Aug 6 & 21-23, 2020 Backpacking Course
Advanced Outdoor Skills Training

August 6th (Thursday evening, on Zoom) and Fri evening to Sun, Aug 21-23rd, 2020 at Durland Scout Reservation, Putnam Valley, NY

Whether you are an individual hiker or planning a Philmont trek – this course will improve your skills! Focusing on intermediate to advanced-level backpacking skills, the course is comprised of one evening of classroom prep and one full weekend outdoors. Cost is $50, covering trail food costs for the weekend. BSA Medical forms are required.

The course is for both adults and mature youth (13+). Participants are expected to have some camping experience and a willingness to learn lightweight backpacking skills. The course aims to instill skills and confidence to go farther into the backcountry and see more of nature’s treasures. Participants will work in small crews and are encouraged to borrow gear for the course, as the knowledge they gain may influence their equipment purchases.

The course is modeled after the Baltimore Area Council’s long-running Eagles Nest backpacking course but is taught by experienced backpackers from our Council. Topics will include:

- Trek planning, preparation, training
- Food selection, packaging, and preparation
- Personal hygiene; Campsite cleanliness & safety
- Backpack selection, fit, and packing
- Shelters (tents, tarps, hammocks); bags; pads
- Navigation: trail & topographical maps, GPS
- Trail first aid and injury prevention
- Water treatment: sources, filtration and purification
- Backpacking stoves, LNT fires
- Outdoor Ethics/Leave No Trace fundamentals
- Staff tips: “what works for me”; Staff gear show and comparisons

Registration is online at: https://mycouncil.wpcbsa.org/Event/3176
For more information please contact Carl Gebauer: wpcbackpacking@gmail.com