

A photograph of a cave entrance looking out onto a colorful mountain range under a blue sky. The cave interior is dark and rocky, with sunlight streaming in from the opening. The view outside shows a vast, arid landscape with mountains in shades of orange, red, and yellow, set against a clear blue sky.

# Leadership Expedition with NOLS (Utah Canyons)

**MARCH 2026 INFO  
SESSION**



# About NOLS



The **National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)** is a nonprofit global wilderness school that provides the environment and training to help students develop as leaders.



CBS has been partnering with NOLS for almost 10 years to provide students with outdoor experiential learning opportunities



The **March 2026** Experience will take place in the **Utah Canyons**.



# Course Features

## Expedition Overview



The Columbia MBA Leadership Expedition takes you through the unique canyon country of the Colorado Plateau in southeastern Utah. The course area is located on Hopi, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Uintah Ouray Ute, and Zuni ancestral lands and has a rich human history that dates back thousands of years. Hiking days may involve scouting for passage into canyons, hiking through canyon bottoms or along mesa tops. At night, you'll set up camp, cook meals on lightweight camp stoves, and live in a small, tight-knit community.



Travel both on and off trail in the canyons and on the mesa.

**Length:** 7-day expedition

**Mileage:** approximately 20-30 miles

**Average Pack Weight:** 45-50 pounds

**Average Group Size:** 10 participants / 2 NOLS Instructors



# Overview: A Leader for the Unknown



■ The hallmark of a NOLS expedition is encountering and leading in **unknown** situations

■ NOLS teaches leadership as, “**situationally appropriate action that directs or guides your group to set and achieve goals.**” Students will be able to:

- Serve a team in a variety of roles: self leader, peer leader, designated leader, and active follower
- Demonstrate good expedition behavior—take initiative, balance group and personal goals, and remain respectful and inclusive of their team members
- Demonstrate competence and self awareness
- Communicate effectively
- Make sound decisions
- Display a tolerance for adversity and uncertainty





# Overview: The Challenges You May Face



- Comfort level with backpacking in various conditions varies by individual experience and preparedness.
- Every situation in the canyons is different, so we can't give you a lot of granular and specified information beforehand – **the unknown is part of the experience**
- NOLS teaches basic expedition skills necessary to live and travel in the wilderness:
  - Live comfortably (select campsite; set up shelter; organize, pack, and maintain gear; cook; use clothing as protection from the elements)
  - Navigate using maps, charts, compass, GPS, terrain, etc.
  - Develop risk assessment skills and judgement



# Typical Day

<https://www.nols.edu/en/expeditions/what-to-expect/>



7:30	Wake up
7:30 - 9:30	Make breakfast with tent team and pack up gear
9:30 - 10:00	Meet with team of 10 for leadership lesson
10:00 - 5:00	Trek with group of the day (5 people + instructor)
5:00 - 7:00	Set up camp and cook dinner with team
7:00 - 8:00	Feedback sessions with hiking group
8:00 - 9:00	Group activity/outdoor survival skills lesson
9:00	Bedtime!



# Important Details

- **Cost:** \$3,320 program fee and \$200 equipment deposit to NOLS; estimated \$500-\$1000 gear purchases, 2 nights lodging, domestic flight to Grand Junction, Colorado
- **Dates:** Expedition March 15-21, 2026 (Must be in Grand Junction, Colorado by Saturday, March 14; you must stay in Grand Junction until the morning of March 22)
- **How to Join:** A sign-up email will follow via Community. Information will also be posted on the Chazen Study Tour website. There is no matching period – this is first-come, first-serve and spots are secured and managed by NOLS.
- **Additional:** Students will be asked to submit and application and NOLS medical paperwork in order to participate. Deposit is due upon enrollment (\$830); paperwork, program fee balance, and equipment balance are due by December 30.
- **Financial Support:** If you are a Chazen Travel Grant recipient, you may use your reward for this program. The Ruben Mark Initiative for Organizational Character and Leadership is also expected to provide funding opportunities (estimated up to \$1500).



# Frequently Asked Questions

- ▀ **Where do you shower?** You don't 😊
- ▀ **Do we return to base each night?** No, you sleep in a tent each night based on where you end up at the end of the hiking day
- ▀ **What do we carry each day?** Each team will be carrying a tent, stove, food, personal supplies; it will be a significant weight, but they keep it to a manageable percentage of your body weight
- ▀ **What do we eat?** You'll be carrying food that can stay for a week without cooling; dried fruit and meat, cheese, pasta, and ingredients to cook each evening and morning
- ▀ **Bathroom?** You'll be taught how to manage this out in the open



# Helping You to Prepare



- Chazen and NOLS will give you guidance to prepare for the program –
  - Recommended pre-expedition hikes/activities
  - Fitness plan
  - Locations to buy equipment
  - Suggestions for group activities
- Chazen will assist with pre and post-trip reflection sessions
- NOLS is always available to answer any questions as it relates to the program.



# Questions?



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