



SW COLORADO GUIDE SCHOOL

May 8 - May 24, 2024

**This is a sample course itinerary and can change due to water levels and group dynamics.*

UNIT 1: NAVIGATING THE RIVER (IN A RAFT AND OUT)

5/8 Day 1: Shop Familiarization, Basic River Navigation, Hand Signals, Cold Water Submersion, Self Defense Whitewater Swimming

8:00 Meet at Boat Barn (50 Animas View Dr. Durango, Co 81301)

8:30 Familiarization of shop

9:15 Cold water submersions, videos and talk

10:30 Let's go rafting

11:00 Swim time!

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Back in and on the Animas

5:00 Done for the day

5/9 Day 2: Rowing Form (mind those oars), Paddle commands, Spacing, Scouting - (Bring Lunch)

8:00 Meet at the Boat Barn

9:00 Depart for

9:45 Launch Oxbow

10:30 Scout Smelter

11:00 Basin Creek Eddie

12:30 Lunch

4:00 Take out Cedar Hill

5:00 De/rig and Debrief back at Boat Barn.

5/10 Day 3: Rigging and Maneuvering the Vessel, Ferry Angles, Setting up Camp (Bring Lunch)

**We will be camping on this day*

7:00 Meet at BB

7:45 Depart

9:45 Rig Boats.

1:00 Lunch at west fork, Classroom talks

3:00 Take out Town Park

5:00 Arrive Beaver camp.

5/11 Day 4: Loading, River Games.

**We will be camping on this day*

7:00 Breakfast and Rig Boats

9:30 Launch boats (Hanging Flume section)

11:30 Lunch

12:00 More boating

3:00 Take out Pinion Bridge Return to Beaver camp

UNIT 2: ADVANCE RIVER NAVIGATION

5/12 Day 5: Defensive Boating - Angles (you working the river or is the river working you?), Keeping people in the boat (bump, all-in, high-side), Maneuvering in fast moving water

**We will be camping on this day*

9:00 Launch at CDOT – Wow this river is fast!

12:00 Lunch at Caddis

12:45 Back on the water

3:00 Take out Pinion

5:00 Is the camp NPS compliant?

5/13 Day 6: Defensive Boating Cont... Crabbing, Catching tough eddies

9:00 Launch at CDOT – Wow this river is fast!

12:00 Lunch at Caddis

4:00 Take off at Lower Beaver (Phew, made it) Drive to Durango

5/14 Day 7: Rest day

5/15 Day 8: Ferry Ferry Ferry!

8:30 Meet at Boat Barn

9:00 ½ Day Animas

12:30 Lunch

1:30 2 hr Animas

3:30 2 hr Animas

6:00 Done for the Day

5/16 Day 9: Paddle Boating - Paddle Commands (Keep them Clear and Decisive), J-strokes

8:30 Meet at Boat Barn

9:00 ½ Day Animas

12:30 Lunch

1:30 2 hr Animas

3:30 2 hr Animas

6:00 Done for the Day

5/17 Day 10: Paddle Boating - Catch Eddys (in the top, out the top, make the raft stick!), More Ferry's

8:30 Meet at Boat Barn

9:00 1/2 day

12:30 Lunch

1:30 2 hr Animas

3:30 2 hr Animas

UNIT 3: RIVER RESCUE

5/18 Day 11: Risk Management, Whitewater Rescue and Safety

8:30 Meet at Boat Barn
8:30 Launch Oxbow
9:30 29th st swim and throw bag practice
11:00 lunch
12:00 Back on the water at 29th
3:30 Take out Brits
4:30 Debrief

5/19 Day 12: Flip Training - how to clean up your mess!

8:30 Meet at Boat Barn
9:00 ½ Day Lower Animas
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Afternoon of Smelter laps!
5:00 Debrief

5/20 Day 13: Rest day

UNIT 4: COMMERCIAL GUIDING

5/21 Day 14: Putting it all together! How to run a commercial trip!? Big Day of Laps

10:00 Meet at Boat Barn
8:30 ½ Day Animas
12:30 Lunch
1:30 2 hr Animas
3:30 2 hr Animas
6:00 Done for the Day

5/22 Day 15: Do Some More Laps! - quick on and off the beach, don't forget your speeches

8:00 Meet at Boat Barn
8:30 Lap 9th- SR X 10
12:30 Lunch
1:30 More laps
4:00 Dry out!

5/23 Day 16: Can you paddle Guide class III? Do some more laps! Practice makes better.

10:00 Meet at Boat Barn
8:30 ½ Day Animas
12:30 Lunch
1:30 2 hr Animas
3:30 2 hr Animas
6:00 Done for the Day

5/24 Day 17: Focus on the Customer, What makes a complete guide!? (professionalism, safety, interp).

10:00 Meet at Boat Barn

8:30 ½ Day Animas

12:30 Lunch

1:30 2 hr Animas

3:00 2 hr Animas

3:30 Celebration course d-brief.

4:00 Meet with Supervisors plan Check out trips **(it is critical that your logs get completed with all 3 signatures and turned in after the check out trip.)**

Total Class Miles: 306

Total Hours: 100 plus.

Congratulations! You are a certified Class III guide in the States of Colorado & Utah!

*Participants will be learning and performing a variety of swift water skills including swimming of up to class 3 rapids throughout the course. Swims will begin with easier whitewater and progress upwards. Rope techniques will include Throw bags, Z-drags, Vector pulls and bow stern compression techniques.

*Participants will have an opportunity to attend a CPR/First Aid Course and receive certification. The certification fees are not included in the price of the course.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING LIST:

- ☐ Nylon shorts/swimsuits for under wetsuits
- ☐ Polypro/wool or similar long underwear
- ☐ Fleece jacket (rentals available)
- ☐ Wetsuit & booties (rentals available)
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Hat and sunglasses
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Fleece or wool socks
- ☐ Sleep Kit Bag, Pad, and Tent.
- ☐ Two locking Carabiners and 9 ft piece of Tubular webbing
- ☐ Rain Gear