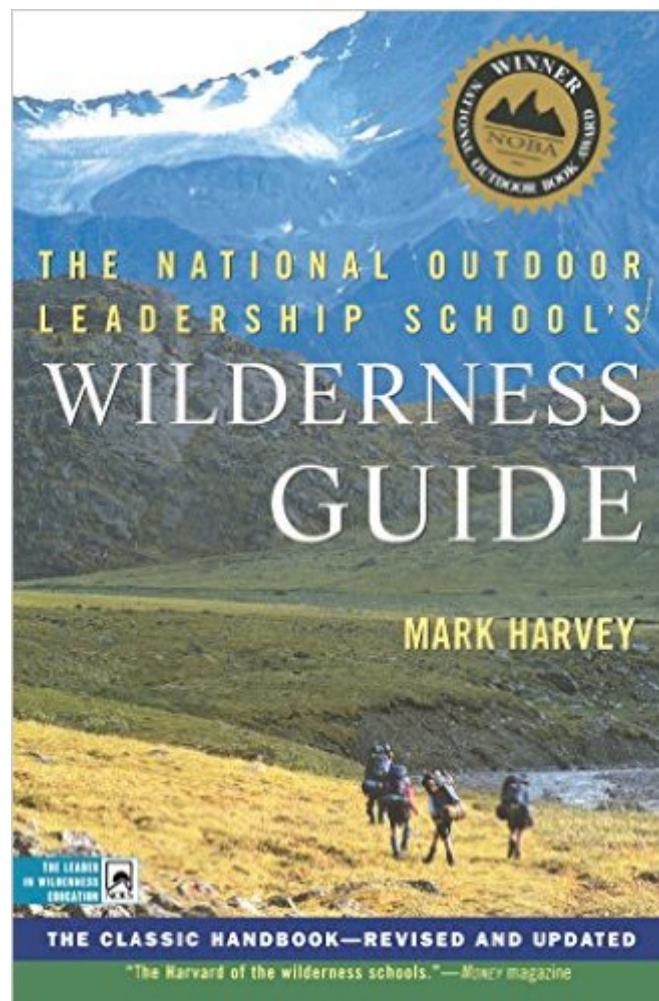


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The National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness Guide: The Classic Handbook, Revised And Updated



Synopsis

The classic backpacker's handbook "revised and updated" providing expert guidelines for anyone who loves the outdoors. The Wilderness Guide brings the savvy of the world's most famous and respected outdoor organization to everyone "from the sixteen million backpacking Americans to the more than 265 million people, tenderfeet and trail-hardened hikers, who visit our national parks annually. It covers:

- Selecting equipment "including discussions of the advantages and disadvantages of products such as the internal frame pack, lighter-weight boots, and freestanding tents
- The latest "leave no trace" camping techniques
- Traveling safely and sensibly "including vital information on maps, compasses, and tips on crossing difficult terrain
- Backcountry cooking, with tips on building fires and tricks for making gourmet meals
- Search-and-rescue techniques, including how to organize a self-sufficient search group and when to call in professional rescue teams

Illustrated throughout with instructional drawings and photos and featuring lists of equipment, the Wilderness Guide is a must-have for anyone planning to explore the great outdoors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

You should read this book if you're interested in backpacking *well*, and you want a solid introduction. You are introduced by example a lot of what it takes to be a competent, responsible, healthy, and mindful citizen of the wilderness. As for leadership, it discusses how to build and maintain a civilized hiking group, and the challenges involved. I don't think I was ever left wondering *why* something was suggested, the reasoning is usually clear. You come away feeling like you

spent time in the mind of someone who has practiced making these kinds of decisions. This book covers a breadth of outdoorsmanship topics without getting too deep into any one. There are plenty of great details packed in, but I probably won't be keeping this book around for reference. I do plan to get more in-depth learning & reference books on some skills, such as reading the weather and map & compass skills. I have just one criticism and suggestion for a future update. Sixteen years have passed now since this book was last updated. Some details are outdated, especially those about technology choices at the time (fabrics, communication devices, etc. as others have said). I loved reading about it all, but I knew I'd have to get online to update my education on a few things. It would be neat if the next update just omitted those details. If they did that, I bet the book could stay relevant for 100 years without needing an update.

I read the book in preparation for a mountaineering course - it's great - informative, well written, a good balance of solid content and easy readability. He would be a great person to go up a mountain with - but the book is a little easier to fit in the backpack! An absolute must for anyone who camps in the non-RV sense of the word.

As a carefree college student, I camped quite often, but today, as a thirty year old business owner, I prefer to enjoy the outdoors by day, and to sleep in my warm, safe, familiar home by night. Harvey's Wilderness Guide has not only helped me to more thoroughly enjoy my day hikes, but it has also served as a catalyst to reignite my enthusiasm in camping for more than a Sunday afternoon. Harvey delivers intelligent, informative information in an easy to understand and enthusiastic style. The Wilderness Guide is packed with information, but it is far from bland reading, for Harvey is not only intelligent and well written, but he has a sense of humor as well. I live in Aspen and have spent time with Mark Harvey on numerous occasions. Possibly I will be able to camp with him one day. If not, I always have The National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness Guide.

Overall, Harvey has created an outstanding example of what outdoor books should be all about. The Wilderness Guide mixes age-old, tried and true practices, along with modern examples. Harvey combines the 1960's and '70s ethics of Leave No Trace, with modern practical examples of why you should visit the wilderness in the first place and what you might learn out there.

Both experienced and novice backpackers will find much of value in this book. My dad always planned and packed as though we were going on a 19th century expedition for a

backpacking/camping trip. He asked me "Did we ever not have something we really needed in the field?" The answer was of course "No!". This book will help you to prepare.

This book is still the Bible for learning about spending time in the outdoors in a comfortable, safe, and responsible manner. It covers gear, clothing, food, cooking, using map and compass, new technology, low impact camping, etc, etc. The section on bear safety is adequate but not great but aside from that, it is the book to have. Once you have read this and want to learn more outdoor technical skills, buy Freedom of the Hills. Once you have learned and practiced the skills in these 2 books, you will be good to go in most land-based outdoor experiences.

This is an outstanding book! I was introduced to the NOLS series of books by a friend who is a military chopper medic. I have been interested in domestic/international exploration for several years and he introduced me to a book called Expedition Planning, which I subsequently purchased and liked it enough to buy several more books from the NOLS series. If you are a camper, hiker, bird-watcher, star-gazer or any other pursuit that puts you in the outdoors to enjoy the majesty of the world, these books will give you practical advice on how to stream-line your planning, be adequately prepared for your trip, and get the most out of the experience. Awesome book. NOLS is a terrific school putting out great, tried-and-true advice in their publications.

This is the PERFECT book for outdoor adventure beginners. I read this book before I thru hiked the Appalachian Trail. At that point in my life, I had only been out in the woods for a couple days at a time and I never really had to worry about how to pack a pack correctly to prevent strain on my back or how to dress in the rain to prevent hypothermia. This book gives you all of this information and more, including how to hang a bear bag, which saved me a couple of times from hungry black bears in NY state. If you plan on doing any kind of trekking in the back country for the first time, read this book before you go.

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