



What is the Outward Bound Canada Ontario Instructor Course?



This is a tuition-free instructor training program.

The Outward Bound Canada (OBC) Ontario Instructor Course is a 7-day wilderness-based instructor training for first-year staff which runs each year in late-May.

This course is designed for motivated people who want to further develop their skills as outdoor educators. The Instructor Course is an entry point for outdoor educators aspiring to become Outward Bound instructors in Eastern Canada.

There is no cost for participants, and successful participants may be offered work following the course. This training program, coupled with a sincere commitment from participants towards their own personal and professional development, will significantly enhance participants' prospects as instructors, guides, and outdoor educators.

The mission of Outward Bound Canada is:

To cultivate resilience, leadership, connections, and compassion through inspiring and challenging journeys of self-discovery in the natural world.

What will the course cover?

Led by experienced OBC instructors, the Ontario Instructor Course trains and mentors people who are interested in a career working in outdoor experiential programs with an educational, therapeutic, or personal growth focus. As such, it covers three distinct strands of learning essential to all OBC instructors:

- Technical skills - the practical knowledge to responsibly guide others on wilderness travel
- Facilitation skills - the core teaching, communication, and processing skills required to guide someone on a profound inner journey
- Personal development - the personal qualities that are the foundation upon which our other skills rest

The 7-day training is designed to introduce new instructors to Outward Bound philosophy, curriculum, and pedagogy. The expedition models a classic Outward Bound course. It is hands-on, largely based in the field.

The expedition is flanked with opportunities to receive discounts on certification or re-certification in Wilderness First Responder (WFR), Swiftwater Rescue Technician (SRT), and Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Cross.

Following the expedition and certification offerings, selected participants will join the Ontario Wilderness Staff Training at the end of June in preparation for paid employment as Assistant Instructors during the summer and fall season. Assistant Instructors are requested to commit to a full season of employment (May – October), with the potential for future employment in subsequent seasons. There is some flexibility if you are returning to school in the fall.



IMPORTANT: The Ontario Instructor Course is a professional development experience. If you are looking for a course that focuses on clarifying your life purpose and direction, we recommend Outward Bound's Life Compass program. If the Ontario Instructor Course is not the best fit for your professional development plan, we encourage you to consider our Instructor Development Program in the Canadian Rockies, which is designed for participants with no professional outdoor experience, who may need more time before they are prepared to work as instructors. Successful participants in the Rockies program may be offered an internship and a path to instructing in future.

The OBC Ontario Instructor Course includes:

- Instruction and mentorship;
- Group equipment*
- Food while on course
- Accommodation while on course
- Transportation while on course
- Reduced costs for certification courses
- Backcountry permits

*Group equipment does not include the following personal equipment, which participants must provide for themselves:

- Clothing
- PFD
- Canoe paddle
- Sleeping bag and sleeping pad
- Canoe pack (large backpack or waterproof barrel with a harness is ok)
- Tent

Meals and accommodation during skills certification courses are not included.

The program begins and ends in Katrine, Ontario.

HOW TO APPLY:

Complete the online application form: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form?EQBCT=8ef15d78cef64aaa9a100ec4a6eb5eba>

1. The form will require you to attach a current CV.
2. Please also attach a cover letter that describes your personal goals and rationale for taking the program. Indicate clearly on your application letter why you wish to be considered for the training program and why you are a good candidate.
3. Provide a complete expedition log that indicates your role on the trip (personal, student, assistant, leader, etc.), route, duration, date, and any other information you feel is important.
4. Indicate if you are legally eligible to work in Canada.
5. Confirm your availability from May – October.

SPACES ARE LIMITED!