



Safety and Professional Qualifications

Short Courses

INTRODUCTION

Outside Perspectives conducts physically active programs, which may include running and participating in physical games and activities. Specific activities that participants may take part in on short courses include hiking, canoeing, a challenge course with high and low elements, and rock climbing. Unless otherwise specified by your organization or school, programs occur outdoors and potentially during inclement weather; however, technical clothing will be provided.

SAFETY BRIEFINGS

Outside Perspectives instructors and staff will inform participants of specific safety rules and teach necessary skills before each activity. Participants will also be briefed on using any technical equipment necessary before each activity.

EXPERIENCE

All of our activities can be adjusted to work for participants with little to no experience. Outside Perspectives always recommends communicating with administrative staff or instructors about a participant's experience level before a program, allowing them to adjust programming accordingly.

WATER SAFETY

It is Outside Perspectives policy that all participants and staff will wear Personal Floatation Devices (also known as life jackets) at all times if an activity occurs in or on the water; this happens regardless of the participant's swimming skill level. These will be provided by Outside Perspectives. A water comfort conversation with participants will also be conducted prior to any water activity. Participants with less water comfort can be paired with an instructor for canoe activities. A capsizing event is always possible with canoes, but participants will be briefed on how to deal with this scenario, and staff are trained to address this situation safely. All participants will likely get wet in some way when taking part in a canoe day. Shoes will be required and will also likely get wet, so water shoes or old shoes are recommended for this activity.

ROPES & ROCKS SAFETY

Outside Perspectives hires Climbing Specialists who are AMGA Single-Pitch Instructor Certified or PCIA Single Pitch Climbing Instructor to lead our Climbing Day Courses. It is Outside Perspectives policy that all participants and staff wear helmets when participating in high-element challenge courses and rock climbing activities. Outside Perspectives will provide helmets for these activities.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Outside Perspectives Staff have been trained in every activity they lead and hold a minimum of a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Certificate. WFA-certified individuals are fully trained in the prevention, assessment, and treatment of illnesses or injuries to people in remote environments where definitive care by a physician and/or rapid transport may not be readily available. Many hold additional certifications and have years of experience under their belts. Outside Perspectives prides itself on the exceptional quality of its instructors and staff.

TECHNOLOGY

Due to the nature of the course, the program goals, and the possibility of damage, participants should not bring electronic devices to the program, including including smartwatches, smartphones, and music-listening devices. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during the program unless an exception is communicated to instructors beforehand. Outside Perspectives will not take responsibility for loss or damage to any electronic devices. Upon request, participants can be given a safe place to store devices for the duration of the program. Instructors will carry cell phones and Garmin InReach Explorers (GPS Tracking and Communication Devices) when necessary for emergency communication. A digital camera will be provided for participants to use during the program.

CHALLENGE BY CHOICE

Outside Perspectives is a challenge-by-choice program, which means participants ultimately have the free will to decide to participate in the program and its activities. However, once the participants have committed to coming on the course, they are expected to stay until the end and participate as best as they can, except under unforeseen circumstances. During programs, Instructors will coach participants to step out of their comfort zone and encourage them to try new and different activities.



Safety & Professional Qualifications

Overnight and Expedition Courses

INTRODUCTION

Outside Perspectives conducts physically active programs, which may include hiking with 40lb packs, getting wet, going to the bathroom outside in pit toilets and the woods, sleeping in tents on the ground (with a sleeping mat), and participating in physical games and activities. Specific activities that participants may take part in on overnight courses and expeditions include camping, backpacking, hiking, canoeing, a challenge course with high and low elements, and rock climbing. Unless otherwise specified by your organization or school, programs occur outdoors and potentially during inclement weather; however, technical gear and clothing will be provided.

SAFETY BRIEFINGS

Outside Perspectives instructors and staff will inform participants of specific safety rules and teach necessary skills before each activity. Participants will also be briefed on using any technical equipment necessary before each activity.

PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE LEVELS

All of our activities can be adjusted to work for participants with little to no experience. Many of our participants are experiencing these activities for the first time, and our instructors are well-versed in facilitating these experiences for newcomers. Outside Perspectives always recommends communicating with administrative staff or instructors about any participant's experience level before a program, allowing them to adjust programming accordingly.

WATER SAFETY

It is Outside Perspectives policy that all participants and staff will wear US Coast Guard-approved Type III Personal Floatation Devices (also known as life jackets) at all times if an activity occurs in or on the water; this happens regardless of the participant's swimming skill level. These will be provided by Outside Perspectives. A water comfort conversation with participants will also be conducted prior to any water activity. Participants with less water comfort can be paired with an instructor for canoe activities. A capsizing event is always possible with canoes, but participants will be briefed on how to deal with this scenario, and staff are trained to address this situation safely. All participants will likely get wet in some way during a canoe day.

ROPES & ROCKS SAFETY

Outside Perspectives hires Climbing Specialists who are AMGA or PCIA-certified single-pitch Climbing Instructors to lead our Climbing Day Courses. Our policy requires all participants and staff to wear helmets when participating in high-element challenge courses and rock climbing activities. They are also required whenever a person is standing in the vicinity of the cliff or activity area, even if the person is not actively participating. Outside Perspectives will provide helmets for these activities.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Outside Perspectives Staff have attended annual trainings in each activity they lead and hold a minimum of a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Certificate. WFA-certified individuals are fully trained in the prevention, assessment, and treatment of illnesses or injuries to people in remote environments where definitive care by a physician and/or rapid transport may not be readily available. Many hold additional certifications, such as Wilderness First Responder (WFR), and have years of experience under their belts. Outside Perspectives prides itself on the exceptional quality of its instructors and staff. Most have a social work, teaching, and/or outdoor education background. Every staff member is required to have a background check before working for Outside Perspectives.

MANDATED REPORTERS

Due to the challenging nature of these experiences, the perspective they bring, and the safe spaces created by Outside Perspectives Instructors, it is not uncommon for participants to engage in difficult and vulnerable conversations with staff and peers. All instructors have been trained to facilitate these conversations with emotional safety and redirect them if inappropriate for this setting. All of our staff members are mandated reporters.

EMERGENCY PLANS

In the unlikely event of a medical emergency, environmental emergency, or behavioral incident requiring an evacuation, Outside Perspectives has professional staff on call 24 hours a day, ready to respond and assist the group in the field.

INSURANCE

Outside Perspectives is fully insured for all its activities and for driving participants in the organization's 12- and 15-passenger vans. Outside Perspectives can provide a certificate of insurance upon request from any partnered program or school.

TECHNOLOGY

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