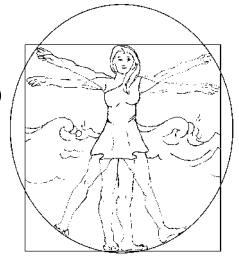


the Wilderness Medicine Training Center

www.WildMedCenter.com



About WMTC Certification & Completion Cards

Completion versus Certification

The technical difference between the “completion” and “certification” is that a certification course has a written and practical exam while a completion course does not. Many of the large first aid organizations use the term completion loosely (e.g.: Red Cross, AHA, National Safety Council); they give completion cards yet, depending on the course, have both practical and written exams. It also works in reverse. The term completion or certification has little (in most cases nothing) to do with whether a given organization *accepts* the training for in house hiring, state licensing, insurance, Department of Labor & Industries, etc.

Because of the short length of our two and three day Wilderness First Aid courses we offer completion cards rather than certification; there is simply not enough time for testing. To receive a WFA completion card students **MUST** be present and engaged for the entire course; there is no formal testing. We offer certification for our Wilderness Advanced First Aid, our Wilderness First Responder, and Wilderness EMT courses; these courses include formal written and practical tests.

Acceptance of WMTC Training

Because there are no national standards for courses in Wilderness Medicine beyond what the Wilderness Medical Society publishes on their website for Wilderness First Responder, knowing if your certification is approved by a specific organization can be confusing. The best way to find out if the course you want to take is accepted by your organization/licensing office is to check with your organization/licensing office **BEFORE** signing up for a course.

Acceptance of our two and three day Wilderness First Aid courses and our Wilderness Advanced First Aid course is usually based on equivalency to Red Cross courses as these courses pre-date wilderness medicine and set the standard for First Aid courses. Equivalency tends to focus on a minimum number of class hours and, often to a lesser extent, content. Since all our Wilderness First Aid courses exceed these requirements there is rarely an acceptance problem. The American Camping Association (ACA) — the largest organization responsible for accrediting camps in the United States — goes beyond equivalency and has accepted both our WFA courses when EMS is more than one hour away. For a list of first aid providers approved by the ACA please visit <http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/firstaidcpr.php> Both our WFA courses are also accepted by the Boy Scouts of America (including Philmont Scout Ranch). Our Wilderness First Responder course exceeds the Wilderness Medical Society standards and is accepted by Outward Bound, the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), the US Coast Guard, and most Federal and State licensing agencies; these organizations also accept our WEMT certification.

Please note that standards of practice differ between urban and wilderness settings (see the Practice Guidelines published by the Wilderness Medical Society). Skills taught and practiced in a wilderness environment should be approved by your organization’s physician adviser (or medical control): stopping CPR, ruling out spine injuries in the field, use of injectable epinephrine, wound cleaning, reducing dislocations, etc.

Additional Information

Some states require camps to be certified and have their own equivalency standards/process. This usually requires the provider to submit evidence that their courses meet the state standards and are reviewed by a state appointed board/person. And, not surprisingly, different states tend to have different standards. In a similar manner,

different organizations may have minimum standards for first aid training. If there is a concern, WMTC can contact the sponsoring organization and supply the information they need to make an equivalency determination.