

To: Medical School Dean, Residency Director, Course Director or Administrator

Re: Wilderness Medical Society Elective in Wilderness Medicine, Academic year, 2011

The Wilderness Medical Society (WMS), in consultation with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), offers to third and fourth year medical students, residents, and allied health professionals from accredited schools, an opportunity for premier instruction in wilderness and environmental medicine. You are receiving this letter because a student at your institution is interested in taking and/or receiving academic credit for this elective.

The elective, offered in February 2011, consists of a curriculum instructed by experts in wilderness medicine. The academically rigorous curriculum has been critically evaluated and approved for credit by the WMS and USUHS. While USUHS offers 4 weeks of academic elective credit for its students who successfully complete the course, each medical school must assess whether or not it will award its own students credit. The following information is provided to help you make that assessment.

The 142-hour, 4-week course includes 54 hours of didactic instruction, 48 hours of hands-on, pre-hospital Wilderness First Responder (WFR) training, 24 hours of field training, as well as case discussions, and a field practicum. Students successfully completing the course will be able to:

- Act as a medical group leader in backcountry or other remote settings
- Plan for the medical support of a wide range of wilderness and/or adventure travel experiences
- Identify and plan for special hazards in a variety of extreme environments
- Manage common illnesses and injuries in an austere environment with limited resources
- Advise a wilderness travel group concerning care for and evacuation of injured or ill members
- Demonstrate basic competence in exotic travel and individual wilderness survival skills
- Understand the wilderness care provider's role in search and rescue

We encourage you to consider approving requests for participation and credit for your interested resident(s) or student(s). Further information may be obtained by contacting me directly or by accessing the web site at <http://wms.org/education/elective.asp>. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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