



# IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School

## 9-Day Alaska Multi-Sport

### Youth Leadership Course Information



#### Course Location

IWLS is based in Haines, Alaska, a small town located near the top of the Inside Passage. Haines borders Glacier Bay National Park. The park and the adjacent 27 million acres, including Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, comprise the largest protected wilderness area in the world. It is an extremely jagged and glaciated mountain landscape that includes the world's largest non-polar ice caps, pristine fjords, and wilderness rivers. Peak elevations in this region range up to 20,000 feet.

At 59 degrees latitude, summer days in Haines have over 20 hours of daylight. The long days make for great alpine starts, late night wildlife viewings, and account for the remarkable vegetative growth that is the basis for Alaska's thriving ecosystem. Haines is situated at the northern end of the Tongass National Forest, the largest temperate rainforest in the world.

The terrain surrounding Haines, Alaska is unique in North America, and offers world class climbing, sea kayaking, and rafting. The IWLS expedition center in Haines is an outstanding gateway for accessing this unparalleled wilderness area.

#### Course Goals

- Participants will experience a variety of outdoor activities and learn technical skills in backpacking, kayaking, rafting and more.
- Students will be able to use and teach state-of-the art minimum-impact camping and travel techniques to move a group through various types of terrain with minimum impact.
- They will be able to recognize their own leadership abilities and limitations within the context of a group. Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to make decisions and lead small groups in a wilderness environment.

#### Course Itinerary

*This is a flexible trip itinerary that shows the general progression of the trip.*

**Day 0:** As students arrive into Haines, we will meet everyone at the airport and/or ferry terminal. After dinner we will have a pre-course meeting with the whole group where we talk about expectations, the structure of the course, and go over everyone's gear to make sure they have what they need.

Experts in **Technical Instruction**  
and **Outdoor Leadership Training**

1-800-985-4957

[www.iwls.com](http://www.iwls.com)

A Division of Alaska Mountain Guides & Climbing School Inc.





# IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School



### **Day 1-3: Sea Kayaking**

We pack up our kayaks and hit the ocean. We will spend time going over paddling technique and technical kayaking skills. We will spend the next few days exploring the coves, pristine waters, and coastal trails around the Haines Peninsula. The area is full of vibrant flora and fauna - students often spot otters, seals, porpoises, eagles, and whales from the kayaks! We will enjoy evenings at the coastal campsites and campfires in the intertidal zone (weather permitting!). The group will return to base camp on the third day to gear up for the next adventure!

### **Day 4: Whitewater Rafting**

We will drive north into Canada for some whitewater rafting on the Blanchard River. After donning wetsuits and life jackets, our experienced guides will provide instruction on paddling and river safety. After a safety briefing, we will get on the river for a day of adventure! The Blanchard River starts with a series of gentle drops that give paddlers time to practice before the Blanchard converges with the Tatshenshini River. The latter half of the river offers fun rapids and wave trains. At the end of the day, we will return to the base camp in Haines.

### **Day 5-9: Backpacking**

We will leave base camp in the morning bound for the alpine tundra of Canada! The backpacking along the Chuck Creek Trail affords scouts opportunities to take in the breathtaking scenery. Tall mountains and a vast glacial landscape set the backdrop as we trek through gravelly riverbeds, tundra, and wildflowers. We may hike up nearby peaks that offer great scenic vistas. The group will return to town by 3:00 PM on the final day. We can drop off students to their parents (if parents did not join us for the adventure) anywhere in Haines – lodging, ferry terminal, or airport. Students and their families can plan on departing Haines on Day 9 — departure time should not be scheduled prior to 5:00 PM on the final day of the trip.



Experts in **Technical Instruction**  
and **Outdoor Leadership Training**

1-800-985-4957

[www.iwls.com](http://www.iwls.com)

A Division of Alaska Mountain Guides & Climbing School Inc.

