



## 2018 Outdoor and Wilderness Leadership Skills Program (OWLS)



Do you love exploring the outdoors? Do you want to learn skills that will make you a better outdoorsperson? Are you interested in a career in science, resource management, or guiding? Then WISE's new summer teen program OWLS is right for you! We are looking for high school students who want to learn a variety of skills to help them succeed as future leaders in the backcountry. If you're looking for an engaging, meaningful program this summer, OWLS is for you!



### Students will learn:

- Leadership Styles
- Navigation
- Conflict Resolution
- Leave No Trace Principles
- Backcountry Nutrition
- Risk Management
- ...and much more!

### Highlights of the OWLS program:

- **4 Day Introductory Expedition:** June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 we will backpack to Caribou Creek Cabin in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to learn practical technical, interpersonal, and leadership skills.
- **Self-Designed Learning Experiences:** The middle portion of the summer is time for OWLS students follow their passions! They can job shadow a professional in a career that interests them, assist on WISE programs to gain work experience, and design their own mini- expedition using all the planning techniques we will learn on the Introductory Hike
- **Student Led Final Expedition:** Just before school starts in August, OWLS students will collaborate as a leadership team to plan a 3-4 day expedition of their choice. OWLS students will plan the location, logistics, means of travel, the meal plan, and prepare gear just like they would for any professional expedition.
- **Earn .5 Credit!** OWLS has been approved by Copper River School District for students to earn a .5 credit for College and Career Ready or Elective requirements.



### What kind of career could this program lead me to?

OWLS is intended to prepare students to be environmental stewards in a variety of fields, such being an adventure guide, a park interpreter, a land surveyor, a wildlife biologist, an environmental scientist, and so much more! We will work with each student to set up job shadowing opportunities in the fields they are interested in.

### Can I participate in OWLS and still have a job and/or travel this summer?

We will have two required expedition dates, the Introductory Expedition and the Final Expedition (both are about 4 days in length), but the rest of the summer will be planned by each student to fit their schedule and interests. You will choose when you assist with WISE programs, when/where you job shadow, and plan your own mini expeditions when your schedule allows.



**Questions?** Call the WISE Office: 822-3575 or email [robin@wise-edu.org](mailto:robin@wise-edu.org)

Send in Application by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Program cost \$300 (Scholarships are available)

### Can I participate in OWLS and the Copper River Stewardship Program in the same summer?

Yes! The dates will not conflict with each other so highly motivated students can participate in both programs. OWLS is focused on wilderness skills and job readiness, while the Copper River Stewardship Program concentrates on ecology, watershed-wide issues, and communication skills.

## Applicant Selection Criteria:

**Ten spaces in the program will be filled on a first-come first served basis! You must qualify based on the following criteria, and turn in all fees and paperwork to reserve your place.**

- This program is intended for youth who are residents of or have significant ties to the Copper River Valley
- Open to students entering 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2018
- Have an interest in careers related to the outdoors industry, environmental science, etc.
- Willingness to participate in both mandatory expeditions
- Are self-motivated and willing to continue experiences on their own during the summer while documenting all experiences (such as job shadowing, assisting WISE programs, personal expeditions, etc.)
- Bring all required gear (loaner gear available on request)
- Be willing to follow safety and behavior guidelines as set forth by program organizers and guides
- Be physically able to camp, hike, and carry personal and group gear
- Ability to work as a team with fellow participants
- Take part in all planning and execution of the final expedition with other participants
- Provide \$300.00 program fee (Scholarships available, include a scholarship request with inquiry)
- Turn in signed liability, medical information, and other pre-trip forms (We will send them when we receive your application)



Application due **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

Application for Participation in the 2018  
Outdoor and Wilderness  
Leadership Skills Program (OWLS)

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age and Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

School attended and current grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (other) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to request a scholarship in order to participate in this program? \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain your need for a scholarship on the back of this application.

By signing below, I am verifying that I meet the applicant criteria to apply to the 2018 Outdoor and Wilderness Leadership Skills program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Printed Name

Mail Application to: WISE HC 60 Box 338A Copper Center, AK 99573

Or Email to: [Contact@wise-edu.org](mailto:Contact@wise-edu.org) For more information [www.wise-edu.org](http://www.wise-edu.org) (907) 822-3575