

2021 Wilderness First Aid Training Options

NCAP Standard PS-218

For the summer of 2021, the following adjustments have been implemented for NCAP accredited local council camps and National High Adventure Bases.

Current Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification will continue to be required for all backcountry adventures. As a reminder, a current CPR/AED certification from a nationally recognized agency is a pre-requisite for a WFA course.

BSA has identified the following providers as meeting the BSA's requirements for WFA training: (1) [American Red Cross](#), (2) [Emergency Care & Safety Institute](#), and (3) providers accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA) under the ACA's standard "[HW.2.2/ST.3.2 First Aid & Emergency Care Personnel](#)". These providers include: Aerie Medicine, American Safety & Health Institute, AmeriMed CPR Training, Center for Wilderness Safety, International Wilderness Medicine Educators, Kane School, Longleaf Wilderness Medicine, Med Training Group, National Search and Rescue, NOLS Wilderness Medicine, Remote Medical International, Sierra Rescue, SOLO, Wilderness Medical Associates, Wilderness Medicine of Utah, Wilderness Medical Training Center, Wilderness Medicine Outfitters, Wilderness Safety Council. WFA courses offered by any other provider does not meet the BSA's requirements.

For summer 2021, the BSA has partnered with Emergency Care & Safety Institute (ECSI) to design a blended learning format that combines 8-hours of online learning with 8-hours of in-person skills testing.

In addition, there are several options to satisfy this requirement for backcountry, wilderness and remote programs offered by local councils or national high adventure bases.

The options are listed below:

1. The crew has at least one member with a current certificate of training in WFA.
2. The crew has at least one member who meets the criteria for an extension from the issuing agency. It is incumbent on the individual to research and obtain the extension with the issuing agency.
3. A member of the crew obtains in person training prior to arrival. We anticipate this will become more accessible as states begin to reopen.
4. A crew member completes the ECSI 8-hour online course, followed by the 8-hour skills test (prior to arrival) resulting in a certificate of training.

Additional information for both instructors and students will be available on both the ECSI website <https://www.ecsinstitute.org/scouting> and <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/training/wilderness-fa/>.

Note: *Online-only WFA courses do not meet the WFA requirement. As we review the issue, we suggest you begin working with your council's WFA trainers to develop a plan for classes. Many councils across the country have been able to successfully offer this key training, following COVID-19 protocols in their area.*