

# Wilderness Stewardship Certificate Program

## Fundamentals of Wilderness Stewardship Certificate



The Wilderness Stewardship Certificate Program (WSCP) is a professional development program that builds credentials and increases capacity in individuals, agencies, and organizations working with America's National Wilderness Preservation System. The online WSCP is a self-paced learning experience, supported by expert mentors, and based on best practices from the field.

The WSCP was developed to:

- provide proactive and strategic succession management and personal growth opportunities for youth aspiring to work in wilderness and backcountry areas
- advance wilderness stewardship as a profession through continuing professional development
- create a community of practice among wilderness professionals by accelerating the spread of ideas, encouraging innovation, and providing a forum for peer-to-peer collaboration across land management agencies

A new certificate, *Fundamentals of Wilderness Stewardship*, is now available as part of the WSCP for wilderness managers, stewards, researchers, volunteers, backcountry guides, students, and those interested in working in wilderness areas.

The certificate in the *Fundamentals of Wilderness Stewardship* requires successful completion of four e-courses, their related assignments, and a final capstone assignment. A mentor is matched with each student and stays in communication with the student through their completion of the certificate. The mentor works with the student to plan the course of study and to provide feedback, to discuss course materials and assignments, makes the work relevant to their responsibilities in wilderness or to wilderness areas with which they may be familiar, and to offer support and encouragement. The four online courses (and selected learning objectives) in this certificate are:

- The Wilderness Act of 1964— Explore the history and philosophy of wilderness law and policy in the United States, and identify wilderness character, prohibited uses, and special uses of wilderness.
- Deciding to Keep Wilderness Wild: Four Cornerstones for Wilderness Management — Identify and describe wildness, natural conditions, wilderness benefits, minimum necessary management activity, and wilderness as a composite resource.
- Writing a Minimum Requirements Analysis — Understand the process used for determining whether management action is necessary and the minimum activity needed to achieve management objectives in wilderness.
- Wilderness Stewardship Planning Framework — Identify and describe the eight components of successful and effective stewardship planning in wilderness.

Each course takes four hours or more to complete online, depending on prior knowledge and past exposure to the subjects included, and it may be done over multiple sessions, as the student's time allows. Each course requires completion of a written assignment. A final portfolio of the four courses is required as a capstone experience and is supported by and discussed with your mentor. The certificate program is designed to fit into the busy schedules of professionals, volunteers, and students. Typically, the program takes four months to complete, with frequent interactions between student and mentor.

For more information or to enroll, go to: [wscp.eppley.org](http://wscp.eppley.org) and begin your certificate experience.

The WSCP certificates are a collaborative project between the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, and the Society for Wilderness Stewardship.

