



# Oregon Pro Guide Training



river trips

10 day training course for prospective guides

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## best things about this school

- Three different rivers
- Three different types of boats
- Challenging daily itineraries
- 10 consecutive days on the river
- Extended wilderness trip to finish

## SPECIFICS

Length in days: 10

Length in miles: ~90

Overall difficulty: III+

Highest difficulty (#): IV- (2)

Rapids/day: ~10

Gradient: ~20 feet/mile

### Signature Rapids:

Dragon's Tooth, Gaping Maw,  
Blossom Bar

### Types of boats:

Oar, paddle & combo

Minimum age: 18

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Rapids:     | ★★★★★ |
| Scenery:    | ★★★★★ |
| Wilderness: | ★★★★★ |
| Swimming:   | ★★★★★ |
| Hiking:     | ★★★★★ |
| Campsites:  | ★★★★★ |
| Wildlife:   | ★★★★★ |
| Fishing:    | ★★★★★ |

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## best things about ARTA's schools

- Friendly and patient instructors
- Emphasis on expedition-style trips
- Casual and inclusive atmosphere
- Over 50 years of experience on the west's most iconic rivers
- We donate our profits back to protecting the environment



## Let's go!

Our 10 day Professional Guide Training Course is a fast-paced, active class designed to train prospective commercial river guides. While the emphasis of the school will be on rowing and paddling in high-gradient, technical rivers and on conducting multi-day, wilderness river trips, all aspects of guiding will be covered including river rescue, equipment maintenance, risk management, leadership, and emergency procedures as well as on-shore training in cooking, sanitation, trip planning, and logistics.

The course will be highly participatory and students will assume roles of increasing responsibility as the school progresses. Throughout the course, students will play a major role in the organization and execution of trip responsibilities including planning each day's meals, itinerary, and activities. There will also be managed scenarios where students' judgment and reactions will be assessed and reviewed. Every day will be a challenge and an adventure and loads of fun. Come prepared to pitch in, jump in, and do your share of the work. We have found that the students who put the most into their workshop are the ones who get the most out of it and are usually the ones who end up working for us.

The goal of the Oregon Pro Guide School is for every student to be a safe and responsible river user.

We want you to be comfortable and capable of taking your own raft down Class III rivers with a good sense of the things that can go wrong, the proficiency to avoid them, and the skills to deal with them if they aren't avoided.

*"One of the best river experiences I have ever had. We covered a bunch of material and learned so many new things while still having fun. I also made some amazing friends!!!!"*  
Sydney Steinberg



# Oregon Pro Guide Training~ logistics



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## Meeting Place

Curly Jack Forest Service Campground  
Happy Camp, CA

## Meeting Time

8:00 pm the day before your launch date.

## Return Time

The school will end in Grants Pass, OR  
around 5:00 pm on the last day.

## Pre-trip checklist

- **Complete on-line registration**  
(follow the directions and link that came with your original reservation)
- **Plan for the unexpected**  
(purchase Travel Insurance through [USI Travel Insurance](#)).
- **Gather and pack your gear**  
(there is a thorough list on the Equipment page; call if you have any questions).

## What we provide

- Local ground transportation and shuttles in support of the school.
- Transportation from the river back to Grants Pass at the end of the school.
- Friendly and professional instructors.
- All meals from breakfast 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 Happy Camp and transportation from Grants Pass.
- Personal clothing and toiletries (see Equipment page).
- Camping gear (see Equipment page for information on renting equipment from ARTA).
- Soda, beer, wine, or liquor (you must be over 21 to consume alcoholic beverages during the school).

## Where and when to meet

We will meet you at **8:00 pm the evening before the trip begins** at Curly Jack Campground along the Klamath River just outside of Happy Camp, CA. At the pre-trip meeting your instructors will distribute dry bags, go over final logistics and answer any questions. We will all camp at Curly Jack that night and launch on the river early the following morning.

## How to get there

**Driving:** Curly Jack is a US Forest Service campground located on the south side of the Klamath River just outside Happy Camp, CA. Happy Camp is located on Highway 96, approximately 65 miles west of Yreka and Interstate 5. From Happy Camp, cross the Klamath on Elk Creek Road, bear right onto Curly Jack Road and look for the campground on the right. Vehicles will be left at Curly Jack for the first part of the school.

**Flying:** United, American and Horizon/Alaska Airlines serve Medford, Oregon, about 100 miles northwest of Happy Camp. If you fly in for the trip, you may either rent a car for the drive to Happy Camp, (2 hours) or contact the ARTA office for help in arranging a ride with another student. Due to potential delays, we do not recommend flying out of Medford the evening the trip ends.

**Carpooling:** In the middle of the school we will carpool/caravan from Happy Camp to Grants Pass; if you do not have a car, you will be able to get a ride with a fellow student. Please call our office if you will not have a vehicle and need help with transportation; we will be able to help you make arrangements.

## Itinerary:

**Day 1:** We will be camping right at the launch site which will enable us to get an early start. Fun Class III rapids will highlight the day and get us warmed up. Camping will be at an undeveloped site along the river.

**Day 2:** We will continue downriver working on ferrying and eddy-catching. Dragon's Tooth rapid will provide the day's excitement. We will take-out in the early afternoon and head to a Forest Service campground for the night.

**Days 3 - 4:** We will run various stretches of the Cal-Salmon and Klamath choosing runs that are appropriate for our skills and camping at a base camp. The rafts will be light and there will be plenty of excitement in the Cal-Salmon's technical rapids and the high volume rapids of the Ikes section of the Klamath.

**Day 5:** We will raft a short section before driving back to Curly Jack and car-pooling to Grants Pass (2 hours) to prepare for our Rogue trip. We will buy and pack food, transfer gear, and camp at a developed campground at the Rogue launch site. Cars will be left at the nearby Galice Resort during the Rogue trip.

**Days 6 - 9:** We will float 40 miles of the Rogue River, camping at wilderness sites along the way. Instruction in rowing heavy oar rafts will be supplemented by more practice in rescue, camp and safety skills. Major rapids such as Tyee, Wildcat, Mule Creek Canyon, and Blossom Bar are spread throughout the trip.

**Day 10:** We will float the last few miles on the Rogue and then be shuttled back to our vehicles in Galice.

**After the school:** We are looking for interesting, hard-working people to work for us as guides and this course is a primary source. Most students will be given the opportunity to join ARTA as an Assistant Guide (unpaid position), to further their training and prepare for a guiding career.



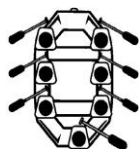
# Oregon Pro Guide Training~ details



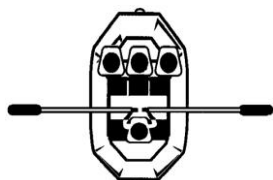
## 10 day training course for prospective guides

### About the boats

The Oregon Pro Guide School will focus on instruction in three different types of boats:



**Paddle rafts** are 14 feet long and have 4 to 6 students plus an instructor who work together to get the raft through the rapids. Social, sporty, and participatory, paddle rafts are the standard on short trips and solid paddle captaining skills are essential for commercial guides.



**Oar rafts** are 16 feet long, carry all of the overnight gear, and up to 3 students plus an instructor. They are rowed by one person using two, 10-foot oars. Big, brawny, and beautiful they are the standard craft on extended wilderness river trips.



**Oar-paddle combination rafts** are 14 feet long and combine the precision of an oar raft with the power of a paddle raft. They are captained by a student using oars in the back and powered by paddlers in the front.

*Every school and student make-up is different, but generally we'll have 12 students, 4 instructors and up to 5 rafts per school. We usually start with and concentrate on paddle skills for the first part of the course, then introduce combos and oar rafts later in the school.*

### About the rivers

The 10 day Professional Guide Training Course will take place on the Klamath, Cal-Salmon and Rogue Rivers. The Klamath is a wide, low-gradient river with numerous straightforward Class II and III rapids (and one notoriously difficult Class IV rapid); perfect for getting started and comfortable in the rafts. The Cal-Salmon is a technical, steep river with lots of challenging Class III and IV rapids. Because it is road accessible, we will be able to select appropriate stretches and use light rafts. The school will conclude with a trip down the Rogue, one of the premier wilderness rivers in the west with beautiful scenery, challenging rapids and lots of wildlife. We will have fully-loaded oar rafts which will give us a good sense of commercial loads and challenges. The stretches of river that we will run are designed to increase in difficulty as your skill level increases and may change due to flows or safety concerns.

### About you

This course is designed for active, enthusiastic and dynamic individuals who want a challenging, action-packed adventure. If you are the type of person who is first in line to wash dishes and last in line to get out of the surf, the course is for you. Some students come to the school with a lifetime of camping and rafting under their belts, others have never been in a boat before; all have succeeded (with no correlation). A positive attitude and solid work ethic are the most important things you can bring to the school.

### Weather

Expect it to be cold and expect to get wet; prepare yourself for those conditions and you should be fine. While the water in the Klamath and the Rogue is generally warmer than in other whitewater rivers, it is still cold and you will be spending a lot of time in it; a wetsuit, thick fleece and good rain gear are essential. Daytime air temperatures are usually in the 70s and 80s with mornings being the coolest time of day with lows sometimes into the 40s.

### Meals and drinks

ARTA meals are well-balanced and consist of quality foods with fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables. The menu includes a wide variety of dishes with lots of flexibility, but if you have a special dietary request or allergy, please let us know in advance so we can accommodate you. We will provide water and juice during the day and hot coffee, tea and cocoa in the morning. If you would like soda, beer, wine, or liquor with your dinner, please bring your own in unbreakable containers, (you must be over 21 to consume alcoholic beverages during the school).

### Camping

The nature of the school calls for participation and you will be expected to contribute and get involved in all aspects of the trip. While the most lasting skills will be developed in the rafts on the river each day, the most lasting memories always come from sharing time and responsibilities in the kitchen and on shore. Students will form teams with each team taking responsibility for various communal jobs like meal preparation, equipment repair, and sanitation. We'll rotate teams so that everyone gets experience with all the different tasks. Like all things in life, the more you give to the experience, the more you will receive.



# Oregon Pro Guide Training~ equipment



10 day training course for prospective guides

## Get ready!

Whitewater School weather is notoriously inclement, (we call it character-building). Your comfort during the school will be greatly enhanced if you come prepared. **DO NOT SKIMP ON THE EQUIPMENT LIST!** Because the river is cold and because you will be spending both planned and unplanned time in it, we require that all students have the following:

**Wetsuit or drysuit** ("farmer-john" is best, a "spring suit/shorty" will work, drysuits can be rented – see equipment page)

**Thick synthetic fleece top**, (at least one)

**Sturdy waterproof shell**, (paddling jackets are best; a good, solid waterproof rain jacket will work)

A "farmer-john" wetsuit covers the torso and legs but is sleeveless, allowing good shoulder movement; 3mm thickness is ideal. Synthetic fleece garments retain their insulation even when wet and are perfect for river wear. One or two pile or fleece sweaters, jackets or expedition weight long underwear tops, (such as those made by Patagonia, REI and the North Face - often called Polartec or Polarfleece - and commonly available at outdoor, department and thrift stores) are advised. A waterproof rainshell or paddling jacket will keep you dry on the river and in camp if it rains - make sure it is **water-proof**, not just **water-repellent**. Also, polypropylene pile or fleece socks, (not cotton!), and a pile or fleece hat will help keep you warm on really cold days and a good pair of cycling gloves, (fingerless with leather palms), will help protect your hands from blistering.

You will be spending 10 days outside, in the river, rain, and sun and your comfort and enjoyment of the school will be greatly enhanced if you are properly prepared. If you have any questions, please call; your equipment is a critical part of the success of your school.

## 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°)
- \*Closed-cell foam or self-inflating sleeping pad (Thermarest)
- \*Compact, lightweight tent, (free-standing tents are better)
- Your favorite pillow (an extra pillow-case is handy)
- 2 complete changes of clothing (versatile pants and shirts, cotton is fine - something exciting for dinner is welcome!)
- 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)
- Small towel, soap and shampoo (*Campsuds* & *Dr. Bronner's* are the most environmentally friendly, Ivory is fine)
- 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)
- Rain gear, top and bottom (can double as on-river gear)
- Small flashlight with extra batteries, (headlamps are great)
- Book, sketch pad, journal, etc.

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

- Wetsuit, 3mm Farmer John or drysuit (required)
- Thick polypropylene pile or synthetic fleece top (required)
- Waterproof rainshell or paddling jacket (required)
- Polypropylene pile or synthetic fleece pants (encouraged)
- Waterproof rain pants (encouraged)
- 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 ; many students prefer to wear shorts over their wetsuits)
- Brimmed hat, (baseball-style or visors work well; you will be wearing a helmet)
- Lightweight cotton clothing, (synthetic long-sleeved or old cotton dress shirts) for sun protection
- 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)
- Biking/Sailing gloves for blister protection

**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
- Beer, wine, liquor, or soda in unbreakable containers, (you must be over 21 to consume alcohol during the school).
- 1 or 2 plastic garbage bags & gallon size zip-lock bags for organizing gear

\* These items are available to rent from ARTA and can be reserved when you fill out your on-line registration.

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

PLEASE DO NOT BRING: Valuable jewelry, radios, guns, accordions or any irreplaceable items!

# Oregon Pro Guide Training~ life on the river



## 10 day training course for prospective guides

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#### things that every professional river guide should have

**1. Good footwear.** To guide is to abuse your feet. Get something that works and break them in before you get to the river.  
*Buy it:* Chaco Z-2's, Five-Ten Water Tennies.  
*Wing it:* Old running shoes with wool socks.  
*Skip it:* Anything with velcro straps; crocs.  
*Bonus:* Awesome tan lines!

**2. Good fleece.** A river guide without a fleece is like a Jedi without a tabard. It is hard to have too much (but we all try).  
*Buy it:* Patagonia Micro-D Pullover, Mt. Hardwear Microchill Zip-T  
*Wing it:* Tommy Hilfiger closeout from Ross; thrift store stuff.  
*Skip it:* Cotton.  
*Bonus:* You can wear it around town and know you are legit.

**3. Good hat(s).** Sun protection, rain protection, warmth, cover-up; confidence comes from having something on top.  
*Buy it:* Patagonia Trucker, Peruvian knit  
*Wing it:* The beanie your boyfriend knitted you for your 1st anniversary.  
*Skip it:* Your grandmother's big, floppy sunhat; anything orange.  
*Penalty:* If you have a retainer clip.

**4. Good tent.** Your home on the river. Even the worst possible day is made worse if your tent leaks.  
*Buy it:* Mt. Hardwear Drifter, REI Passage.  
*Wing it:* Your friend's backpacking tent.  
*Skip it:* Anything from Wal-Mart; anything orange.  
*Penalty:* If you can't pitch it by yourself.

**5. Good meshbag.** Wet stuff stinks; wet stuff in a mesh bags stinks less. Bundling everything in your towel is noble, but a disaster.  
*Buy it:* NRS Purest, Diver's Supply Duffel.  
*Wing it:* Mesh laundry bag mom gave you for college; abalone bag.  
*Skip it:* Wheeled carry-on; grocery bag.  
*Bonus:* It makes a bad-ass laundry bag at college (no offense mom).

**6. Good paddling jacket.** You might not use it every day, but just knowing that you have one will make you feel warmer; like a kitten.  
*Buy it:* Kokatat Super Breeze, NRS Stampede.  
*Wing it:* REI or North Face rainshell.  
*Skip it:* Dad's golf windbreaker; poncho.  
*Penalty:* Bringing a kitten instead.

#### A day on the river

Every day is full. Every day is different. You will scout the rapids; you will row the rafts; you will you will make the decisions. We'll teach you about currents and eddies and ferry angles. We'll show you throw bags and nut drivers and truckers' hitches. We'll hold your hand while you get your feet wet and we'll let go when you're ready. We'll have formal lessons each day, impromptu question and answer sessions each evening, and a lot of stories and laughs every night. We'll create some odd-ball scenarios to test our skills and nurture our teamwork. And we do it all in a low-key, no-pressure, fun manner that makes learning easy and enjoyable. Every day our instructors will greet you with a supportive smile and the river will greet you with a new challenge. Every day you'll learn something new and every day you'll do something you've never done before. Every night you'll drift off to sleep with visions of whitewater dancing in your head.

#### How to dress

**On most days** you will be wearing your wetsuit or drysuit plus a thick, synthetic fleece top, (pullovers are best) and a sturdy, fully-waterproof rainshell or paddling jacket. Don't bring a cotton sweatshirt and a windbreaker; cotton is worthless when wet and won't work for on-river insulation and you need something waterproof over your fleece.

**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, an old cotton dress shirt and maybe even lightweight long pants or capris).

**On your feet** you will want shoes that stay on if you go for a swim and are comfortable for hiking. Sport sandals with heel straps (Tevas, Chacos) work well, (buckles are better than velcro). Old running shoes work well and are easy to find. Neoprene, wool or fleece socks will add a bit of insulation. Wetsuit booties work but can be a bit clammy after a full day.

**In camp** you will want practical walking/hiking shoes, (flip-flops or trail running shoes), and versatile clothing, (T-shirts, warm shirts, shorts, jeans or sweats, extra fleece, etc). Cotton is o.k. for camp stuff, but because it is worthless for keeping you warm on the river, many people bring two sets of fleece - one for the river and one for camp.

#### 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). Plastic garbage bags, zip-locks, stuff sacks, and pillow cases are good for keeping track of small and/or wet things inside your bigger dry bag. Tents will be packed in a separate, communal dry bag.

**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 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.

#### How to find it

**Buy it:** Local mountaineering or sporting goods stores should have everything you need. Great selections of river gear are also available on-line through NRS and REI.

**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. Simple.

**Sleep Kits** (polarguard bag, liner, self-inflating pad & tarp) are about \$10 per day.

**Tents** (two-person, free-standing, comfortable) are also about \$10 per day.

**Drysuits** can be rented from Pacific River Supply, 510-223-3675 or [www.pacificriversupply.com](http://www.pacificriversupply.com)