

Welcome Guides!

Thank you for joining us during our IRF workshop on the North Umpqua River!

This workshop will be hosted by Raft instructor Nick Dietz and Raft instructor/ Assessor Mark Hirst. Located within the Umpqua national forest we have access to 14 miles of the beautiful and exciting upper North Umpqua River in which we will be putting on our workshop. This section of river is classified as a class 3 section with some class 4 rapids, with an average river temp of 40° to 45°. We like to call it the Numbqua. A few things you need to know before.....



The International Rafting Federation (IRF) is THE legitimate world governing body for rafting. They are a non-profit, democratic, global affiliation of national federations and sporting entities. Started in 1997, they assist the global rafting community to advance all avenues and concerns of rafting.

They issue Awards through the Guide Training and Education (GTE) Award system. The certification types that are offered consist of Raft guide, Safety Raft, Safety Kayak, Event Safety, Trip Leader, Instructor and Assessor (Instructor Trainer). Award level indicates the type of GTE Award in relation to a candidate's assessed skill, knowledge and experience. For example, the assessment for a Level 3 Raft Guide (RG3) candidate must be conducted on whitewater that is at least rated class/ grade 3.

The upcoming GTE workshop will be focused on offering Raft guide awards and Trip leader awards up to level 3. (RG3 and RTL3)

Dates/ Logistics May 9-11

May 9th and 10th Raft guide assessments

- These days will primarily consist of being assessed for Raft guide awards with some "at camp" time but mostly on the water.

- Assessments of each candidate consisting of a Pre-departure safety demonstration to the IRF standard, Rafting skills and crew management, whitewater swim, Rope work assessment, IRF standard flip test and IRF throw bag test.
- Expect long days on the water as we have a good number of things to cover.
- Lunch and transportation to and from camp will be provided.

May 11th Trip leader assessments

- This day will primarily consist of Trip leader candidates being assessed on trip leader scenarios and wrapping up raft guide assessments.
- Trip leader assessments will be based on a scenario you are given.
- Lunch and transportation to and from camp will be provided.
- If you are not planning on being assessed as a trip leader, feel free to stick around for the day as it would still be a great way to observe and learn from others.

Lodging

- We have enough sites reserved at Susan creek campground for everyone on the 8th through the 11th (anyone is welcome to stay the night before) Hot showers are available here.
- If not wanting to camp a few other places that are close are Umpqua's Last Resort, Steamboat Inn and Dogwood Motel.
- There are lots of other campgrounds in the area if wanting to get away.
- If camping, you need to bring your own camping gear.

Prerequisites

First Aid

- Raft Guide candidates need to have a current/valid standard first aid certificate (minimum course duration of 8hrs, must include CPR)
- Trip Leader candidates need to have a current/valid advanced first aid certificate (minimum course duration of 16hrs, must include CPR)

Logbook

- Raft guide candidates will need 30 "runs" (equivalent to 2 hours of on-river rafting time or 60 hours on class 3 and above rivers logged.)
- Trip leader candidates will need in addition 10 runs or 20 hours as trip leader or RTL on Class 3 and above rivers logged.

Equipment/ PPE

- All candidates will need to have a USGC approved class 3 or 5 whitewater specific PFD and whitewater specific Helmet (EN 1385).
- River knife and whistle.
- Throwbag that they feel comfortable enough to make accurate throws.
- Flip line
- Pin kit components (4 carabineers, 3 pulleys, 2 prusiks)
- Cold water gear (dry suit, wetsuit, closed toed shoes)

General

- All candidates must be 18 years old at the time of assessment.
- Be able to swim
- Have a good attitude (this should be a good time after all).

Cost/ Fees

- Raft guide assessment fee – \$40.00 USD
- Trip leader assessment fee - \$70.00 USD
- \$15.00 is for undertaking more than one assessment at the time (example Raft Guide 4 and Trip Leader 3 – total fee would be \$85)

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you in person and if there are any questions or concerns, I'm here for you. My goal is for all of you to get a fair chance to get the awards and/ or experience you're looking for. Expect more information and updates to follow.

Talk to you soon-

Nick Dietz

