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Survival training courses near me

One of the best investments I ever spent was enrolling in a 3-day survival school course with my family. Not only did we get to learn a lot of new skills while enjoying breathtaking nature, but we also met a lot of like-minded people. Some of them went on to become good friends! If you aren't sure whether a survival school is right for you, I'd check out this post about the pros and cons of survival courses. But if you are ready to push your boundaries and become more self-reliant, here are some of the best survival schools in the states. Boulder Outdoor Survival School Sick of living in the modern world where everyone is reliant on tech gadgets for survival? BOSS survival school will give you a welcome break from all that. The school focuses on primitive living skills and you can expect to live at basecamp with just hand-made materials. It is fun, educational, and actually a good vacation too. Location: Utah Duration: 4-28 day courses Types of Survival Classes Offered: Primitive survival Level: Intermediate to advanced Family Friendly: No Website: Boulder Outdoor Survival School Maine Primitive Skills School This survival school markets itself as the "center for wilderness awareness, survival, self-reliance, and nature connection." A lot of people will prefer the "earth living" focus over the doomsday mentality which is used at other survival schools. Location: Maine Duration: Mostly 1-5 days Types of Survival Classes Offered: Foraging, earth living, wilderness survival Level: Beginner to intermediate Family Friendly: Youth survival camps offered Website: Maine Primitive Skills Sigma 3 Survival School Sigma 3, or "the Institute for Self Reliance," is one of the best-known survival schools. They offer a huge variety of courses from weekend wilderness retreats to customized classes. Everyone I've talked to who has taken their survival classes has been very pleased with the instructors and information learned. Location: Primarily in Missouri, Virginia, Colorado, Arkansas, and Florida. International courses are sometimes held. Duration: From 1-day walks to 7+ days Types of Survival Classes Offered: SERE, wilderness training, anti-abduction and defense, wild plants, survival fishing, trapping, and more Level: Complete beginner to advanced classes available Family Friendly: Some classes, yes Website: Sigma 3 Ancient Pathways Based in Arizona, Ancient Pathways is best known for its primitive skills courses such as how to trap, track, and survive with tools that you can make yourself. They are also one of the best places to learn desert survival skills. You don't have to worry if you aren't advanced - there are all levels of courses. For more advanced people, there are survival classes like "knife only" and field courses. Location: Arizona Duration: 1-day, overnight, and multi-day courses available Types of Survival Classes Offered: Primitive survival, wilderness survival, bushcraft field courses, desert survival Level: Beginner to advanced Family Friendly: For kids 14 years and up Website: Ancient Pathways Thomas Coyne Survival Schools (formerly the Survival Training School of California) There are some basic wilderness survival courses offered by Thomas Coyne, but this is the survival school you want to go to for EXTREME experiences. In those all-weather survival courses, you won't be allowed to use a sleeping bag or munch on Snickers bars that you hid in your pockets. The survival school is very affordable for the level of skill taught. Location: California, yearly courses held in Alaska Duration: Mostly 1-8 days Types of Survival Classes Offered: Skill-based courses (map reading, navigation, basic survival skills, etc.), field courses, bushcraft courses, medical and tactical courses, private survival courses Level: Family Friendly: Website: Thomas Coyne Survival Schools Mountain Scout Survival School If you live in New York and don't want to commit to a longer survival course, Mountain Scout Survival School has a lot of 1-day classes to choose from that cover wilderness survival to emergency prepping. The nice thing is that many of the courses focus on specific topics so you can go to build one specific skill instead of trying to learn everything at once in an intensive field course. Location: New York Duration: Mostly 1-day courses Types of Survival Classes Offered: Level: Wilderness survival, bugging out, tracking, navigation, family emergency preparedness, fire, women's survival Family Friendly: Children allowed but courses designed for adults Website: Mountain Scout Wilderness Awareness School This is a survival school of people who love nature. There are shorter courses on tracking, bird language, edible plants, plant medicine, and other topics that will help you survive while getting closer to nature. There are also intensive survival courses that go through several months. Location: Washington State Duration: 1-3 days; intensive courses last 9 months but are broken into weekend segments Types of Survival Classes Offered: Wilderness survival, nature Level: Beginner to advanced Family Friendly: Youth programs available Website: Wilderness Awareness Aboriginal Living Skills School Run by Cody Lundin, this is a renowned survival school that will turn anyone into a survivalist. I like how there are specific skill courses available as well as intensive survival courses. Cody focuses on primitive survival skills, which means the focus will be a lot more on exploring indigenous cultures than surviving SHTF disasters. Location: Arizona Duration: Mostly 1-day to 1-week Types of Survival Classes Offered: Primitive skill-focused courses (fire, trapping, edible plants, desert survival...) and adventure courses Level: Beginner to advanced Family Friendly: Yes Website: Aboriginal Living Skills Jack Mountain Bushcraft School If you are looking for a more intense survival school for learning wilderness skills, Jack Mountain Bushcraft school has "semesters" which last 2 months. You can even get college credits for these courses! There are also some "folk school" classes which only last a few days where you can learn skills like knife making. Location: New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont Duration: Mostly longer classes from 1 week to 9 weeks Types of Survival Classes Offered: Bushcraft, folk skills (primitive skills), outdoor skills, self-reliance workshops Level: Intermediate to advanced Family Friendly: Yes Website: Jack Mountain Bushcraft Mountain Shepherd Wilderness Survival School If you aren't quite ready to disappear into the wilderness with nothing but a knife, Mountain Shepherd Wilderness Survival School is a good option for learning basics. You will learn which insects are edible (but won't be required to eat them) and can even stay in lodges if you wish. It's also a plus that this is one of the more affordable survival schools. Location: Virginia and Oregon Duration: Mostly 1-3 days Types of Survival Classes Offered: Leadership and team building, outdoor skills, wilderness first aid, bushcraft essentials Level: Mostly beginner Family Friendly: Yes Website: Mountain Shepherd Alderleaf Wilderness College This is one of the more comprehensive survival schools where you can get certification and college credits (certificate in Wilderness Skills and Education and Ecology). This is great if you want a career outdoors. For people who just want to improve their skills, there are also weekend courses available. Location: Washington Duration: Weekend courses, week-long courses, and a 9-month certification program Types of Survival Classes Offered: Wilderness survival, traditional ecological knowledge, wild edibles, permaculture, wildlife tracking Level: Intermediate to advanced Family Friendly: No - Must be at least 18 to attend Website: Alderleaf Wilderness College Other Survival Schools I personally haven't checked out the reviews of each of these survival schools. However, they seem to be reputable and offer a good course selection. If you have tried any of these survival schools yourself, let us know about your experience! Practical Primitive Location: New Jersey Types of Survival Classes Offered: Bushcraft, wilderness survival, self-reliance, primitive skills, traditional living Website: Practical Primitive True North Wilderness Survival School Wolf College Location: Washington Types of Survival Classes Offered: Mostly kids camps Website: Wolf Camp Hawk Circle Location: New York State Types of Survival Classes Offered: Mostly for youth and family retreats Website: Hawk Circle Tom Brown Jr.'s Tracker School Location: New Jersey, some online courses too Types of Survival Classes Offered: Wilderness survival, primitive cooking Website: Tom Brown Jr.'s Tracker School First Earth Wilderness School Location: Missouri Types of Survival Classes Offered: Bow and arrow, tanning, hunter-gatherer, other primitive skills Website: First Earth Wilderness School Ancestral Knowledge Location: Maryland, DC area Types of Survival Classes Offered: Primitive skills, family workshops, youth programs Website: Ancestral Knowledge Earthworks Wilderness Survival Training School Twin Eagles Location: Idaho Types of Survival Classes Offered: Wild edibles, bow making, primitive skills, youth programs Website: Twin Eagles Itchatad Outdoors Survival School Adventure Out Location: California Types of Survival Classes Offered: Desert survival, snow caves and winter survival, fire, arrow making, kayak building, stone tools, and youth programs Website: Adventure Out The Human Path Location: Texas Types of Survival Classes Offered: Primitive skills, wilderness survival, herbal medicine, off-grid, homesteading Website: The Human Path Nantahala Outdoor Center Learn to Return Location: Anchorage, Alaska Types of Survival Classes Offered: Offshore survival, rescue, medical. Website: Learn to Return Teaching Drum Outdoor School Location: Wisconsin Types of Survival Classes Offered: Natural living, primitive living, wilderness skills Website: Teaching Drum Outdoor School Reavis Mountain School Location: Arizona Types of Survival Classes Offered: Natural healing, self-reliance, growing your own food, traditional living Website: Reavis Mountain School + Image credits

