What is OLE?

The purpose of Outdoor Leadership Experience is to familiarize participants with the human, outdoor and leadership skills necessary to plan, facilitate, and reduce risks on adventure-based trips. OLE is put on by PSO (Puget Sound Outdoors), and is a required course in order to lead PSO trips. Our hope is to increase the number of student leaders on campus, and to promote the student body’s awareness of the amazing outdoor opportunities in the Pacific Northwest—as well as the social, cultural, physical, mental, and environmental benefits the outdoors provide. After successfully completing OLE, you will be able to plan, organize, and lead a trip with confidence and excitement!

Expectations

**In Class**

1.) Class will meet once per week for up to 2.5 hours
2.) Showing up prepared to every session & contributing to class discussion;
3.) Give and receive thoughtful, constructive feedback as well as reflect on strengths, opportunities for improvement and leadership styles of yourself and others;
4.) Learning and teaching the basics of operating Expy equipment such as a Whisperlite stove, gravity water filter, backpacks, setting up a tarp & using knots, and of calculating tides;
5.) Understanding & discussing group facilitation, group dynamics, teaching & learning styles, protocols, and the importance of community values;
6.) Communicate, cooperate, and plan your day to lead on trail with a co-leader;
7.) Using outside resources to familiarize yourself with the terrain and environment of the Washington coast;
8.) Learning, understanding, and feeling confident with the pre-trip procedure through Puget Sound Outdoors program (i.e. how the heck do you turn a trip idea into an actual trip?).

**On Trail**

1.) Preparing, teaching, and facilitating one Leave No Trace teaching topic to the rest of the group;
2.) Planning and leading one day on trail with a co-leader from wake up time until bedtime. Leaders of the day are responsible for everything on their day—your OLE
leaders are expected to take a step back, and not affect your decision making at all (except in extreme cases). This is an extremely important part of OLE because it allows you to get experience leading on trail before you take a group out on your own.

3.) Participating in and leading daily debriefs about teaching topics, leaders of the day, and general issues, concerns, or joys;

4.) Capacity to care for yourself, your co-leader, and your group in both the physical and emotional sense;

5.) Being present, honest, and open.

**Continued Expectations for Leaders Post-OLE**

1.) Keeping your skills sharp by attending one training in each area per semester:
   a. Outdoor skills
   b. Advanced Leadership and Facilitation
   c. Wilderness Medical refresher

2.) Attending all monthly PSO All Staff and Leader meetings

3.) Leading 2 trips during the fall semester – 1 with a veteran leader and 1 with another new leader

4.) Participating in Fall Semester OLE applications meetings with spring leader group – once per month.
OLE Selection & Schedule Spring 2017

OLE Leader Participant Selection Process:

- Application Available ................................................................................................. 2/12
- Due ............................................................................................................................. 2/26
- Review and Select .................................................................................................... 3/1-3
- Decisions ...................................................................................................................... 3/8
- Commitment & Payment ................................................................. Monday March 20 – Friday March 24

Spring OLE Schedule

- Orientation Leader training for Perspective and Passages Leaders ................................ Sunday March 26
- 1st Week of Class ...................................................................................................... week of April 3
- Servant Leadership .................................................................................................. April 8 or 9 all day for 1 of the days
- 2nd Week of Class .................................................................................................. week of April 10
- 3rd Week of Class .................................................................................................... week of April 17
- Skills Session at Point D ....................................................................................... Sun, April 23
- 4th Week of Class ................................................................................................. week of April 24
- 5th Week of Class .................................................................................................. week of May 1
- OLE Folks Move Housing if necessary ................................................................. Monday 8:00am – 12:00pm May 15
- OLE Final Group meetings ..................................................................................... Monday 1:00pm – 5:00pm May 15
- OLE Protocols Training & Van Driver Training ................................................. Tuesday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Field Course ........................................................................................................... Wednesday – Saturday, May 17-20
- Field Course Cleanup ............................................................................................. 8:00 am – 12:00pm Sunday May 21
- OLE Closure – debrief, evaluation ....................................................................... 1:00pm – 4:00pm Sunday May 21
- OLE formally ends at 4:00pm on Sunday May 21. We suggest that anyone buying plane tickets home aim for 7:00 pm or later on this day at the very earliest.