



Instructor Application

Backtracks Workshops - Rabbitstick Primitive Skills Conferences

Due to an increase in inquiries about becoming an instructor with us, *Backtracks* has developed the following explanation on how one might become a staff member for the skills events we host.

First, we need to defuse an assumption that has been floated among perspective applicants - ***we do not trade tuition for teaching at our events.*** People have begun to call or e-mail stating that they want to teach in exchange for attending an event. This could not be further from what our expectations are for our staff, and it is definitely not an avenue to becoming a member of the *Backtracks* instructional staff.

What we are looking for are people who have honed their craft, have applied their skills in the field or through extensive personal experience and experimentation. *Backtracks* takes pride in the fact that we have established a high standard for our events, and we want to continue that reputation as we add staff to our roster, and as we expand into new areas of instruction that we can offer our participants.

What We Expect

New Applicants can become a part of the *Backtracks* instructional staff through ***any of three ways*** – come highly recommended by another staff member, show a portfolio of expertise, or offer a demonstration class.

- ***Recommendation*** - We trust the competence of our staff to see people with potential to become an addition to our events. People may be working with staff as an apprentice and are ready to advance, they may be experts in their

own right that staffers have worked with, or they may be practitioners that staff have referred to us as peers in their area of expertise and have been teaching on their own.

- ***Show Portfolio*** - Experts who learn about our event and want to become a part of our teaching staff may have a high level of expertise that will greatly add to our program, but they are not familiar with any of our staff who might be able to recommend them. In this case, we can look at an applicant's background and assess their skill level on the basis of their experience and production.

- ***Demonstration Class*** - Applicants who have attended our events, honed their skills, and want to become instructional staff can return as a student and teach a demonstration class. This is so we can observe your teaching skill and get a response from participants to see if what you are doing warrants inclusion at the instructor level.

Qualifications

- *Backtracks* is looking for instructional staff who have the ability to offer a full range of classes within their area of expertise – beginning to advanced – or who are generalists and have a high level of expertise in a variety of skill areas.

- When applying to us for consideration of an instructional position, we are not interested in a short-term relationship. The idea of trading teaching for tuition is not at all what we are looking for. We are looking for skilled people who are committed to their craft and are excited to share it with others. We are hoping that by including new applicants, they will become a part of the

Backtracks family and join us for a long-term involvement at our events. Many of our staff have been a part of what we do for 30 years. Most have been with us for ten years or longer. Becoming a part of the *Backtracks* family is a commitment to helping *Backtracks* maintain its high quality events by staying with us for at least 3-5 years, and mentoring others in keeping traditions alive. We all support and represent each other.

- Staff must be able to access, process, and provide their own teaching materials, supplies, tools and shelter. *Backtracks* has limited ability to provide such items, and with an instructional staff of over 200, it's impossible for us to see to the needs of everyone. We can help with advanced arrangements in special situations if we have the ability. ***Class fees cover the cost of actual course materials only. Staff do not charge for instruction.*** Materials fees must be realistic and directly applied to the resource materials provided. We encourage all staff to also offer free classes as part of their schedule.

Content

- Priority is given to applicants who have something new to add to the event, can help us improve areas in which we are weak or lacking, or they are replacing a retiring staff member in a specific area of expertise.

- We are looking for creative individuals as well. Someone who says they can teach fire-making is not as valuable as someone who can offer a full spectrum of basic skills in a creative and comprehensive way.

- Teaching for *Backtracks* is a time commitment. We expect entry staff to schedule a course offering that covers 20 hours of instruction during the week. Classes may be from an hour to multi-day workshops. They can be lectures, demonstrations, hands-on workshops, walkbouts, etc.

- Classes should be applicable to the setting. Consider the environment in which we are camped when proposing a new class. No permanent structures permitted.

- Over the years, *Backtracks* events have ma-

tured and interests have widened, so we have begun to add classes in areas that we call Self-Reliance or Homespun skills. Classes should have content that is in context with these ideas. Primitive/Wilderness Living skills should have ethnographic or archaeological foundations and may focus on replication, experimentation or direct application. Self-Reliance/Home-spuns should reflect skills that affect quality of life both at home and in the wild outdoors.

- Proposed classes may include a simple "craft" project, but these are low on our list of priorities. Doing a simple craft where materials are supplied and participants "make and take" an item that has no context or skill that can be expanded upon are discouraged.

If you have any questions regarding this statement, please feel free to contact the *Backtracks* office and speak with David Wescott regarding your concerns.

backtracks905@gmail.com
or call 208-359-2400

For people who have not contacted us at an event in person, or attended an event with us, please attach a reference, recommendation or portfolio/Vita with this proposal form so we might be able to assess your level of expertise.

Applicants who have attended a *Backtracks* event, please make sure we have communicated in advance about what you would like to propose. Please attach any photos of proposed projects, Vita explaining skill level and training, and any other information that can assist us in assessing your skill level.

Thank You,
The Backtracks Management

PS – If it's not too much trouble, could you include a photo? We're pretty good with faces and sometimes lousy with names. We meet hundreds of people at every event, so a reminder of who you are might help. ***Thanks.***



PRIMITIVE SKILLS CONFERENCES

WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

OFFICE USE	
Received	_____
Accepted	_____
Hold	_____
Reference	_____

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ [2017]

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

E-Mail: _____

WORKSHOP TITLE: _____

TYPE:

- Lecture/Discussion _____
- Demonstration _____
- Hands-on _____
- Display _____
- Forum _____
- Other _____

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

BACKTRACKS

TIMES:	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00	EVE
Sunday Basics									
Monday									
Tuesday									
Wednesday									
Thursday									
Friday									
Saturday		<i>Break-down</i>							

Tools and materials you will supply: _____

Tools and Materials needed: _____

NOTE: If you will be using handouts, you will need to produce them in advance and bring them with you. Workshop fees are for materials only.

PROPOSED COST: _____

Please make copies of this form if you are teaching more than one workshop.

PLEASE RETURN ASAP FOR SCHEDULE PRINTING. Bring extras for the bulletin board if you want to.