



WILDERNESS
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

Standards Working Group

Purpose: This ad hoc working group, part of the Curriculum and Standards committee, will conduct a thorough and extensive assessment of the six WEA Educational Components and Student Learning Outcomes as described in the Accreditation Manual. The charge for this group is to review, rewrite as needed, and/or recommend new components to the student learning outcomes. The findings and recommendations will be presented for industry review before formal proposal to the Board of Directors and the WEA Membership. The project will begin in January 2018 and conclude no later than December 31, 2018.

Scope of Work:

Phase 1

- Review administrative standards and make general suggestions to guide the work of the Commission on Education and Leadership.
- Review existing educational components as well as relevant literature to ensure that benchmarks reflect industry trends.
- Revise and recommend any changes to strengthen the educational components.
- Review, revise and recommend changes to learning outcomes under each educational component.
- Determine if “content to consider” is necessary and/or helpful which may include recommendations for what is included.
- Ensure that educational components and learning outcomes reflect minimum standards. Any additional recommendations towards standards that exceed minimum standards or deemed “best practices” should be noted as such.
- The task force will make recommendations regarding any special designation or differentiation between the various programs/organizations that might seek accreditation status.

Phase 2

- The task force will use revised educational components and learning outcomes to identify standards appropriate for the Certified Outdoor Leader program.

Phase 3

- The task force will write, compile, and pilot test a pool of questions that could be utilized in a national exam for those seeking recognition as outdoor leaders.

Format and Makeup:

- The Task Force will complete work in order of the three outlined phases.
- The Task Force will be made up of 16 members in addition to the two task force chairs.
- The Task Force will meet regularly (virtually) during the spring and summer of 2018. Some work will be conducted individually and some with a subset of the larger working group.