident"** - This course should empower students to spend more time in the backcountry and be confident to act as a leader on trips with friends and family.
- **"safe"** - WTS emphasizes safety in their outdoor exercises and prepares students to prevent most of the backcountry risk through proper planning and how to manage unforeseen emergency situations. We teach students to make sound decisions.
- **"four-season"** - The class covers risks that occur in seasons outside of when the class is happening so a student is prepared to hike in the mountains year round. For example, training includes summer thunderstorms, winter avalanches, spring rain induced hypothermia, and the fall hunting season.
- **"backcountry"** - Our training includes off trail and above tree line. It prepares students for remote locations and situations where cell service or quick rescue may be unavailable.
- **"day-hikers"** - WTS students should be prepared for an unplanned emergency overnight, but multi-day topics and skills are left to the CMC backpacking and camping courses. Technical topics are left to Alpine Scrambling, Rock Climbing, or Alpine Climbing School. WTS may include a taste of technical skills taught in these future courses to help students explore where they could go in CMC, but we don't need our students trained in these technical skills.
- **"Colorado mountains"** - Our material focuses on knowledge and skills related to Colorado, so we can avoid teaching things more suited for other states, countries, or continents.
- **"introduction"** - The course acknowledges that many students may be new to the club or Colorado. WTS may also be the first outdoor course they've taken in CMC or at all. Covering the basics of the CMC's groups, sections, courses, and activities will help students figure out their next steps. Insider tips of fun trips and places to explore in CO is a unique value we can offer our students.
- **"meet new people"** - The course provides repeated opportunities and shared experiences for interested students to socialize and build new friendships.
- **"take on new challenges and accept new responsibilities"** - The course may include light exposure to advanced material or experiences in order to help students self-identify future aspirations.
- **Time** – WTS respects the fact that students have other obligations, starting and ending meetings and outings in a timely manner and limiting our expectations to the scope of the course.