



river trips

Oregon Junior Whitewater School



7 day guide training course

5

things you'll do during the course

- Guide the rafts
- Learn new skills
- Make friends
- Develop confidence
- Get a one-of-a-kind tan

SPECIFICS

Length in days: 7 days

Length in miles: 45

Overall difficulty: III

Highest difficulty (#): IV (1)

Rapids/day: ~10

Gradient: 14 feet/mile

Signature Rapids:

Mule Creek Canyon, Blossom Bar

Types of boats:

Oar, paddle & inflatable kayak

For ages: 14 – 17

Rapids: ★★★★

Scenery: ★★★★

Wilderness: ★★★★

Swimming: ★★★★★+

Hiking: ★★★★

Campsites: ★★★★

Wildlife: ★★★★★+

Fishing: ★★★★

5

best things about ARTA

Friendly, fun & gracious guides

Active, engaging & informal style

Steadfast commitment to safety

Over 50 years of experience
on the west's most iconic rivers

We donate our profits back to
protecting the environment



Welcome!

ARTA's seven-day Junior Whitewater School is a wonderful introduction to whitewater guiding and a great opportunity for exploration, discovery, and growth; not to mention a really fun week on the river! The school will take place on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River in southern Oregon. The Rogue is a fun river with lots of easy, straightforward rapids and a few more challenging ones, great for learning the basic elements of whitewater navigation.

Instruction will cover many aspects of whitewater navigation including rowing, paddle-captaining and inflatable kayaking. Training will also be provided in whitewater safety, repair, rigging, cooking, and minimum impact camping. In addition to and perhaps more important than these technical skills, students will also develop teamwork, decision-making, interpersonal, leadership, and risk-assessment skills in a supervised, wilderness setting. Our goal is to act as positive role models and to foster a fun and friendly environment in which each student can gain self-confidence, independence, and maturity (while having the time of their lives!)



*"It was a wonderful experience and I gained so many skills.
I will definitely do it next year!"*
- Lily Johannessen

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Meeting Time and Place

Between 3:00 and 6:00 pm on **the first day of the trip** at the Medford airport

Departure Time and Place

Between 5:00 and 8:00 pm on **the last day of the trip**. We plan to arrive at the Medford airport at 4 pm

Pre-trip checklist

- **Complete on-line registration**
(follow the directions and link that came with your original reservation)
- **Make travel arrangements**
(arrive between 3:00 and 6:00 pm on Day 1 and depart between 5:00 and 8:00 pm on Day 7).
- **Plan for the unexpected**
(purchase Travel Insurance through [USI Travel Insurance](#)).
- **Gather and pack your gear**
(there is a complete list on the Equipment page; call if you have any questions).

What we provide

- Transportation from the Medford airport to the river and back.
- Friendly, professional instructors and assistants.
- All meals from dinner on the first day to lunch on the last day.
- All taxes and government access fees.
- Waterproof bags, lifejackets, and other specialized river touring equipment for the trip.

What you are responsible for

- Transportation to Medford before your trip and from Medford after your trip.
- Personal clothing and toiletries (see Equipment page).
- Camping gear (see Equipment page for information on renting equipment from ARTA).

Arrival Information

We will meet you in the baggage claim area of the **Medford airport between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm on day 1 of the trip (The first day)**. Look for an ARTA T-shirt and a smiling face. Please make flight arrangements to arrive during this timeframe, and please give us the arrival time and airline information when you fill out your Online Registration Form. If you have other travel arrangements or have difficulty arriving during this window, please contact our office for an alternative meeting time and place.

Departure Information

At the conclusion of the school, students will be transported to the Medford airport for return flights. Arrival time in Medford will be around 4:00 pm in the afternoon.

Please make return flight departures for between 5:00 and 8:00 pm on the last day of the trip. Again, if you can't hit this window, let us know, and we can work on alternatives.

How to get there

Flying: Alaska, Delta and United serve Medford with direct flights from Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Salt Lake City and Denver. ARTA will provide van transportation from the Medford airport to the river and from the river back to the airport. If you will not be arriving or departing by plane, please contact our office for alternative arrangements.

Alternate transportation plans: Parents: Consider taking a trip together with your newly graduated "junior assistant guide" by signing up for a Rogue trip immediately following the conclusion of the school. This will give you a chance to see your child "in action" and give your child a chance to show off their new skills.

Weather

The weather in southern Oregon in June can be cool and rainy and everyone should come prepared for drizzle and sunshine. A fleece sweater/pullover with a wool or fleece beanie and a good rainshell for camp should take care of the cool days; a hat with a brim, sunglasses and shorts will take care of the warm days. The river temperature is refreshing and you will be doing a lot of swimming. Bring plenty of sunscreen!

Itinerary:

Day 1: We will meet at the Medford airport between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm, then drive to the ARTA facility in Grants Pass (1 hour). Here we will have dinner, go over trip parameters, pack for the trip, get to know each other, and spend the night.

Day 2: An early and busy morning during which we will learn knots and rigging and go over safety procedures will lead to a relaxing afternoon in the boats floating downriver. There are just a few small rapids on this day, giving us time to learn basic navigation techniques and become comfortable in the boats. Camping will be at a wilderness site along the Rogue.

Days 3–6: We will continue down the Rogue, working on ferry angles, turns, pivots, and eddy-catching. In addition to whitewater instruction, we will take time to learn about wilderness camping and the unique history of the Rogue. We will explore historic ranches, hike to idyllic swimming holes, and play skills games in the warm water of the Rogue. The students and instructors will be divided into groups with each group having specific responsibilities for the day. Students will be involved in setting up and taking down camp, preparing meals, washing dishes, and caring for the equipment. The days will be busy, but not strenuous. Evenings will include a combination of structured and unstructured time.

Day 7: An early morning wake-up will get us to take-out before noon. We will de-rig the rafts, load the trailer and head to Medford to catch afternoon flights back home. See Departure Information section for details about flight times.

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Get ready!

One of the joys of life on the river is how simple it is. We will be carrying everything we need into the wilderness with us and leaving a lot of stuff behind; bringing the proper gear will make your trip much more enjoyable. The basic rule of packing is: **the right stuff, not more stuff**. One synthetic fleece pullover is much more compact and versatile than six cotton sweatshirts; a good raincoat is better than twenty ponchos. You should be able to find most of the gear you need in your closet, garage or neighbor's basement and what you can't find or borrow, you can rent from us. Your instructors will help you make last-minute decisions, but please feel free to call us if you have any questions as you go through this list; we want you to have the best trip possible.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT LIST

CAMP ITEMS: These will be packed in your dry bag and will generally not be accessible during the day.

- *Compact sleeping bag, (down or synthetic, rated to 35°)
- 3" thick river sleeping pad (3"x24"x6') - ARTA Supplied
- Sleeping bag liner or flat bed-sheet (perfect for hot nights and will add warmth on cold nights)
- Small tarp or groundcloth
- Compact, lightweight tent, (free-standing work better; tents will be packed in a separate communal bag)
- Your favorite pillow (an extra pillow-case is handy for organizing stuff in your bag)
- 2 complete changes of clothing (versatile pants and shirts, cotton is fine - something exciting for dinner is welcome!)
- Extra swimsuit or shorts and T-shirts for on the river and in camp
- Extra socks, (wool or fleece are best), and underwear
- Camp shoes, (flip-flops, trail running shoes, tennis shoes; something you can walk and hike in comfortably)
- Personal hygiene items, including medicine, insect repellent, dry-skin lotion, etc. Please bring twice the amount needed of any essential medicine.
- Warm jacket, (thick fleece is great - will work on-river as well or compact/down coat)
- Small flashlight with extra batteries, (headlamps are great)

RIVER ITEMS: These will be worn or packed in your personal semi-dry day bag and **WILL** be accessible during the day.

- Sandals with heel strap (Chaco, Teva) or old running shoes
NO FLIP FLOPS OR SLIP-ONS
- Swimsuit or shorts and T-shirt, (nylon, quick-drying shorts and synthetic "tech-dry" type shirts are best - women often prefer to wear shorts over their swimsuits)
- Polypropylene pile or synthetic fleece top (essential)
- Waterproof rainshell (essential) and rainpants
- Brimmed hat, (baseball-style or visors work well; you will be wearing a helmet)
- Lightweight cotton or synthetic clothing for sun protection
- Sarong (super handy for on-river changes, etc)
- Fingerless biking/sailing gloves to prevent blisters (essential)
- Waterproof sunscreen/block (SPF 30+), lip balm
- Sunglasses with strap, (maybe not your best pair)
- Small water bottle, 1 quart, (essential - even if it's just an empty plastic Gatorade bottle)

OPTIONAL ITEMS: These are not absolutely necessary, but you are welcome to bring them.

- Waterproof camera, (if you want to bring your cell phone to use as a camera, we strongly recommend getting a sturdy case such as an Otter Box or EscapeCapsule)
- Locking carabiner, handy for securing your day-bag
- 1 or 2 plastic garbage bags & gallon size zip-lock bags for organizing gear
- Musical instrument or special game that you like to share
- Book, sketch pad, journal, etc.

Sleeping bags are available to rent from ARTA and can be reserved when you fill out your on-line registration.

Underlined items are the preferred choice of our professional river guides!

ARTA WILL PROVIDE: a sleeping pad, tent, a chair, cup, plate and eating utensils for each guest.

Please do not bring any irreplaceable items.

Oregon Junior Whitewater School~ life on the river

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Professional Tips

Our **dry-bags** are great for keeping things dry but are somewhat awkward for packing and living out of, (they are tall and narrow with a small opening at the top). Compact sleeping bags are much more convenient, and small stuff sacks or zip-lock bags are helpful for dividing up your stuff inside the bag. Trying to put your entire duffel bag or rolling luggage into the dry-bag never seems to work.

Layering your clothing is an effective way to adjust to the daily weather changes that you will encounter. A light polypropylene layer under a heavy fleece top under a rainshell will get you going on the chilliest of mornings and allow you to shed layers as the day warms up.

“**Fleece**” is a generic term for a spun, polyester fabric developed for outdoor use. It is thick and fluffy and does not absorb water, making it ideal insulation on a river trip. It is commonly called Polartec or Polarfleece.

“**Polypropylene**” is a thinner, stretchier, woven variation used predominately for long underwear. Any polypropylene long underwear will work; heavy-weight is the most versatile.

Our guides say that one of the most versatile things to bring on a trip is a **sarong**. Comfortable and colorful, sarongs get used for quick clothing changes, beach throws, sun screens and dinner celebrations.

You will be doing a lot of rowing and paddling during the school; **fingerless cycling gloves** will help you avoid getting blisters.

A day on the river

Every day will be different; every day will be full. A typical day might start with the cook crew getting up first, making breakfast, and handling the kitchen duties. Others will be in charge of preparing the gear and others may have the morning off. Each day we'll rotate so that everyone shares in the responsibilities of a successful trip. After a big breakfast, we'll load the rafts and maybe have a quick on-shore lesson before heading downriver. One or two students will act as “Lead Guide” each day and, working closely with an instructor, be in charge of the trip. They will plan the itinerary, supervise any activities, disseminate information, and coordinate the group. At some point, we'll stop for a picnic lunch and maybe play a game, practice a skill or learn a new trick. In the afternoon, we'll continue to work on our rafting skills and maybe take a short hike or stop to swim or scout a rapid. Evenings will be lively with camp responsibilities, cooking, games, contests, stories, and time to reflect on the day. By dark, we'll be exhausted and we'll fall asleep to the sound of the river and the light of the stars.

How to dress

On **hot days** you will want clothing that dries quickly (nylon shorts and bathing suits) and something to shield you from the sun, (a high-tech SPF long-sleeved shirt or an old lightweight cotton dress shirt and maybe even lightweight long pants or capris). Also, a brimmed hat and a bandana will help you stay cool.

On **cool days** you will want a thick, synthetic fleece top, (pullovers are best), and a sturdy, fully-waterproof rainshell. You may also want fleece pants or polypropylene long underwear bottoms and rainpants, particularly before mid-July. Don't bring a cotton sweatshirt for on the river; cotton does not work for on-river insulation when it is wet.

How to pack

Camp items will go in a watertight dunnage bag provided by ARTA, (one per person). These are generally not accessible during the day. The bags are roughly 17 inches in diameter and 24 inches tall, (the size of a large duffel bag; plenty big, but you should try to limit all of your gear to about 25 pounds). We will show you how to close the dunnage bag so that it stays watertight even if temporarily submerged, but packing your sleeping bag in a garbage bag provides extra protection. Zip-locks, stuff sacks, and pillow cases are good for keeping track of small and/or wet things.

River items will go in a semi-watertight, personal dry-bag provided by ARTA, (one per person). These bags are 9 inches in diameter and 12 inches tall, perfect for rain gear, fleece, sunblock, and other things you want to keep handy during the day. The bags are marginally waterproof so for expensive cameras or other things that must stay dry we recommend a small Pelican Box which can be found online and at outdoor stores. If you want to bring your cell phone to use as a camera, please get a sturdy waterproof case.

Tents will get packed into a separate, communal tent bag.

How to find it

Bring it: Local mountaineering or sporting goods stores should have everything you need and fleece garments are now available at most department stores (and our guides find a lot of fleece and other trip clothing at thrift stores). Great selections of river trip gear are also available on-line through REI, Columbia or Patagonia.

Rent it: We have good equipment available to rent. Reserve and pay for it in advance, pick it up at the pre-trip meeting, leave it behind when you're done.

Sleep Kits (polarguard bag, liner, self-inflating pad & tarp) are \$40 for the school.

Tents (two-person, free-standing, comfortable) are also \$40 for the school. Call us or reserve your rental gear when you register on-line.