

Code of Conduct & Ethics Policy

NBWSR is committed to promoting professionalism, integrity, safety, stewardship, and respect within the wilderness self-reliance and outdoor education community. This Code applies to Directors, Officers, Advisory Council members, instructors, evaluators, volunteers, contractors, committee members, representatives, and event staff.

Core values

- Integrity - act honestly, ethically, and transparently.
- Respect - treat all individuals with dignity and professionalism.
- Responsibility - prioritize safety, preparedness, and accountability.
- Stewardship - promote responsible interaction with the land.
- Service - support the development of knowledge, skills, and community.
- Inclusion - welcome diverse perspectives and backgrounds.

Professional conduct

Members act honestly and in good faith, represent qualifications accurately, avoid misleading claims, communicate professionally, and follow organizational policies. Members shall not misrepresent credentials, engage in fraudulent conduct, abuse positions of authority, or use NBWSR affiliation for deceptive purposes.

Safety

Safety is the highest operational priority. Individuals promote responsible risk management, operate within their training and competence, follow applicable laws, disclose known safety concerns, and avoid reckless conduct. No certification, title, or affiliation shall be used to justify unsafe practices.

Respect & Indigenous cultural responsibility

NBWSR fosters a respectful, welcoming environment free of harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or bullying. Participants engage respectfully with Indigenous communities, avoid misrepresentation of Indigenous teachings, seek appropriate permissions, and acknowledge sources of traditional knowledge. NBWSR does not support the unauthorized commercialization of Indigenous knowledge or cultural practices.

Environmental stewardship

Participants minimize environmental impact, respect wildlife and ecosystems, follow Leave No Trace principles where appropriate, and support conservation and stewardship.

Conflicts, confidentiality & fair evaluation

Participants disclose conflicts of interest, protect confidential information, and - where involved in certification or evaluation - act impartially, apply standards consistently, and avoid favoritism.

Impairment, reporting & response

Individuals in instructional, assessment, leadership, or safety-sensitive roles shall not perform duties while impaired. Any participant may report concerns about safety, ethics, harassment, misconduct, fraud, or policy violations in good faith; retaliation against good-faith reporting is prohibited. NBWSR reviews allegations fairly; responses may range from informal resolution and education to written warning, suspension, removal, or revocation of credentials.