

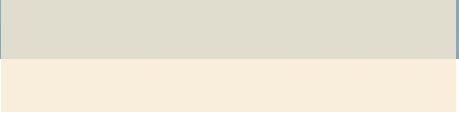
NON-TRADITIONAL USES OF THE EDUCATION AWARD

Laura Kaiser



Basics of the Education Award



- 
- Pay Educational Expenses
 - Repay Student Loans
 - Transfer Award

How to Use



Amount

	Full-time	Three-quarters-time	Half-time
2023 – 2024 Term	\$6,895.00	\$4,826.50	\$3,447.50
2022 – 2023 Term	\$6,495.00	\$4,546.50	\$3,247.50

Use By

2023 - 2024 Term



2031

2022 - 2023 Term



2030

Extensions



AmeriCorps



Peace Corps



Military



Extenuating
Circumstances

- Federal Taxes
- State Tax Exempt
 - WI
 - MN
 - IA
 - NE
 - OR

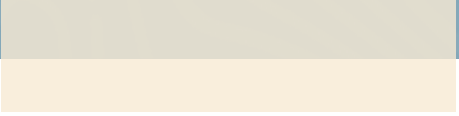
- If more than \$600 of award was used
 - Receive IRS Form 1099

- If less than \$600 of award was used
 - Still owe taxes



Taxes



- 
- Check Award Balance
 - Find Out Expiration Date
 - Ask for an Extension
 - Submit a Payment Request
 - Locate Tax Statements
 - Update Contact Info

My AmeriCorps Portal





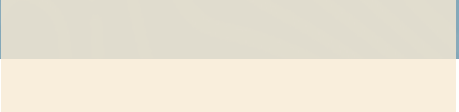
1-800-942-2677

AmeriCorps Hotline



Current Educational Expenses

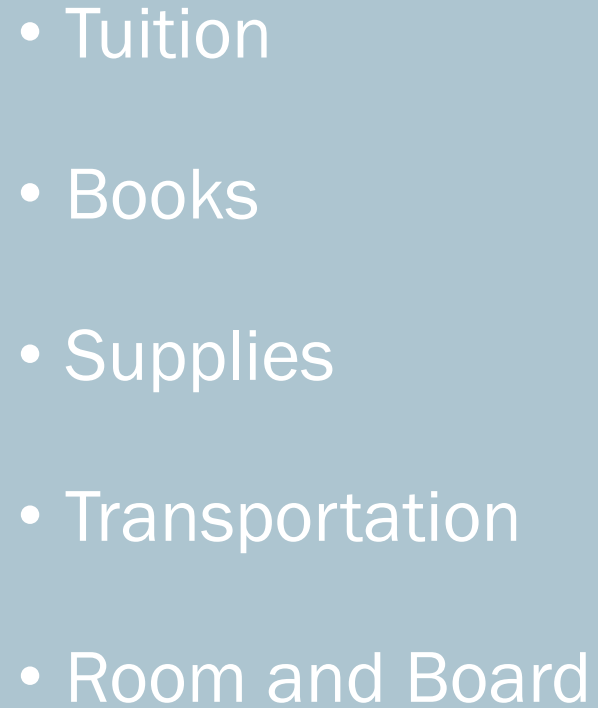


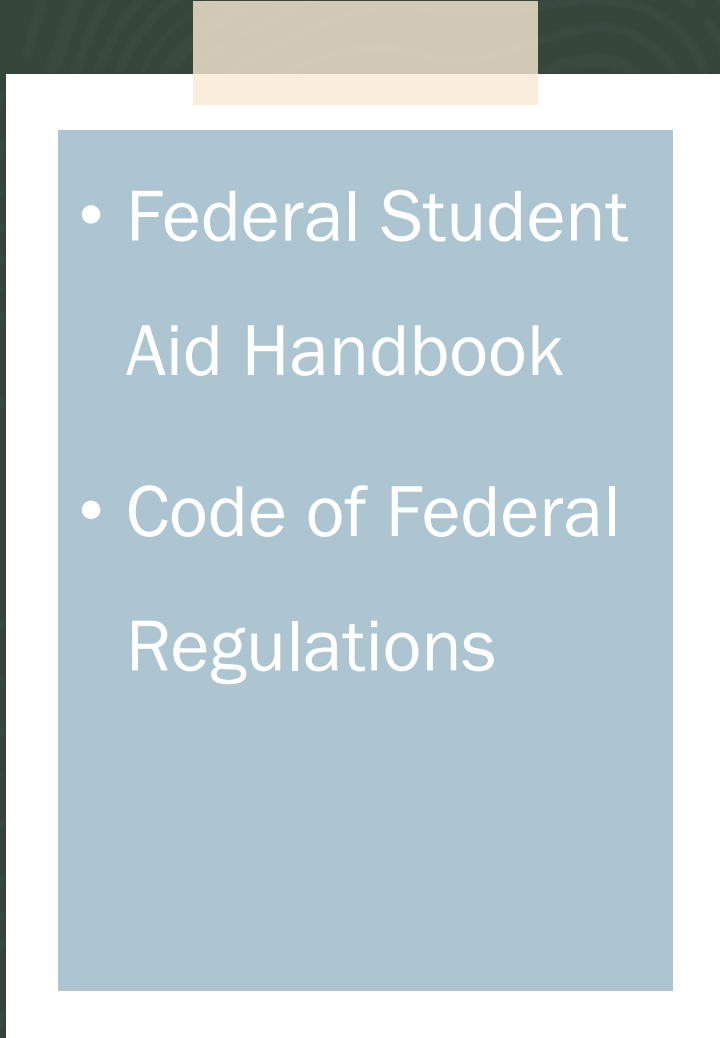
- 
- Offer federal student aid
 - Federal student code
 - For veterans –
certain GI Bill-approved
education programs

Title IV Institutions



- 
- Determined by institution

- 
- Tuition
 - Books
 - Supplies
 - Transportation
 - Room and Board

- 
- Federal Student Aid Handbook
 - Code of Federal Regulations



Cost of Attendance



**The Purpose Confluence
and
Western Colorado University**



The Purpose Confluence



Outdoor
Education
&
Leadership



Wilderness
Instructor
Training



Conservation
&
Stewardship



Trade Schools
&
Certifications


The Purpose Confluence



Cultural
Exchange
Programs



Service
Abroad



Language
Immersion



Health
&
Wellness



Field Expeditions



Cultural Exploration



Leadership Training
&
Certifications



**Western Colorado
University**






Earn Recreation/
Outdoor Education
Credits



\$180/credit
(starting May 4)

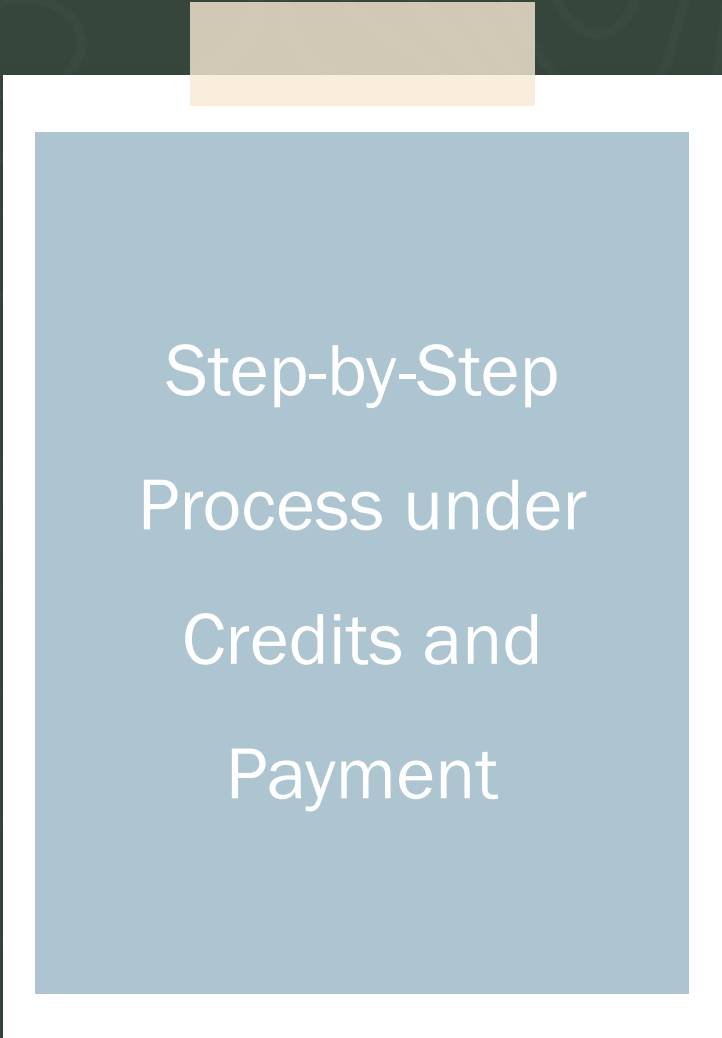


of credits varies
based on partner
organization and
program

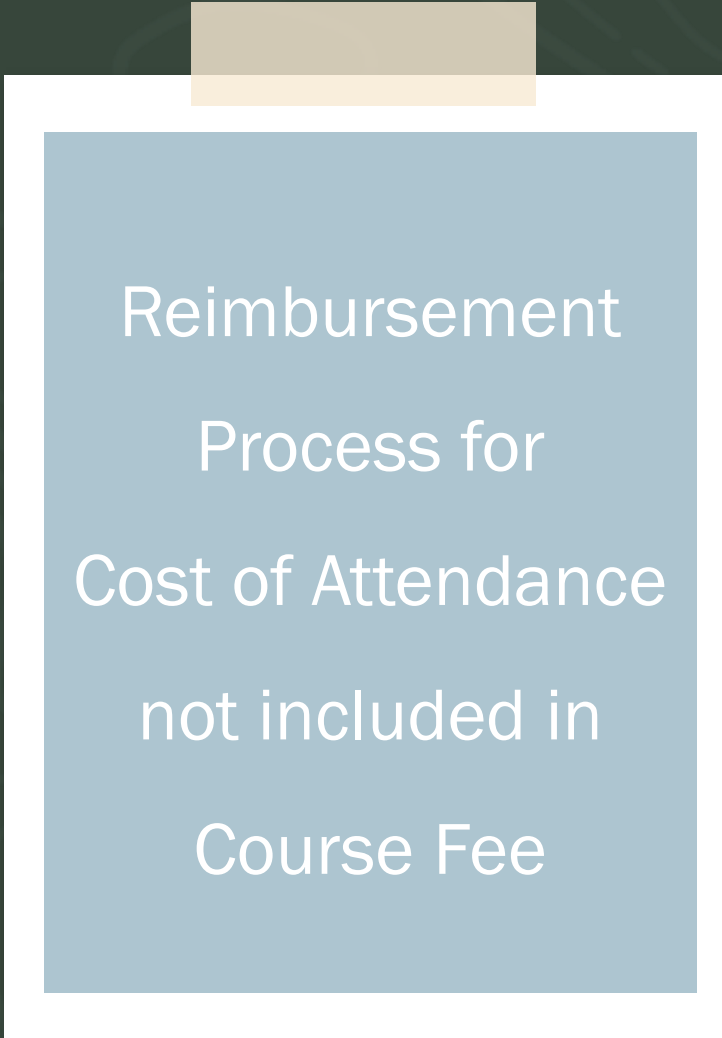


**Western Colorado
University**





Step-by-Step
Process under
Credits and
Payment



Reimbursement
Process for
Cost of Attendance
not included in
Course Fee



Travel and Lodging
to and from Course
Outdoor Equipment
and Clothing
(on packing list)



**Western Colorado
University**



Outward Bound



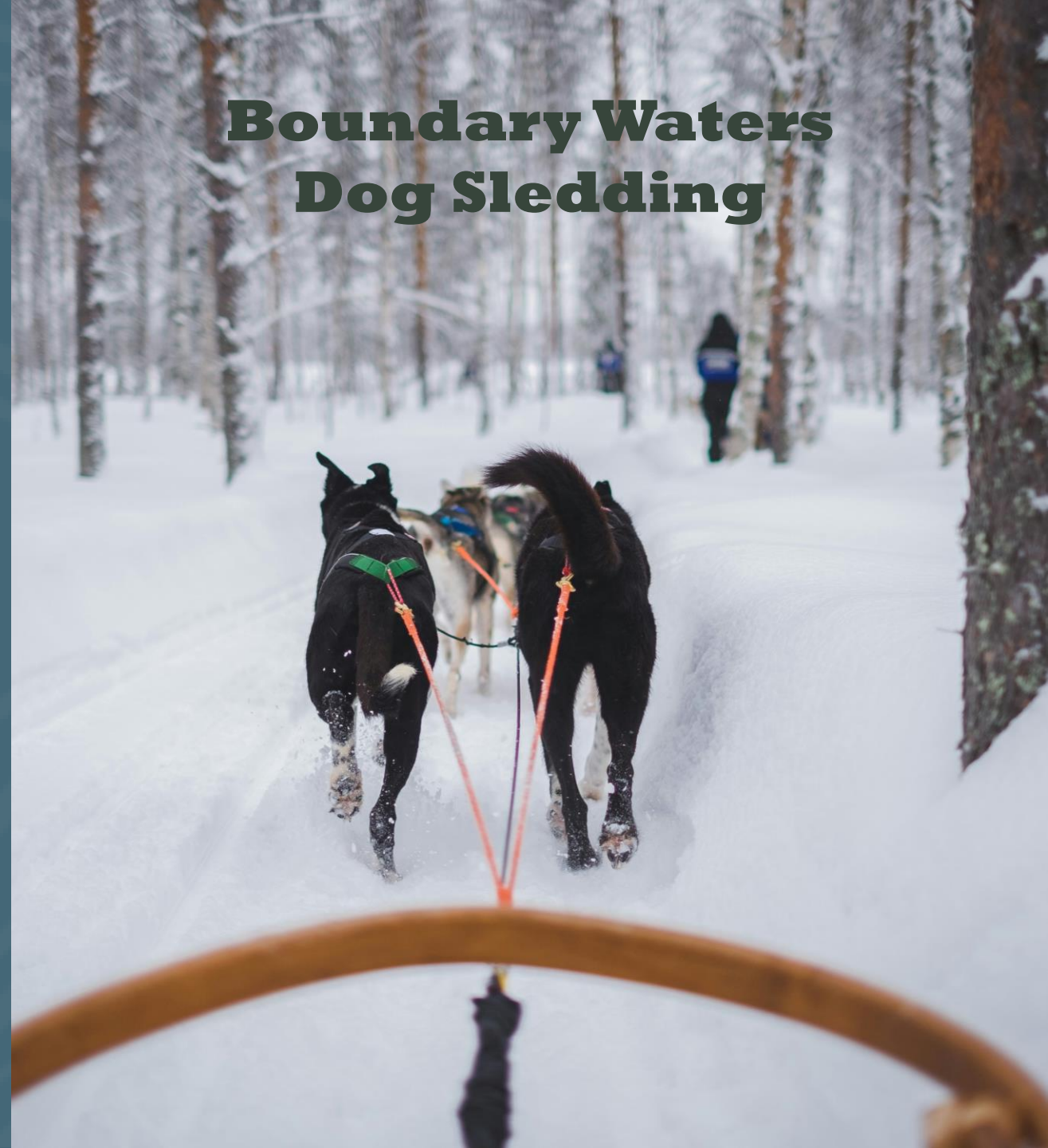
- Opportunities in backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, etc.
 - Outward Bound Costa Rica

- Travel with a team of dogs over frozen lakes
- Learn safety skills
- Enjoy the night sky, saunas, and warm cabins

4 Days
\$1,485



Boundary Waters Dog Sledding



- Live as a team aboard an open sailboat
- Navigate using a chart and compass
- Solo time on beaches

8 Days
\$3,000



Florida Keys Sailing



Where There Be Dragons



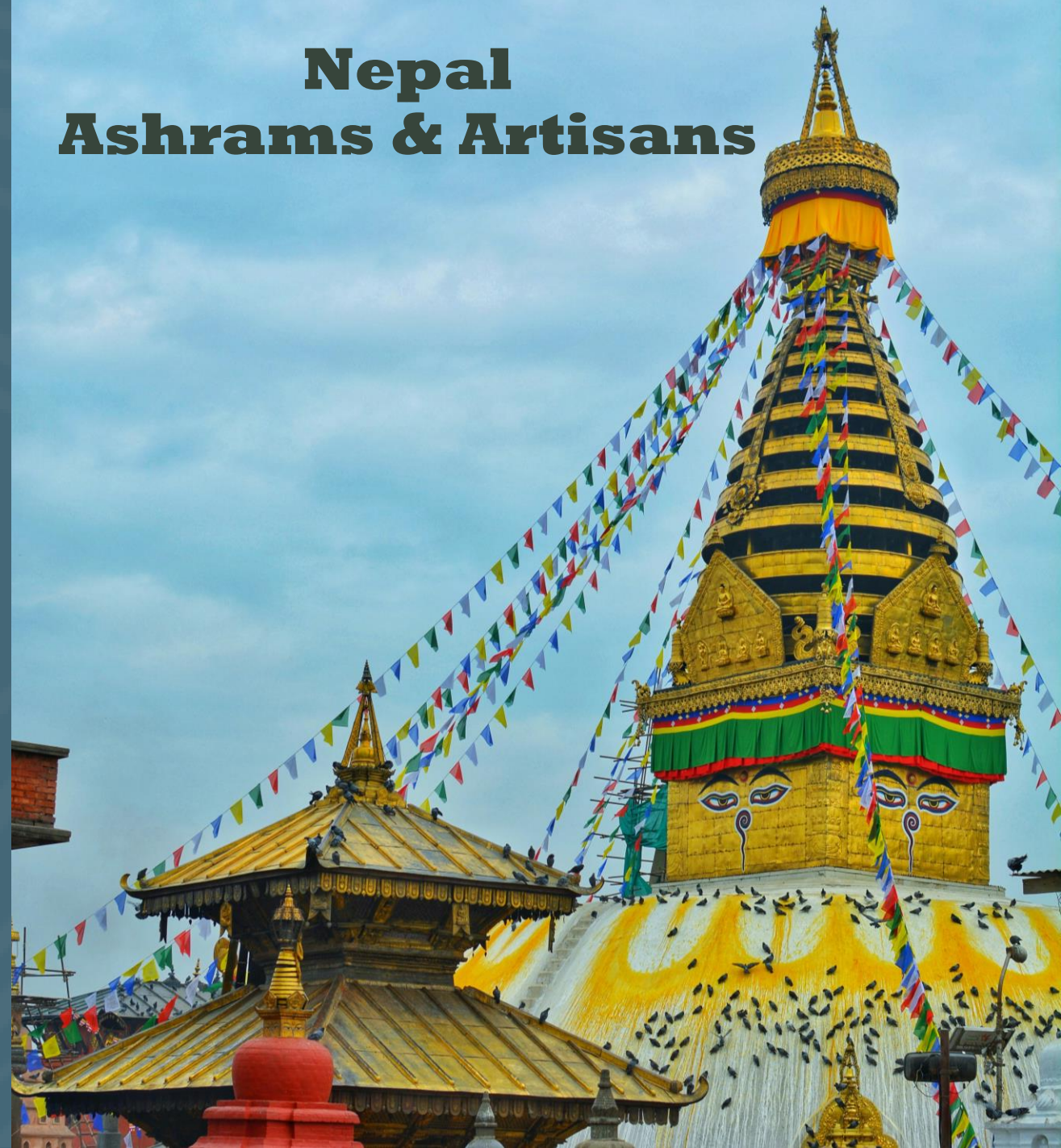
- Offers an alternative to mainstream travel and tourism
 - Asia, Latin America, Africa, and United States

- Learn about Buddhist & Hindu practices
- Explore ancient sites
- Revitalize through yoga and meditation

13 Days
\$5,895 plus airfare



Nepal Ashrams & Artisans



- Walk ancient pilgrimage paths
- Learn from local healers
- Grow a deeper connection to the earth

10 Days
\$4,895 plus airfare



Peru

Women in the Sacred Valley



National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)



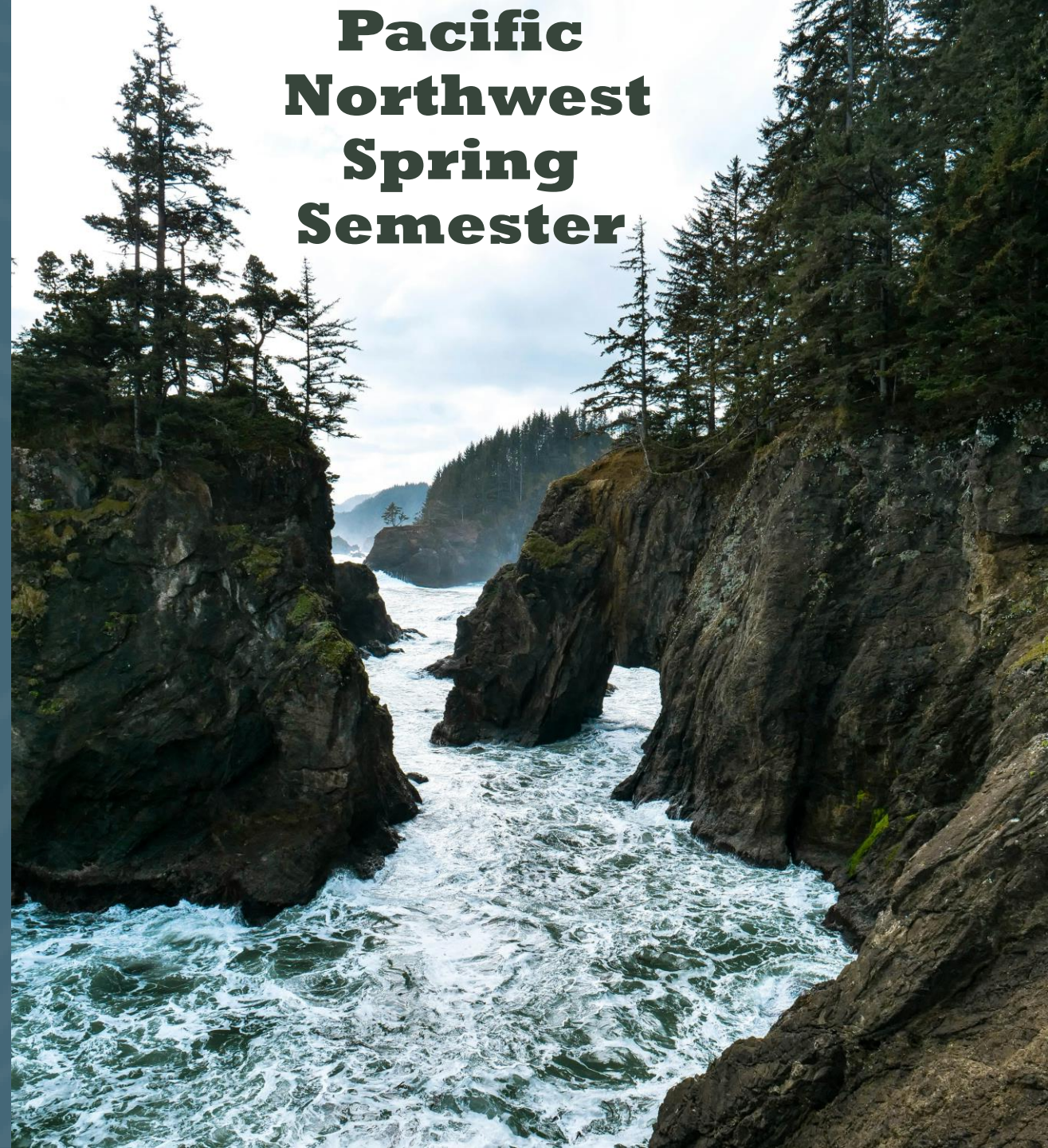
- Immersive wilderness expeditions to wilderness medicine courses
 - Matches up to \$2,000 on courses 60 days or longer

- Earn 10 college credits while mountaineering and sea kayaking
- Become certified in wilderness first aid

60 Days
\$13,100



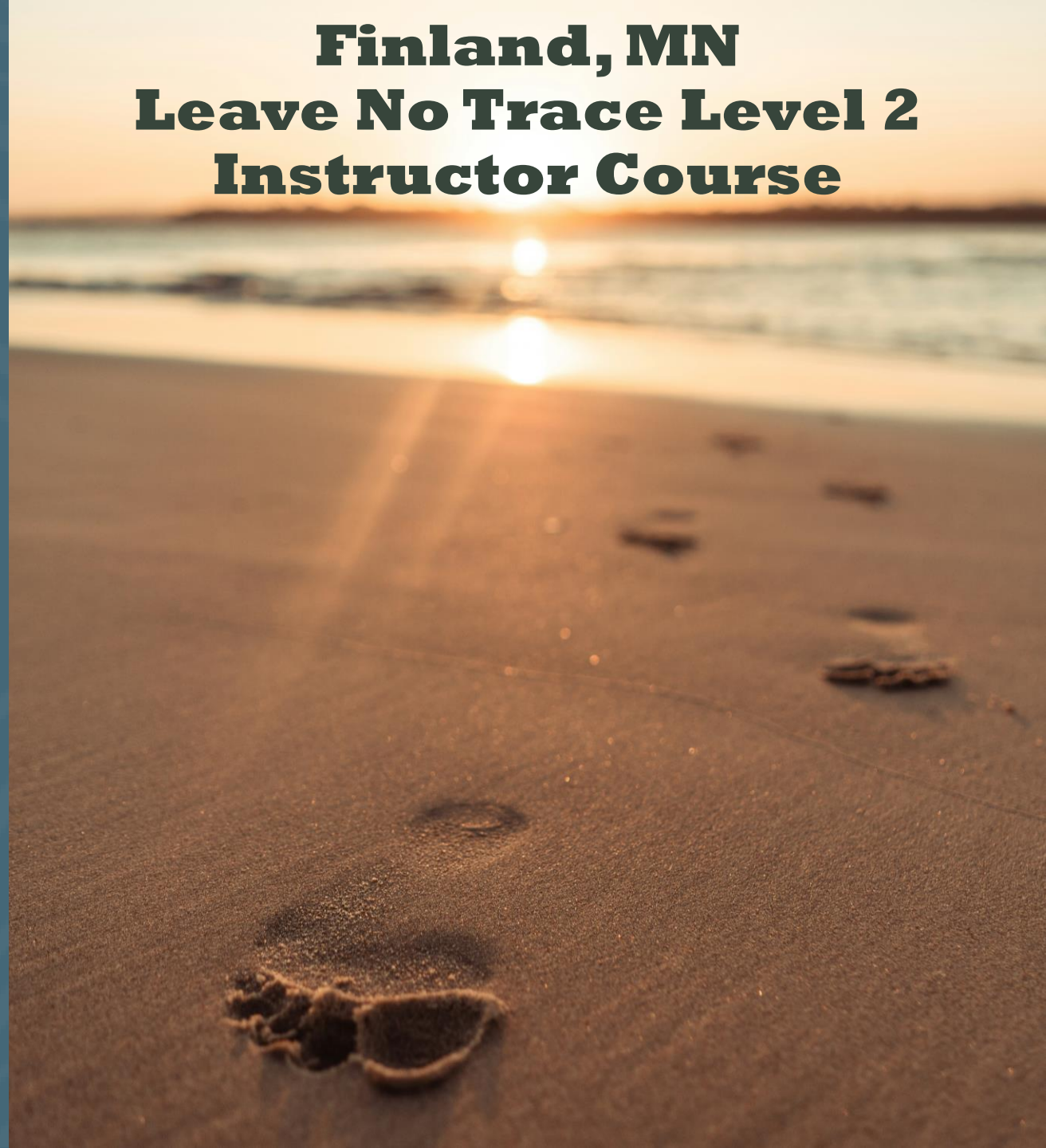
Pacific Northwest Spring Semester



Finland, MN Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course

- Hands-on practical application of LNT skills
- Become certified to conduct Level 1 Instructor Courses

**5 Days
\$600**



Jack Mountain Bushcraft School



- A bushcraft, guide training, and wilderness expedition school
 - Based out of Maine

Northern Maine The Wilderness Bushcraft Semester

- Immersion course in primitive skills such as fire, shelter, outdoor cooking, carving, basketry, navigation, etc.

9 Weeks
\$7250



Wilderness Awareness School



- Naturalist, survival, and ancestral skills classes
 - Based out of Washington

Western Washington The Immersion

- Naturalist Studies
- Self-Discovery
- Wildlife Tracking
- Wilderness Survival
- Bird Language

9 Months
\$14,950



Earthship Biotecture



- A sustainable autonomous design-build company
 - Based out of New Mexico

New Mexico

The Earthship Academy

- Learn how to build a house built with natural and recycled materials that produces water, electricity, and food

4 Weeks
\$2,500



International Partnership for Service Learning



- Continue your service abroad
- Argentina, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala
Japan, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Vietnam

Language Learning

- Learn from native speakers
- Add on volunteer service to practice your language skills

One Week to One Year



Customized Programs

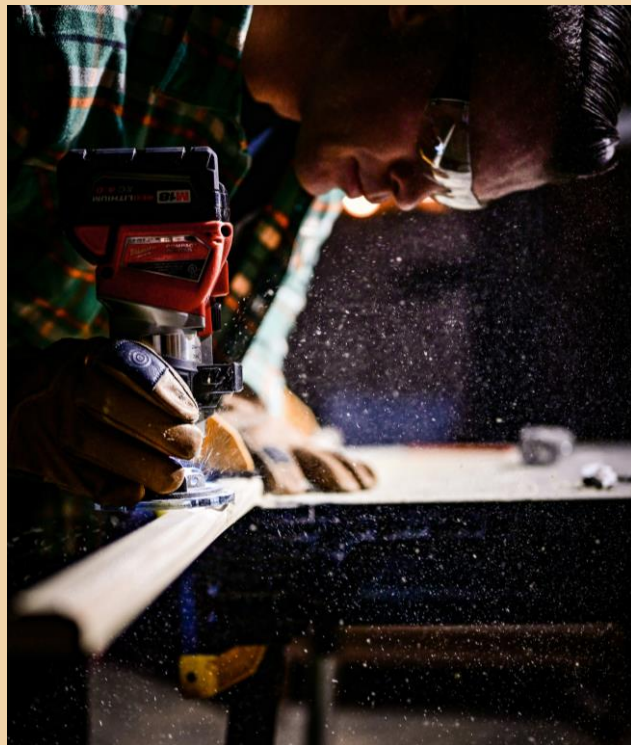
- Choose where, when, and how long
- Cultural tours
- Traditional cooking
- Dance classes

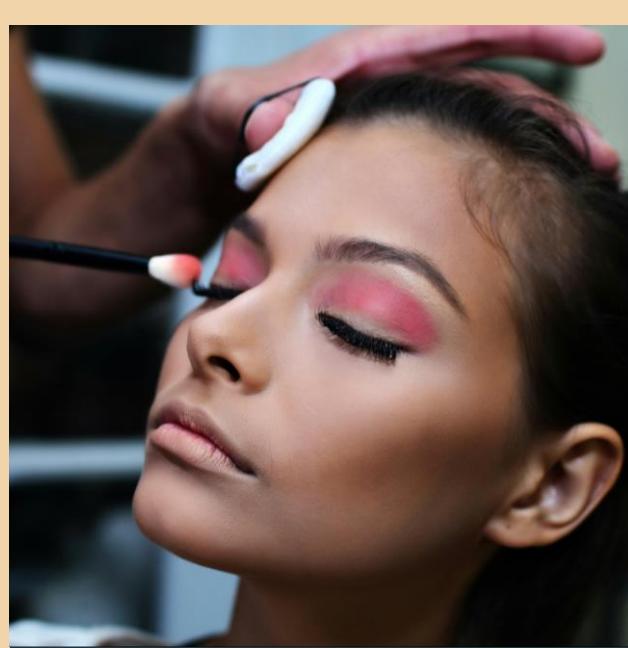
One Week to One Year

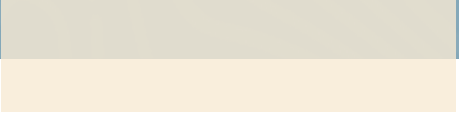


Technical Colleges and Trade Schools







- 
- 529 college savings plan
 - GI bill
 - Scholarships

Notes



Personal Experiences



- Don't be afraid to ask
- Communicate
- Take notes and follow-up
- Be patient and persistent
- Educate yourself

Helpful Tips



Acknowledgements & Resources



- Eve Kramer
- Shelly Kaiser
- Barb Suozzi

Acknowledgements



Resources

- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Webpage
 - <https://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-americorps-education-award>
- My AmeriCorps Portal
 - <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/login.do>
- How to Submit Payment Request
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeXPB2Cd69U>
- Title IV Institution Search - Federal School Code Search
 - <https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-app/FSCsearch>
- Cost of Attendance – Federal Student Aid Handbook
 - <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/fsa-handbook/2023-2024/vol3/ch2-cost-attendance-budget>
- Cost of Attendance - Code of Federal Regulations
 - <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2017-title45-vol4/pdf/CFR-2017-title45-vol4-sec2525-20.pdf>

Resources

- The Purpose Confluence
 - <https://www.purposeconfluence.com/single-tag/accepts-amerikorps-education-awards/>
- Western Colorado University – Outdoor and Experiential Education Program Partnerships
 - <https://western.edu/academics/center-learning-innovation/outdoor-and-experiential-education-program-partnerships/>
- Conservation Legacy – Alternative Ways to Use Your Education Award
 - <https://conservationlegacy.org/alt-ed-award#:~:text=Get%20a%20computer%2C%20text%20book%2C%20or%20other%20course%20materials&text=While%20many%20schools%20allow%20this,school's%20predetermined%20Cost%20of%20Attendance.>
- Becoming an Outdoors Woman
 - <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/bowWI/Pages/default.aspx>
- Master Naturalist
 - <https://wimasternaturalist.org/>
- Unsplash
 - <https://unsplash.com/>

Questions

