



SW Colorado Guide School - May 26th to June 9th 2026

This is a sample Itinerary and can change due to water levels and group dynamics.

Day 1 – Tuesday, May 26

Topics: Swiftwater Swimming · Rescue · River Mechanics · Rowing 101

8:00 AM – Meet at Boat Barn (50 Animas View Dr.)

8:05 AM – Meet & Greet

8:30 AM – Property Tour

9:00 AM – Launch @ Trimble

12:30 PM – Lunch

5:00 PM – Takeout @ 4 Corners

6:00 PM – Debrief & Adjourn

Day 2 – Wednesday, May 27

Topics: Rowing Form · Paddle Commands

7:00 AM – Meet at Durango boat yard

8:00 AM – Launch Oxbow

12:30 PM – Lunch

5:00 PM – Derig & Debrief

Day 3 – Thursday, May 28

This day begins a four day three night san miguel trip

Be prepared to camp. Pack lunch for this day. Meals provided from this evening onward.

Topics: Eddies · Guest Safety · Maneuvering in Current *Camping this Night*

7:00 AM – Head to San Miguel

9:30 AM – Launch @ CDOT

12:00 PM – Lunch

1:00 PM – Takeout @ Beaver

5:00 PM – Takeout @ Caddis

6:00 PM – Done for the Day

Day 4 – Friday, May 29

Topics: River Work · Intro to Angles *Camping this Night*

7:00 AM – Breakfast & Coffee

7:30 AM – Drive to San Miguel

9:30 AM – Launch @ CDOT

12:30 PM – Lunch

4:45 PM – Takeout @ Beaver

5:30 PM – Camp @ Caddis

Day 5 – Saturday, May 30

Camping this Night

Topics: Commercial Trip Strategy · Flow Management

7:00 AM – Breakfast

8:30 AM – Launch @ Caddis

12:30 PM – Takeout @ Beaver

1:30 PM – Put-in @ Ballpark

3:30 PM – Takeout @ Caddis

4:00 PM – Return to Durango

6:30 PM – Derig & Debrief

Day 6 – Sunday, May 31:

Topics: Scouting Rapids · Group Management at Scouts

7:00 AM - Breakfast

8:30 AM – Launch @ Ballpark

12:00 PM – Lunch

3:00 PM- Takeout Drive to Durango

5:30 PM – Derig debrief

Day 7 – Monday, June 1: Scheduled Rest Day (Subject to change)

Day 8 – Tuesday, June 2

Topics: Rigging · Ferry Angles · Boat Flipping Drills

7:00 AM – Meet @ Boat Barn

8:00 AM – Boat Flipping Drills

10:00 AM – Quarter-Day Run

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:00 PM – Half-Day Run

5:00 PM – Takeout & Debrief

Day 9 – Wednesday, June 3

Topics: River Features · Hazards · Knots 101

8:00 AM – Meet @ Boat Barn

8:45 AM – Launch @ Oxbow

12:30 PM – Lunch

4:00 PM – Takeout @ Brits

4:45 PM – Knots 101

6:00 PM – Debrief & Adjourn

Day 10 – Thursday, June 4

Topics: Rapid Types · Paddle Commands · Route Selection

8:00 AM – Meet @ Boat Barn

8:30 AM – Run: 32nd to Basin

12:00 PM – Lunch

1:30 PM – Run: 29th to Santa Rita

5:30 Debrief & Adjourn

Day 11 – Friday, June 5

Topics: Risk Management · River Rescue · Swimmer Retrieval

10:00 AM – Meet @ Boat Barn

10:30 AM – Half-Day Animas

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:30 PM – 2-Hour Animas

3:30 PM – Second 2-Hour Animas

6:00 PM – Wrap-Up

Day 12 – Saturday, June 6: First Aid / CPR Certification

Day 13 – Sunday, June 7

Topics: Oar Management · River Games · Duckies

9:00 AM – Meet @ Boat Barn

9:30 AM – Smelter Laps

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:30 PM – More Smelter Laps

5:00 PM – Adjourn

Day 14 – Monday, June 8

Topics: Customer Focus · Trip Leadership

10:00 AM – Meet @ Boat Barn

10:30 AM – Half-Day Animas

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:30 PM – 2-Hour- Animas laps

3:30 PM – 9th to santirita

5:00 PM – Done for the Day

Day 15 – Tuesday, June 9 *Graduation Day*

Topics: Customer Focus · Trip Leadership

10:00 AM – Meet @ Boat Barn

10:30 AM – Half-Day Animas

12:30 PM – BBQ grad celebration

3:00 PM- Meet with Jake: Next steps, Manuel, and schedule

5:00 PM – Done for the Day

Graduation Day

Congratulations! You are now a **Certified Class III Guide** in Colorado & Utah.

Total Course Mileage: 217 miles

Total River Hours: 86 hours

Course Notes

Expect progressive whitewater swims up to Class III.

Rope rescue techniques include: throw bags, Z-drags, vector pulls

Optional CPR/First Aid certification offered during the course. (Fees not included.)

Required Gear

Tent, Sleeping Bag & Pad

Whistle

Water Bottle

Recommended Gear

Nylon shorts/swimsuits

Polypro or wool base layers

Fleece jacket (*rentals available*)

Wetsuit & booties (*rentals available*)

Rain suit

Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen Fleece/wool socks Two locking carabiners

9 ft tubular webbing