

Admissions Handbook

Dear Student and Family,

Welcome! We are so excited to have you on board. Your upcoming Outward Bound course is an incredible opportunity to learn new skills, take on challenges with new friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

It is our mission to help you realize your potential and get the most from the challenges within your experience. By signing up for a HIOBS course, your journey has already begun.

During your course you will have the opportunity to stretch your pre-conceived limits, discover new internal motivation to seek and meet challenges, connect with the beauty of nature, learn the power of teamwork and practice compassion. Our courses are physically and mentally challenging, laying the groundwork for self-confidence and discovery to improve or replace old patterns within yourself. Compassion, leadership and service are all integral components of your Outward Bound experience.

Now is the time to begin to prepare yourself mentally and physically for this remarkable, often life-changing, opportunity.

You must submit all requested enrollment forms within the timeline we provide in your Student Portal...you may be asked for additional medical or other documentation as part of this process. Please respond quickly and efficiently so we can work you through to approval so you can book travel!

Please create a plan to stay on top of pre-trip arrangements - including submitting your enrollment forms in a timely fashion, organizing your payment plan with our finance department (including 529's, scholarships or financial aid arrangements), arranging travel, purchasing trip insurance from a third party – as well as preparing physically and mentally for course.

If you do not already exercise regularly, start a plan NOW to get in shape. You can use the 8-week fitness plan we outline in our Physical Fitness and Preparedness document to help you get ready. Check out your course page for that and other helpful information! You will also receive weekly emails from us to help you prepare.

The following pages in this document contain important admission, participation and cancellation policies, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. It is important that you review these before proceeding further with your admissions process.

Please do not hesitate to call or email your Course Advisor with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,
Your Admissions Department

There is more to us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps for the rest of our lives, we will be unwilling to settle for less. –

Kurt Hahn (Founder of Outward Bound 1886-1974)

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The Application Process

Please note that in your Welcome Email, there are links to your Course Page at the HIOBS website, which is classified by your COURSE NUMBER (e.g. HWYS-241). Every HIOBS course has its own Course Page on www.hiobs.org with all the relevant documents you need access to. Please refer to your Student Portal for which documents your Course Advisor has requested you to complete. If there are people in your family for whom English is a second language, you can translate the Course Page using a browser add-on (for a review of add-ons, [click here](#)).

At the very minimum, we will need you to complete and return the following:

- Online medical form,
- Online Liability Release
- Online Student Orientation & Questionnaire
- Online Parent Orientation & Questionnaire (not required for our Adult courses)

Other documents your Course Advisor may request you complete could include questionnaires regarding a particular condition you have, or a form to send to your doctor to complete. Our goal is for every student to have a successful course. By clearly explaining all physical, emotional or behavioral conditions with us on the medical record, you help us assist you in choosing and preparing for the course that is right for you. Failure to provide accurate and complete information could compromise safety and course quality for yourself or your child, and other students.

To hold your space on course, these must be returned to us within the timeline indicated in your Student Portal. If it is fewer than 60 days to course start, you will need to return them within 5 days (or possibly less).

After we receive all of your forms, there may be additional follow-up, and your efficient participation in the process is appreciated. If you have a condition that we cannot accommodate safely on a remote, wilderness expedition, we will be unable to clear you (see Medical Screening and Accurate Information, p.4 and our Essential Eligibility Criteria). Our goal is to complete your enrollment as quickly as possible; and, so, the more information we have and the more promptly we receive it, the more we can work with you in a timely fashion.

As part of the Application Review process we may request a Pre-Course Call with the student, parent or both to gather or review information. You can always request a pre-course call from your Course Advisor if you have questions or concerns. Students enrolling on a semester course will be required to participate in a more in-depth interview prior to being cleared to participate.

On your Course Page, you will find a lot of information about your course that will help you to prepare and plan ahead, such as:

- Course Overview
- Clothing and Equipment Recommendations and Packing List
- Travel Details

Please note: we do not recommend you book travel until you are notified that you are cleared for participation. If you do decide to book travel before you are cleared for participation, we highly recommend you purchase trip insurance in case you are not cleared, or the course is cancelled (see Low Enrollment Course Cancellation).

***If you enroll within 90 days of course, all of our policies still apply, so it is very important that you understand the admissions, cancellation and transfer policies as outlined.

Admissions Policies

Your Deposit

Outward Bound requires a \$500 deposit, submitted with a completed enrollment (often an online enrollment) to reserve your space on course. The \$500 deposit is applied toward the total cost of tuition for the course, and includes a \$150 non-refundable enrollment processing fee. In most cases the \$500 deposit is not refundable within 90 days of course start.

Deposit Refund Policy

The deposit includes a \$150 non-refundable enrollment processing fee and the remaining \$350 is refundable if you cancel your

enrollment more than 90 days before course start date. The following policies also apply:

- In the event that you are on the waitlist and a spot does not open up, Outward Bound will retain the \$150 non-refundable enrollment processing fee and refund \$350 of the deposit;
- If the course is cancelled by Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, we will either offer you a different course that fits your schedule, and transfer you – or refund you the full \$500.
- If you apply for financial aid, and then must cancel because you are still unable to attend the course due to insufficient funds, we will refund the full \$500.
- In the event that you are not cleared to participate on the course, Outward Bound will retain the \$150 non-refundable enrollment processing fee and refund \$350 of the deposit.
- If you cancel less than 90 days before course start, Outward Bound will retain the full \$500 deposit (see below for further cancellation policies regarding the balance of tuition closer to course start).
- If you are more than 30 days past due on paying the balance of your course tuition, Outward Bound will cancel your enrollment and retain the full deposit.

Please note: full payment for a course is due 90 days before course start – no matter where you are in the Admissions process. After that due date, we cannot guarantee your spot on the course without having received all of your paperwork, and the full tuition payment. We are happy to arrange payment plans, we accept 529 plans through third parties, and have financial aid available so please let us know if you have specific financial constraints.

Tuition

Tuition covers the cost of provided food, instructors, permits, gear and equipment. Not included in this cost are personal expenses such as clothing, insurance (health and course), airfare and baggage fees.

Inactive Status

If your paperwork and/or payment is not received by the due date noted in your WELCOME EMAIL and STUDENT PORTAL, this may be considered a cancellation due to inactive status and you will lose your position on the course as well as the \$500 deposit. To avoid cancellation due to an inactive status, get your paperwork in quickly or contact your Course Advisor to discuss a possible extension.

Medical Screening and Accurate Information

Our powerful learning experiences start with a diverse group of individuals forming a team in a wild, natural setting. Our Admissions Department conducts individual assessments of each applicant's motivation, physical, mental and emotional readiness. The goal of the process is to use the information that is provided to us to determine whether the applicant is able to participate in and complete their selected course. Please see our Essential Eligibility Criteria document for more information. Because of the intense and rigorous nature of the courses and the remote course environments, Outward Bound is not an appropriate choice for all applicants. Applicants who do not meet our criteria may be screened off, asked to consider a different course type, or one at a later date.

Failure to provide accurate complete information could compromise your or other participant's safety and course quality. Our goal is for every student to have a successful course. By sharing all physical, emotional, or behavioral conditions we can help you choose the course that will provide you with the highest chance for success. Additionally, undisclosed conditions that result in early departure are not eligible for a refund (see Early Departures section).

Please report any new injuries, illnesses, new medications or changes to your prescription to the Admissions Department as soon as they happen. If you arrive on course with an unreported medical condition, other diagnosis, or if you have changed the type or amount of medications since submitting your application without informing the Admissions Department you may be dismissed from course.

Course Transfers

You may transfer from your initial course to another, but such transfers may incur an additional cost. There is no transfer penalty 60 or more days from the course start date for the first transfer. A \$100 Transfer Fee will apply to subsequent transfers within 60 days from the course start date, and you will forfeit 50% of your payment. Outward Bound will not issue a refund for any transfers fewer than 30 days from the course start date.

Waitlists

To be enrolled on the waitlist for a course, we require the \$500 deposit and your completed paperwork. If a spot opens up on course, we will assign it to the first applicant who completed the paperwork and showed commitment to attending the course, not to the applicant who enrolled first. You will be notified right away when you are moved off the waitlist. Once you have moved off the waitlist the normal cancellation policies will be in effect.

If you request to be taken off the waitlist, or if a spot does not open up, we will refund \$350 of your deposit (there is a \$150 non-refundable fee). Waitlist spots sometimes become available as close as 5 days before course!

It is very important that you communicate with your Course Advisor and keep them updated if your plans change!

Low Enrollment Course Cancellation

In cases of low enrollment, we may need to cancel a course, and in this situation we will offer you the opportunity to transfer to another course or cancel your enrollment. We will advise applicants of their course cancellation no later than two weeks prior to the course start date (usually longer) or 30 days prior to an international or semester course start. Should we cancel your course, all payments are refundable or transferable to another course/school. HIOBS is not responsible for any other expenses including travel, insurances, lodging or clothing/gear and we will not "clear you to book travel" until we have our minimum number of enrollments. We define "firm" applicants as those who are fully paid and have been cleared to participate. Once we achieve these requirements, your Course Advisor will notify all "firm" applicants by email, phone or both. We work diligently to confirm courses as early as possible. However, some courses may enroll slowly, which may delay this process.

Cancellation, Course Transfers and Early Departure Policies

If you cancel for any reason (including, but not limited to cancellations due to schedule changes, lack of motivation, summer school, work conflicts, unreported pre-existing conditions) fewer than 90 days from the course start date (regardless of your enrollment date), the cancellation penalties listed below will apply to the full published tuition. The penalty is not based on the amount paid to date but the amount due on the day you cancel relative to the course start date. See table for penalty matrix. **If you purchase third-party Trip Insurance, you may be eligible for reimbursement through those plans.**

Cancellation Penalties

Time to Course Start:	>90 days	89-75 days	74-60 days	59-45 days	44-0 days
Forfeiture:	We retain the \$150 application fee	We retain the \$500 deposit	We retain \$500 deposit and 25% of course tuition	We retain \$500 deposit and 50% of course tuition	We retain 100% of course tuition

No-Shows

If a student does not intend to or is not able to show up for course start on the day, it is vital that you let us know that immediately. If there is a delay in travel, we can often work around it, but if the student is not intending to be on course at all we will possibly need to make course and crew adjustments. There is no refund in this situation.

Early Departures

We strive to support and encourage students to successfully complete their course. Our instructors are experienced in helping students push past doubt and actively try to solve any issues that seem to be preventing them from fully engaging. If a student is exhibiting these behaviors on course, instructors typically start by working with the student individually, then contacting the base camp for additional resources or calling a parent, then, if the problems persist, removing the students from the course.

If a student is determined to leave the course or is not willing to fully participate and follow instructions, then for their personal safety and the safety of the group, we simply cannot and will not make them stay. Parents will be contacted to arrange for their child's travel home. There is no refund in this situation.

Expulsion will result if we determine that a student is:

- Unwilling or unmotivated to participate in course activities;
- Unable or unwilling to adapt to the physical and interpersonal rigors of the expedition;

If you have any questions, please call your Course Advisor at 855-802-0307

- Posing a danger to self or others through misconduct or unsafe practices;
- Defiant, harassing, or otherwise compromising the emotional or physical safety of others;
- Using alcohol, drugs (including misuse of prescription drugs) or tobacco; or
- Engaging in sexual activity

Trip Insurance

Airfare, related travel costs, and non-refundable tuition payments are expensive. Insurance to protect your trip and course is not required but strongly recommended. If you choose not to purchase insurance and cancel your course or leave your course early you will be held to the terms of the Cancellation Policy (See above).

Outward Bound offers an option for insuring these costs from the third-party provider InsureMyTrip through its Academic Explorer Program. This program has coverage options that include your travel costs and the non-refundable tuition costs. A link to that program's insurance coverage options is below. Alternatively, you may choose to purchase trip related insurance through a different insurance provider. In either case, the amount and type of coverage you choose is your responsibility and must be discussed directly with the provider.

[Learn more about INSUREMYTRIP here](#)

Emergency Evacuation Insurance

You may also want to consider insurance for the cost of Emergency Evacuation. Health insurance often does not cover the cost of emergency evacuation by air or other means and these costs can be very expensive. HIOBS will not be financially responsible for these costs in the event that your student requires evacuation.

The Academic Explorer Program offered through InsureMyTrip does not offer coverage for emergency evacuation. You will need to purchase that coverage from a different insurance provider.

Outward Bound makes no representations or warranties about these insurance options or how they handle claims.

General Course Information

Electronics

All electronic devices (including cell phones, music players, computers and navigation devices) will be stored in a safe location at the base, and are not permitted on course.

Medications

All prescription medications must be approved by the Admissions Department prior to your course. There is often additional paperwork required from your health care professional and we will address this in the medical screening process. On courses for 13-17 year olds, medication is overseen by the instructors. Prescription medications must be in their original containers, and necessary OTC medications in original, unopened containers. We recommend bringing backup doses in separate containers for those medications that are required to prevent serious consequences. For safety, please pack back-up essential medications in carry-on luggage. If there are ANY CHANGES in medication you MUST inform your Course Advisor.

Emergency Notification

If there is an emergency at home and it is necessary to contact a student, please call 855-802-0307. During office hours (Monday - Friday 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time), you will reach our Camden office. After hours, call 855-802-0307, then follow the prompts for emergencies. This line forwards automatically to the on-call cell phone where you should leave a message with your contact details, the course number, name of student and brief synopsis of the reason for your call. The on-call person will return your call ASAP.

Daily Life

A Typical Day

A typical day usually begins with getting up early, making breakfast, taking down shelters, planning the route and then traveling most of the day, stopping occasionally for breaks, lunch and lessons along the way. Once you reach that day's destination, group members divide and conquer to get dinner cooked and shelters set up. After dinner you may meet to discuss the next day's plans, or to discuss leadership and teamwork methods before crawling into your sleeping bag for a well-deserved rest. What do we do on days when it rains? It's the same, with raingear on.

Camp Chores

Because this is an experiential course and not a guided trip, all group members will pitch in to do all camp chores, including cooking, washing pots, setting up tents and organizing food and equipment. You'll find that as the expedition progresses, your mastery of these camp craft skills will enable you to operate more efficiently and effectively around camp. Students participate in cleaning and repairing equipment at course end, readying it for use by the next group.

Group Living

Working and living within a small group is an opportunity to make lifelong friends and create memories that will last a lifetime. It is also often a source of friction and challenge. You may feel frustration or annoyance with your teammates at times as your group attempts to set and meet your goals and make decisions big and small. Our students are diverse in their backgrounds and previous experience, and everyone reacts to challenges differently. It is essential to come ready to work as a team, be inclusive, offer help to others, and ask for it when you need it! All courses are co-ed unless otherwise published, but there is no guarantee that a course will attract a mixed gender group.

Hygiene

Though showering and washing hair are typically not options during course, groups carry soap with them, and hand washing is a regular routine. Students may bring sanitary wipes for personal use. Each course environment has its own appropriate hygiene practices, and the instructors will explain these at the beginning of your course. Every course environment has different techniques and environmentally appropriate practices for going to the bathroom. You will learn how to dispose of human waste in latrines, cat holes and other wilderness-area specific methods.

Food

All students take turns preparing hot, tasty meals, initially with coaching from the instructors. The foods are mainly vegetarian, consisting of grains, pasta, nuts, beans, fruit and cereals. A typical breakfast might be granola or oatmeal; lunch could include tortillas and cheese, or peanut butter and jam on crackers; dinner might be macaroni and cheese or beans and rice. We are able to accommodate some dietary requirements and restrictions, and these are reviewed on a case-by-case basis - so please let your course advisor know well in advance. All students must be prepared to eat what's available to maintain their energy, even if it isn't familiar or preferred.

Solo

The solo experience is a standard element of Outward Bound courses. Students do not travel during this time; they are camped apart from the rest of the group and the instructors (by 50-200 yards, generally) to rest and reflect in solitude. While on solo, students have drinking water, warm clothes, a tarp for shelter, sleeping bag, journal, pens and a little food. Students on solo also have a whistle with which they may alert their instructors in the unlikely event of an emergency. Before solo, students receive basic first aid training, are carefully briefed in expectations and emergency signaling, and are given ideas for using the time to the advantage of the rest of the course and life after returning home. Instructors check on each student every 12-24 hours and resupply their water as needed. Solo on one-week courses is generally four to twelve hours; on two-week courses, students solo for 12 to 48 hours. On three-week courses or longer, solo is at least 48 hours, with a maximum length of 72 hours.

Final Expedition and Independent Student Travel

A core component of Outward Bound learning is for students to put into practice the skills they have learned. Courses two weeks or longer may culminate in a Final Expedition that will include independent student travel. We vary the level of independence allowed based on student age, course length, time spent in an activity, environment, and the instructors' assessment of the group's technical and social competence. On sailing expeditions, students will make decisions independent of the instructors, but the instructors will be present on the boat.

Preparing Yourself

While you do not have to be a gifted athlete or in peak physical condition to attend an Outward Bound course, you do have to be in shape and motivated, ready to take on the challenges you will find on your course. There are two kinds of strength necessary to complete your course: physical and mental. Your body needs to be strong, but you must also come with an open mind, determined spirit and willing teamwork mentality.

Whether you paddle a canoe/kayak or row a boat for six or eight hours in a day, carry a 50+ pound pack for 10 miles, climb 2500 feet of elevation gain in a single morning or scale a rock wall, it will push you and reward you on many levels. Most people find that Outward Bound presents them with challenges that they are not sure they can accomplish. That's okay; it's actually the point.

Every single course—regardless of the activities—is unique since there are so many different routes, weather patterns and personalities. No matter how much you read the materials we provide and no matter how many questions you ask a Course Advisor, the reality is you will not really know exactly what it will be like until you get there and do your best. So...how do you prepare for the unknown?

Mental Preparation

We can't really offer you a training regimen to mentally prepare for Outward Bound. But we can suggest a few things to think about and be prepared for:

Teamwork

Be ready to be part of a team. Think about other team experiences you have had in the past whether they are sports teams, school plays or business meetings. Come up with a few observations about what has made your teams successful in the past and plan on being a positive contributor during your course.

Living with Less

Look around your house and the "real" world and think about what you have and what you need. Things you currently take for granted like hot running water, upholstered furniture and sidewalks will not be part of your experience. When you get into the rhythm of wilderness living, you will see that despite the complexity of your everyday life, life on the trail is ultimately about food, clothing, shelter and each other. We will also ask you to leave behind non-essentials like deodorant, make up, electronic devices and books.

Being Away from Home

Whether it is the first or the 27th time you have been away from home, you might not ever have been this out of touch. The feeling of being alone and away from family might not happen immediately, but in a lot of cases it will occur while on course. Please ask your instructors and teammates for help.

Compassion

Compassion is one of Outward Bound's core values. Be prepared to offer it and expect it from your teammates. You will travel with—and rely upon—a group of strangers each of whom has different reasons for attending Outward Bound and will come with varying levels of physical and mental strength. You may find that you will need to make compromises in your own expectations to support other members of your team. It is important to remember that in such a small group setting, your attitude and actions affect everyone.

Group Discussion

Outward Bound delivers learning, in large part, by discussing course experiences and creating strategies to take new ideas home and apply them at work, school, and your community. Be prepared to share your perspective and gain insight from others.

Physical Preparation

Every minute you put in prior to your course will pay off once you get out there. We know that if you don't already do it, adopting a daily exercise routine is not easy and that it can be challenging to find the motivation. So, if you do not already engage in 30 minutes of intense aerobic exercise at least three times a week, begin now. The most important thing is to find an activity that you enjoy doing. While exercising three times a week is the minimum, five or six times a week is optimum.

Build Aerobic Fitness

Before starting any fitness program it is always a good idea to consult your physician. The most important kind of training is aerobic fitness (running, bicycling, skating, swimming, etc.), which stimulates heart and lung activity for at least 30 continuous minutes. The aim of your training program will be to increase your body's capacity to maximize oxygen intake. This will increase the capability of your heart and circulatory system to supply blood and oxygen to all organs and tissues. If you are currently working out three days a week, consider building to five or six days. Stretch and work out with light weights to maintain flexibility and build strength.

Running is a great option for aerobic fitness. You should also consider specific training techniques to prepare for your course such as climbing stairs with weight on your back or using a rowing machine. Please contact your Course Advisor to learn about specific training needed for your course activities.

Adopt Healthy Habits

A great way to prepare physically is to adopt healthy eating habits and focus on being well-hydrated.

1. Arrive at your course start well rested.
2. Reduce consumption of fatty foods, excessive alcohol and caffeine, as these substances require a lot of water and oxygen to metabolize.
3. Eat plenty of vegetables, fruit and unrefined carbohydrates (i.e., whole grains).
4. Drink water regularly - instead of juice or soda – and start drinking it whenever you're thirsty.
5. If you use tobacco or nicotine, stop now. Tobacco products are not allowed on course (includes gum, patches, etc.).
6. Practice "tech free time". You will be leaving electronics (including your cellphone) either at home or locked away at base while you are on course. Giving yourself a chance to have some time before course where you are not reliant on these technologies may help you adjust when you get on course.
7. Don't overdo it. Many people (especially those who delay the start of an exercise routine) try to do too much too quickly, the result of believing that the harder the body is pushed the faster it will improve. In fact, the opposite is true. The more moderately you increase your training, as long as you are increasing your heart rate adequately, the more quickly you will improve. Going too fast too soon can result in discomfort and discouragement, and even injury.

And, finally – please refer to our document "Physical Fitness Preparation" for more ideas on how to prepare. It includes a suggested 8-week fitness program and expands upon how to be prepared physically AND mentally for this fantastic opportunity.