

# Lakota Guides

## 2008 Guide Training Course

Thank you for your inquiry regarding employment with Lakota River Guides and our Raft Guide Training Program. Our training exceeds the requirements Mandated by the State of Colorado and upon completion you will be certified to work for any company in Colorado. Most of your time will be spent out on the different rivers that we run, and there will be some "classroom" time spent throughout the course. Our instructor guides are professionals of the highest caliber who have been with our company for many years as well as involved in the guiding industry through various locations around the globe. This course is ideal for those looking to be raft guides or even private boaters looking to learn all aspects of whitewater navigation and paddle/oar boat techniques. Topics include but not limited to, rigging, river navigation, logistic preparations, paddle raft and oar boat guiding, group management, safety procedures and protocols for various river settings and much more...

### **DATES:**

#### **Standard 2 week Course**

**May 19-23, May 26-30** (You will have May 24 &25 off)

#### **Weekend ONLY Course**

**May 3-4, 10-11,17-18,31-June 1 & June 7-8** (You will have May 24 &25 off)

**TIME: 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM every day** (may be subject to change)

**WHERE: Holy Cross Ranger Station.** Take the Minturn exit off of I-70. Go toward Minturn (South) and park in the first big parking lot on the right (only a couple hundred yards after you exit the interstate). We will shuttle you to our boathouse from there.

**WE PROVIDE:** For your use during entire training: Wetsuits (full length sleeveless), wetsuit booties, splash jackets, helmets, and lifejackets.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Fleece layer for upper body as extra insulation! Wool socks to wear inside the booties. The water is snowmelt, so its COLD! You must provide your own lunch for each day we are out. Dinner and breakfast is provided for on the overnight trip.

Overnight gear is needed for the final days as we'll be camping out on the river.

**COST: \$450** Please mail us a check for **\$200 to reserve your spot.**

Include a resume along with several references if you are seeking employment with Lakota Guides.

### **Our address:**

**ATTN: Employment**

**PO Box 4175**

**Vail, CO 81658**

**Siftwater Rescue Certification:** (required for all guides) \$150 (this course normally \$300) will be conduct typically the first week after guide training

**Dates:** June 2-3rd

**First Aid/CPR:** (required for all guides) TBA. This course is 1 full day. Those needing only CPR can sit in for that portion only and pay a discounted price.

**Dates:** TBA (multiple May-June)

After the course has concluded on the last day we'll notify those who we will be hiring the next day. We hire about 50-75% of the participants in our training program each year. We are looking for "people-oriented", "guest service oriented", team players who have acquired the necessary river skills.

**Additional opportunities:** There are opportunities to work in other areas of our business: CDL drivers, food prep for raft lunches and snacks (this is an evening position not to interfere with guiding opportunities), office staff, and mechanic.

**Hummer drivers** are also needed. We will be hiring 4 Full-time drivers. A vehicle is assigned to each driver for the season. Strong mechanical background is needed for this position.

### **CDL:**

Guides who obtain a CDL (commercial drivers' license) often get more work than those who do not. This would include first year guides. We have a program that makes it reasonable to get one. This license is required to drive our people movers.

Procedure:

1. Get a physical (cost: \$55)
2. Take a drug test (cost: \$50)
3. Pass the written test which gets you a permit (cost: \$24) \*\* (study the "Class C" section & non-air brake section of book)
4. We provide the vehicle in which to practice, and 2 hours of training
5. We provide the vehicle and time for the driving test, and pay the \$150 fee for the driving tester.

### **Expectations**

Rafting is seasonal employment. Our busy season starts in Mid June and is busiest during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holidays and on into August. During our busiest times you may not have a day off for 2 weeks (this is a GOOD THING!). Each section of the Eagle, Colorado and Arkansas Rivers require qualification, this is a way for making sure you know the area sufficiently and can navigate guests down safely.

After you have completed the training you'll be required to participate on 3 ride "alongs" with a qualified raft guide during a commercial trip of the section of river you are trying to qualify on. Then you can do a "check-out run"... essentially you guide a commercial trip down with a trip leader onboard. After successfully guiding the trip down you'll be "checked out" for that particular section. Once you have completed guide training (recorded in contact hours) you'll record your mileage. Various sections require a certain amount of hours logged.

Examples:

**Trip Leader Status:** 500 miles (can be done in the first season)

**Browns Canyon:** 5 ride-alongs and checked out on Lower Eagle & Shoshone)

**Dowd Chute:** 750 miles

**Numbers:** 1000 miles

**Multi-day Guide:** Participation of Multi-day Guide training (Early-May course) or "swamper staff" on a minimum of 4 trips. Also minimum of 500 miles and capable of rowing (oar frame) Class III (+) whitewater (Brown's Canyon).

Base pay for first year guides is about \$50 for a half-day trip. Some days you may work 2 trips.

Additional certifications add pay to the base pay here are some examples:

~Swiftwater rescue training (we will offer this course following raft guide training): base + \$5/trip

~Higher medical certification (ex: EMT +\$10 & WFR/OEC +\$7.50)

~CDL: base + \$10/per leg driven

Our guides also make **GREAT TIPS!** Being resort based, tips here are better than anywhere else in Colorado.

We look forward to meeting you! If you have further questions, please feel free to give us call.

See you on the River!

Lakota Guides Staff

1-970-845-RAFT