**Mountain Whitewater**

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[www.RaftMWD.com](http://www.RaftMWD.com)

“Our Guides Make the Difference”



Mountain Whitewater Guide School 2019

This year’s classroom training will start in May and will correspond with the start of the rafting season. Classes and drills will be held in the mornings, starting at 8:00 am on Monday, May 20, 2019. We will hold all dry-land instruction and classroom sessions on the grounds of Mountain Whitewater. Classroom sessions will last until around noon, followed by on-river training in the afternoons (river level permitting). These classroom sessions will consist of a compilation of videos, slides, handouts, and lecture.

Trainees will receive a training packet containing rafting related stories and techniques compiled from several books including: *River Safety Report, Whitewater Rescue Manual, River Rescue,* and *User’s Guide to the Cache La Poudre River*. *Professionally Guiding Whitewater* and *The Complete Whitewater Rafter* will be used as the main texts for the course and will be loaned to you for the duration of the course. The books and videos mentioned above and other materials are available to trainees through the Mountain Whitewater library.

These are the classroom sessions that are required by the State of Colorado to obtain your guide license. They help visualize what is happening on the river and why the boat acts a certain way in rapids. Classes are held early in the training process so that the skills learned in the classroom can be applied to the river.

Monday, May 20th – Paperwork, Employee Handbook, Equipment & Gear, Rigging

Tuesday, May 21st – River Currents, River Features, Paddle Commands, rating scales

Wednesday, May 22nd - Running the Rapids, Safety, Safety Talk, River Hazards

Thursday, May 23rd - River Rescue, Emergency Procedures, Rope Rescue

Friday, May 24th - Miscellaneous, Outdoor Impacts, How to be a Better Guide

Colorado State law requires that you have Basic First Aid and CPR certifications. Mountain Whitewater will hold a CPR and Wilderness First Aid training course sometime in the spring for all of our guides and trainees. The Red Cross and other organizations can certify you in these courses if you cannot make our class. The cost of CPR and First Aid are usually around $40 to $65 per class. The Mountain Whitewater Swiftwater Rescue class will also be a required part of guide training. The cost of the Swiftwater Rescue course is included in the training investment.

There will be two main guide trainers; however, we will also have some of our returning guides help with training and instruction as well. The two main trainers are:

**Brad Modesitt (Owner),** 23rd-year guide, 24,000+ river miles, Canyons Inc. River Rescue Course, Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (trained), Outdoor Emergency Care Technician, Wilderness First Responder.

**Ben Costello (River Manager),** 19th-year guide, 15,000+ river miles, Swiftwater Rescue Technician 1, ACA Swiftwater Certified, Wilderness First Responder.

On-river lessons will be held in the afternoons after classes and then everyday after classes are over. We will be doing some intense training so that we can get you on the river as soon as possible. The State of Colorado requires that you have 50 hours on river time before you can guide commercially. Mountain Whitewater will require that you have 100+ hours. We have a Poudre rapids check-off sheet that will require all trainees to run all of the rapids of the Poudre Plunge at least 5 times. Once complete, if deemed appropriate, there will be a check-off run, top to bottom, with customers and a trainer in the boat. If all goes well, you will now be part of the Mountain Whitewater team.

**Training Investment:** $395 (half is returned after the second full-time season working with Mountain Whitewater, half returned after the third full-time season working with Mountain Whitewater). This cost covers the classroom sessions, dry land sessions, equipment used during training (PFD, wetsuit, booties, splash jacket, and helmet), Swiftwater rescue class and transportation to and from the Cache la Poudre River Canyon. Being a river guide is a multidimensional job. We are looking for people who can fulfill those needs. Ask around…we have the best-trained guides you will find.