



Teva Adventure Letter to Applicants

Dear Applicant:

We are excited that you are interested in a Teva Adventure program for the summer of 2005. Please find an application along with this letter.

This program, conducted in partnership with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), will offer you and other participants from around North America a special wilderness based opportunity to experience the challenge and exhilaration of developing practical knowledge & techniques for both mountain expeditions and a Jewish approach to living in the stunning untouched alpine habitat of Alaska, or the Rockies.

Please read this letter in its entirety before you fill out and submit the application form. You will need to check a box on the application form that you have read this letter and agree with its contents. Once the initial application is accepted you will be required to submit several forms (see list below) - the contents of this letter will be included in the agreement form. A signed agreement form is required for acceptance on any program.

Jewish Observance

All Teva Adventure programs are open to Jewish teens of all backgrounds and education. Teva Adventure maintains high standards of kosher food (O-U, O-K etc), Halachic Sabbath observance and a dress code. The program will include daily prayers and torah study integrated in the curriculum. We aim to create an atmosphere of respect for all members of the group and for the Kedushah (holiness) of our wilderness camp.

Our goal is to ensure that all participants will be comfortable with the group in terms of their level of Jewish observance. Please feel free to call Teva Adventure to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Safety is a Priority

Teva Adventure is very proud to be working with NOLS, an organization, which has 40 years of proven, experiential outdoor instruction and an excellent safety record. The recognition and management of the inherent risks and hazards of living and traveling in remote wild areas is taught and practiced on every course. Teva Adventure along with NOLS is committed to promoting a positive learning environment and the physical and emotional well being for all students.

In the past 40 years, NOLS has developed a long list of alumni. More than 80 percent of their incoming students first heard about NOLS from their graduates. This is probably the best indication of how graduates value their NOLS experience. Yet we are sure they would be the first to join us in reminding you and your family that these programs are not easy, and that the courses involve travel through rugged terrain in which there are real dangers. The management of our activities with respect to these dangers is a fundamental part of the Teva Adventure/NOLS curriculum. Good physical conditioning and a positive mental attitude are essential. Each student plays an important role in the success of a Teva Adventure program.

You will be responsible for transporting your own gear. You will sleep outdoors, in tents with others, prepare your own meals and be expected to care for yourself in weather conditions that can be extreme. On many courses there are opportunities for students to travel independently of instructors in groups of at least three for one or more days. There are other times, such as in town at the beginning and end of the course, when students have free time and are not supervised.

Wilderness activity involves hazards: rockfall, wild rivers and freezing temperatures can pose a risk to even the most experienced outdoor leader. Activities range from simple day hikes to climbing glaciers can, due to error in judgment or the unpredictable forces of nature, become dangerous and potentially life threatening.

Our courses are isolated expeditions. The remoteness of the areas in which we travel can create complex emergency situations that have no simple solutions. It is not uncommon to be days from medical help. NOLS has comprehensive wilderness emergency response and evacuation procedures and is a leader in the use of appropriate field communication technology in remote wilderness locations.

We carry a radio and/or other electronic communication device, on all of our courses for emergencies, but this does not guarantee reliable communication from the field to our support bases. Radios can be unreliable depending on terrain, atmospheric conditions and other variables. Independent student travel groups may be separated from the radio for 24 hours or more.

The majority of medical incidents--sprains, flu, diarrhea, etc.--may be treated in the field. A more serious incident, such as a fracture, will require evacuation of the patient to a medical facility.

It is important you understand that there are risks. Some adventure programs say that they can guarantee your safety. Teva Adventure/NOLS does not. The risk of injury, even serious injury or death, is unavoidable in the outdoor environment in which we teach. Indeed, much of the value of a Teva Adventure/NOLS course lies in learning how to identify hazards and adapt behavior, not only on the course, but also for a lifetime of enjoying the outdoors.

Through Teva Adventure's partnership with NOLS, participants benefit from the school that sets the standards in wilderness risk management and student safety. NOLS has published one of the leading texts on wilderness first aid and is on the board of the Wilderness Medicine Society. NOLS is the leader of the national Wilderness Risk Management Committee, which holds conferences for outdoor educators and adventure program administrators.

Before you arrive, read thoroughly all materials we send you, and call us if you have questions.

Independent Student Travel

Teva Adventure utilizes the NOLS curriculum to teach you the outdoor leadership and skills you need to take others into the backcountry, comfortably and responsibly.

On most of our courses, one of the ways we help you develop into an outdoor leader is by giving you the opportunity to travel without instructors. By the end of the second week of many courses you may travel in student groups without instructors for a day at a time. To prepare for this, you'll have classes and practical experience with staff in backcountry travel. You'll learn decision-making processes from your instructors and they'll observe, critique, and help you develop your leadership.

If your instructors feel that your group is ready, the culminating experience of many courses is the Student Expedition (SE). For several days of your course you and a few of your course mates will travel without an instructor. You will put your traveling, navigation and camping skills, and leadership techniques to use.

Your instructors help the course divide into groups, select a leader and plan a route. You will know your instructor's route and campsites (usually no more than a day away). You and your group make the daily leadership decisions, but still have the indirect benefit of NOLS support systems. This is excellent preparation for the backcountry trips you will lead for family and friends after you get home and is often cited by NOLS alumni as the highlight of their course.

Admission Procedure

Please fill out and return the application with the \$100 non-refundable application fee. **We prefer that you submit the application form as an e-mail attachment, include a small photo (less than 100K) and send the \$100 non-refundable application fee by credit card via our website (www.tevaadventure.org).** You may also send the print the PDF form and fax or mail it with the photo and a check payable to Teva Adventure to the address at the bottom of this letter.

Please note that applicants will be accepted on a first come basis provided they meet the requirements. Each group will have a maximum of twelve participants including Teva Adventure staff. During the expedition there will be two NOLS instructors per group of the same gender as the group.

After a careful review of your application, we will enroll you in the course of your choice, providing space is available. At any time during the application process we may contact you to arrange a phone interview. We also require a completed reference form. Teva Adventure's final acceptance of any student is subject to the receipt and review of all necessary forms and documents. Teva Adventure, in consultation with NOLS, reserves the right to deny admission to anyone that Teva Adventure, at its sole discretion, believes is unable to meet the physical, mental, social or safety demands of our courses.

An enrollment packet containing a program description, equipment list, travel information and other materials to help you prepare for your course will be forwarded to you upon the review of your application and receipt of your application fee.

The packet will also include the following forms for you to return:

- Medical form
- Participant Agreement
- Acknowledgment of Risks: NOLS
- Acknowledgment of Risks: Teva Adventure
- Equipment Deposit Form
- Insurance form
- Optional college credit form through the University of Utah (high school seniors)

Payment & Form Return

All forms* and 50% of your tuition are due **by January 1st 2005 or within 14 days** after the receipt of your packet whichever is sooner. Of the tuition payments, \$500 will be considered a non-refundable deposit.

The remaining tuition is due by February 15th 2005. The tuition does not include travel costs or personal equipment & clothing costs. Most equipment can be bought or rented through NOLS. See your enrollment packet for more information or contact us.

Except for the application fee (which can be paid online by credit card), Teva Adventure ONLY accepts payment by check or bank wire. For bank wires, a \$15 wire transfer fee will be added to your tuition.

**We realize it may take time to schedule a doctor visit to complete the medical form, if you need to request an extension for submitting the medical form please contact Teva Adventure.*

Student Behavior and Discipline

Final acceptance is contingent upon the receipt and review of the materials listed above. Teva Adventure seeks students who are motivated to learn outdoor skills and develop leadership, are in good health, physically and emotionally, and are socially responsible.

Teva Adventure is not an appropriate choice for individuals dealing with behavioral, motivational or rehabilitation issues. We will be unable to admit anyone we believe to be unable to meet the physical, mental, social or safety demands of our courses.

Teva Adventure & NOLS will expel any student who exhibits behavior that, in our sole discretion, is unsafe or disrupts or distracts from the educational mission of their course. Harassment, use of drugs and alcohol, theft or misuse of property, low motivation and disregarding instructions are examples of behavior that will lead to expulsion. **If a student is expelled there will be no refund.**

Teva Adventure Cancellation Policies

If Teva Adventure cancels any program for a program for which you have paid fees, Teva Adventure will refund all tuition paid (minus application fee) if a substitute program is not offered. If you are denied participation, the return of the deposit will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

If you cancel participation in a program or leave a course for any reason before **January 10th 2005**, Teva Adventure will fully refund any fees you have paid minus the application fee and deposit.

Cancellation for any reason **after January 10th 2005**, will result in loss of part or all of participant's tuition. If you cancel participation in a program, Teva Adventure will handle partial refunds on a case-by-case basis.

Although it is unlikely that we will do so, we reserve the right to cancel a course or change a course's duration, description, tuition, or location. Teva Adventure is not responsible for costs associated in these cases. **We recommend that you consider refundable airplane tickets and tuition insurance.**

Should a participant leave the course early, by choice or due to medical concerns, there will be no refunds.

We look forward to receiving your completed application and hope to see you on one of our programs. Please feel free to call or e-mail us at Teva Adventure with any questions or concerns.

Warm Regards,



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Please mail all paper forms & payments to the following address:

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