About the Courses

Courses in the Outdoor Leadership Program at UMaine are taught through the Kinesiology and Physical Education Department (KPE).

KPE 265: Outdoor and Adventure Activities
(July 29–Aug. 16, 2019)

This is an introductory course in outdoor and adventure activities, forming the foundation of an outdoor leadership education. The course focuses primarily on participation in four different activity categories: canoeing; bouldering and climbing; hiking and orienteering; and challenge course. The canoeing portion of the course will include instruction in paddling techniques, and environmental and equipment considerations for safely leading groups on day and overnight trips. The climbing portion of the course emphasizes the fundamental skills and safety knowledge needed for indoor bouldering and top-rope climbing, including risk management and belay certification. During orienteering students will learn and practice essential map and compass skills. In the challenge course portion of the course students will learn about and practice the educational concepts behind facilitating and processing adventure-based activities.

KPE 209: Wilderness First Responder
(Nov. 12, 2019–June 18, 2020)

The curriculum uses the principles of long-term care, improvised resources, and varying environmental conditions as the framework for learning. Now the most widely recognized and most often required outdoor leader certification, the Wilderness First Responder course was first developed and taught by SOLO in the mid-1980’s. Created to provide outdoor leaders, guides, and rangers with the knowledge needed to deal with crises in remote settings, this 80-hour certification course meets DOT National Standards for First Responder with additional protocols for extended-care situations. The practical simulations and labs provide practice in backcountry leadership and rescue skills. Like all SOLO programs, the emphasis of the WFR is on prevention and decision-making.

To register visit umaine.edu/earlycollege
For more information: Allison Small, Early College Programs Coordinator, 207.581.8004; um.earlycollege@maine.edu
About UMaine’s Early College Outdoor Leadership Program at Bryant Pond

Instructors

Tara Pocock is a 4-H professional at Bryant Pond 4-H Center. She teaches in the Telstar Freshman Academy program and helps manage the waterfront during summer camp. Tara holds a bachelor’s degree in Therapeutic Recreation with a minor in Psychology from the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. Tara is an American Red Cross-certified lifeguard and SOLO-certified Wilderness First Responder.

Jeff Prentice serves as health center coordinator at Bryant Pond 4-H Center. He is a retired firefighter/paramedic with many years of experience in the field as well as EMS training. Jeff is a certified (SOLO and AHA) medical instructor, keeping our staff up-to-date in CPR/First Aid/AED, Wilderness First Aid (WFA), and Wilderness First Responder (WFR).

Ryder Scott has been teaching and leading groups of young people and adults in the outdoors for more than twenty years. He has a bachelor’s degree from College of the Atlantic, and a master’s in Experiential Education from Prescott College. After a decade of outdoor education field experience with Outward Bound and other organizations, Ryder became program director at Bryant Pond 4-H Center in 2007. In 2014 he stepped into a new role as state director of the University of Maine's four 4-H Centers. Ryder is also cooperating instructor with UMaine’s College of Education and Human Development.

About Bryant Pond 4-H Camp and Learning Center

In April of 2008, the Maine Conservation School merged with the Maine 4-H Foundation and University of Maine Cooperative Extension to become the University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond.

The mission of the University of Maine 4-H Center at Bryant Pond is to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to lead sustainable lives through affordable, experiential learning.

This supports the broader mission of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension: to bring research-based information and support from Maine’s land-grant university directly to Maine communities in the core areas of food systems and positive youth development.

Learn more at extension.umaine.edu/bryantpond.

Early College Outdoor Leadership Pathway at Bryant Pond

Western Maine high-school students with interest in outdoor careers such as guiding, trip-leading, natural resources management, trail planning and construction, ski industry and more, can now earn course credit through the University of Maine toward a degree in Outdoor Leadership. Contact Ryder Scott, Pathways Early College Program Director, for more information at ryder.scott@maine.edu; 207.890.8626.

Outdoor Recreation is an emerging and dynamic sector in Maine’s economy. In partnership with UMaine faculty from the College of Education and Human Development, Cooperative Extension’s Pathways Early College Program team is offering for-credit UMaine courses in Outdoor Leadership. UMaine’s Outdoor Leadership Program focuses on developing an individual’s leadership skills, while providing intensive training in both contemporary and traditional outdoor activities and immersion experiences in the spectacular Maine landscape. Graduates will be exceptionally well positioned to succeed in a variety of outdoor-oriented careers in business, non-profit, and educational settings. They will also gain leadership skills and confidence that will serve them well in any career direction.

Photo credit: Edwin Remsberg