



Alpine Skills International (ASI). ASI is an extreme sports school in northern California's Sierra mountains for experienced mountaineers, rock climbers, and backcountry skiers who want to take their sports to the highest level. The school offers ski mountaineering leadership seminars, springtime extreme skiing clinics on the chutes of Mt. Shasta (14,154 feet), climbing instruction on routes with difficulties of up to 5.11, and multipitch climbs on Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the continental U.S. — all taught by world-famous climbers and extreme skiers. Although Alpine Skills offers beginner trips, many courses require advanced skills. Tuition averages \$100 to \$150 a day. Call (916) 426-9108.

National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).

The objective at NOLS is to teach the skills necessary to be a leader in the outdoors. Courses emphasize minimum-impact camping, safety, leadership, and teamwork. There are several categories of course offerings: wilderness courses address a broad range of backcountry skills; water courses are run in a canoe, sea kayak, or sailboat; mountaineering courses focus on technical skills and judgment in the mountains; and semester courses combine elements of the first three in diverse environments. NOLS trips range from 10 days to 3 months and cost around \$90 per day. Classes are offered in the Rockies, the desert Southwest, Baja, Alaska, and the Pacific Northwest. Semester courses are also held in these places, plus Patagonia, Australia, and Kenya. Phone: (307) 332-6973.

Sea Semester.

The agenda at Sea Semester is "to foster knowledge and appreciation of the ocean by providing the opportunity to live, study, and work at sea." There are two main programs: a 12-week, 17-credit semester in the spring and fall in the Caribbean, and an 8-week, 12-credit summer term in Nova Scotia. The first half of each semester is spent on shore, taking three classes — Introduction to Oceanography, Nautical Science, and Maritime Studies — and starting a research project that is completed on board. The second half is spent living on a 130-foot ship. The entire crew serves as the educators, and by the end of the trip the students are running the show, standing watch, working on the engines, cooking, and navigating. Students don't need to be science majors or have any experience on boats. The 12-week semester runs \$12,000. The 8-week program is \$8,465. Call (800) 552-1633.

Pathfinder Wilderness Adventure School.

You don't have to be an NRA member or have a bomb shelter in your backyard to enlist in Pathfinder's survival training course. Pathfinder teaches "the wilderness, pioneering, and survival skills used by the mountain men and Native Americans who once roamed the pristine wilderness in search of food and freedom." These skills include building shelters, starting fires with sticks and stones, finding water, identifying edible and medicinal plants, learning celestial and compass navigation, and stalking animals. Pathfinder is led by Tom Dorsch, an outdoorsman and guide who learned the fine art of survival in the Marines and while working as a special agent for the U.S. Diplomatic Security Services in Baghdad, Beirut, and Panama. His premier course is the Desert Frontiersman, a week-long, \$625 experience in the desert and mountains of southern Arizona and in the Medicine Bow and Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming. Dorsch promises that students "will not be playing frontiersman, they will be living it." Call (608) 586-4440.

Spring Break Courses

NOLS:

Mexico Sea Kayaking — March 23–April 13

Mexico Women's Sea Kayaking — April 6–27

Southwest Rock Climbing — April 5–25

Rocky Mountain Winter Ski — March 5–18

Outward Bound:

Joshua Tree Desert Trekking and Rock Climbing — March 19–26; April 2–9;

Women Only — March 19–26; April 2–9

Florida Boys Sailing — March 18–25; April 2–9; April 15–22

Florida Kayaking — March 18–25; April 1–8

Alpine Skills International:

Ski Extreme — March 10–12

Ski Mountaineering Technique — March 24–26

High Tour Seminar — March 17–19; March 31–April 2

Advanced Telemark — March 10–12

Pathfinder Wilderness Adventure School

Desert Frontiersman — March 27–April 2; April 3–9