

Before You Arrive To Broadstone

Community Living: Much of the instruction will be led as a participatory and hands-on activity, with micro-lecturettes for specific topics and workshops. In a Broadstone course, each person is expected to participate fully within the class context, as well as in the living community during non-class times. This includes participating in general chores like classroom power cleans, collecting and maintaining classroom gear and equipment, but also include managing personal living needs within the context of the group, and assisting others with their needs as they become apparent. In a Backcountry Classroom setting, each person will be responsible for helping out as an active part in the group's everyday camping tasks including: cooking, cleaning, equipment set up and break down, water purification, etc. Living with other people in close conditions requires practice in understanding and tolerance. All participants should be prepared to work within the group's dynamics.

Safety: It is our primary mission to provide outdoor adventure programming while paying close attention to plans for risk management. The outdoors and outdoor activities are inherently dangerous. We have chosen equipment and program sites carefully. Our instructors are outdoor professionals who hold current certification in Wilderness First Responder or Wilderness EMT, and professional level CPR. In the event of an accident, Landmark staff will aid in medical care of the ill or injured until EMS arrives or evacuation is executed. Any costs of medical care and evacuation beyond the initial medical care given by our staff, is the sole responsibility of the ill or injured.

Travel To and From Broadstone: We are located at 1431 Broadstone Road, Banner Elk NC. If you plan to fly or take a bus instead to Broadstone, please do not make reservations prior to 30 days before the course. You will receive a course confirmation email at 30 days, letting you know if the course is committed or canceled due to enrollment; at that time you may make your travel reservations. Your other option is to coordinate a ride with another student. Contact Katie Wall at 828.262.7388 to authorize the release of your contact information to the students in the course. When planning your departure from Broadstone, keep in mind that your course does not officially end until 5pm. It is 2 hour drive from Broadstone to the Asheville airport and 2.5 hours Charlotte. We suggest that you give yourself at least 2.5 hours buffer for departing evening flights or plan to stay overnight in Asheville/Charlotte and leave the following morning.

No Car at Broadstone? We frequently have students attend our courses from all over the country and resulting in them not having a car while here on Broadstone. Broadstone is not a pedestrian community (no sidewalks and miles from town), it's easy to share a ride and expenses with other classmates to grocery stores, clinical sites, trailheads, or river areas, all of which are within easy access of Broadstone.

Transportation During Course: In courses that require travel to backcountry, trailheads, river sites, participants are responsible for transportation. We may arrange carpools to sites together as a class. At all times we attempt to find suitable parking options; however, Broadstone assumes no responsibility for vehicles left unattended.

Parking at Broadstone: Broadstone's campus has very limited flat space and so parking is extremely limited. If possible, please try to carpool to limit the number of vehicles. In the parking lot, please pull in close to the next vehicle, facing the lodge.

Facility: Please bring an extra pair of "inside" shoes, slippers, or sandals for use in the lodge. We ask folks to remove their "outside" shoes upon entering, in order to cut drastically down on clean-up, and for hygiene reasons would like people not to go barefoot. The lodge has bathrooms, refrigerator/freezer units, microwave, and coffee pot available for students to share in the classroom. Be considerate of others and keep refrigerated items to a minimum – we are close to town and it's easy to make a trip to a grocery store every few days to restock. A Rubbermaid box or crate is helpful for food storage; several bins are available for folks who are flying in. Most folks bring a camp stove and cook on the picnic tables behind the lodge under the pavilion, just behind the classroom.

Pets: Please leave your animal companions at home. Due to allergies and preferences of other people in your course and neighbor relations, it is inappropriate to bring them. If a pet is with you upon arrival we will direct you toward a kennel for the duration of the course. If this is unacceptable, you will be withdrawn from the course and cancellation policies will apply.

Lodging: Lodging is available for a nominal per night charge in cabins, car camping or tent camping. This fee covers the cabin space, the access to the bathroom and shower facilities (with hot water!) in the cabins and refrigerator/freezer units in the lodge. Space is limited, so please indicate on your Course Application that you are interested in housing. You can check into your cabin between 4:00pm – 9:00pm the evening you arrive. Check into the lodge when you arrive to receive housing assignments that will be posted. There will be a map of the property to orient you to Broadstone, the cabins and tent pad sites. If you will be arriving after 9pm please let us know! These lodging options are set up for students currently enrolled in Broadstone courses. We will not accommodate for overnight guests to stay here on site. Students are required to be packed and off campus after the course ends on the last day. Please bring your own linens (including sheets or sleeping bags and towels), as these are not provided for you.

Kitchen/Cooking/Food: A large kitchen is available in the lodge throughout the course. There is a microwave, 3 refrigerators, 3 stoves, 2 large coffee pots, and a large sink. Feel free to bring food to get you through the course. There is plenty of room for you to store all your food. Many students bring breakfast and lunch meals to cook and prepare in the kitchen and head into downtown Boone for dinner. You have one hour for lunch and many of the local restaurants are 10 minutes away, making your lunch break a bit tight. You may also cook outside in the parking lot area and behind the kitchen on your camping stoves if you prefer. Bring bags or a box to keep your food organized.

Phones/Computers/WiFi: Broadstone courses are designed with outdoor recreationalists and professionals in mind. There is no phone or computer available for personal use at Broadstone. We do request that cell phones be turned off during class hours. Cell phone reception is quite spotty here in the mountains, but is usually very usable in town, just ten minutes away. Wireless access is available in the lodge.

Down Time: Broadstone is also just twelve minutes from downtown Boone and a variety of grocery stores, restaurants, and fast food places. Broadstone is located near some of the best trails for hiking and trail running and mountain biking. We are minutes various rivers for kayaking, tubing or fly fishing. If you wish, come prepared to be active during your after-class free time. All recreational opportunities are at your own risk and Challenge by Choice.

- Watauga River – on the lower field of the property. Bring your own rods and your North Carolina Fishing License.
- Walking Trails – the start of a walking trail system is being created near the Lodge area, but again this is just a start so we wouldn't advise running or biking the trails.
- Bouldering Cave – a new bouldering cave has been created uphill from the Lodge. Follow the gravel road uphill, past the yellow gate, to the ridge at the top of the property and just beyond the high ropes course you'll see the cave. We recommend that you bring your own bouldering pad.
- Local climbing, hiking, biking, fishing, paddling and skiing – nice online resource: <http://www.booneareatravelguide.com/category/attractions/outdooractivities/>