



SKILLCRAFT PRODUCTIONS, LLC
KNOWLEDGE • GROWTH • INSPIRATION

“It’s an easy trail.”

BASIC SURVIVAL • 2.5 DAYS, TWO NIGHTS IN THE FIELD

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE DAY HIKE GOES WRONG

Experienced hikers get lost on easy trails in good weather. Search teams find the average lost person less than a mile from where they started.

Everything you will need to do, you must do
while you can still do it.

Taught by Chad Tiller, PA-C • Retired Green Beret • Special Forces medic • 20+ years of service

WHEN

9–11 OCTOBER 2026

Friday 9:00 AM to Sunday 12:00 PM

2.5 days • 2 nights outdoors

WHERE

**UWHARRIE
NATIONAL FOREST**

Montgomery County, NC

Directions sent on registration

TUITION

\$500 ADULTS

\$375 AGES 15–17

LIMITED TO 8 STUDENTS — registration closes when
the class is full.

YOUR GEAR, YOUR COURSE. You work with your own kit for every task. Download the packing list from the **Packing List tab on the course calendar** and build to it — every item is inspected, one by one, on Day 1.

WHAT YOU WALK OUT KNOWING

- 01** The first hour: S.T.O.P., assess, and decide to stay or move
- 02** Self-rescue — when walking out works, and when it kills people
- 03** Shelter and fire that hold through a cold, wet night — you sleep two nights in what you build
- 04** Water: find it, collect it, and make it safe to drink
- 05** Signal so they find you — mirror, whistle, panel, signal fire
- 06** Direction without a compass — walk a bearing out, and walk it back
- 07** Build, pack, and prove out the kit you actually carry

BEFORE YOU REGISTER — FOUR THINGS TO KNOW

- You are outdoors the whole time. Both nights in the field, on your feet, in whatever weather arrives.
- You eat from your own pack. Emergency rations by day, one hot meal each evening — no snack or trail food from home. Living on what you would actually have with you is part of the instruction.
- No firearms, by any participant, at any time. Axes, hatchets and machetes are outside this course’s scope.
- Ages 15 and up, no experience required. For day hikers, hunters, anglers, scout leaders — and anyone whose family goes outdoors. If your outdoor time is limited, start with Outdoors 101.



SCAN TO REGISTER

skillcraftproductions.com

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69 Knox Way, Ste. 100
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Three searches. Three decisions.

Every one of these people was competent, equipped for the day they planned, and doing something ordinary. What separated the outcomes was not strength or luck. It was a handful of decisions made in the first hours — the same decisions this course spends two and a half days practicing.

42%

TRIED TO TRAVEL A ROUTE OUT
— TRAIL, ROAD OR STREAM

26%

STAYED PUT AND WAITED FOR
RESCUE

Under 1 mile

AVERAGE DISTANCE FROM
WHERE THE PERSON STARTED
(1.8 KM)

190 feet

AVERAGE DISTANCE TO THE
NEAREST TRAIL OR ROAD (58
M)

Kati Kim and her two daughters

SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST, OREGON • 2006

SURVIVED

THE DECISION — Stranded on a snowbound logging road with two small children, she stayed with the vehicle.

THE OUTCOME — She burned the car's tires for black smoke and waved an umbrella at a passing helicopter. All three were found alive after nine days.

WHY IT MATTERS — A stationary vehicle is a target a searcher can find. A person on the move is not.

James Kim — same road, same week

SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST, OREGON • 2006

FATAL

THE DECISION — On day seven, he left the car on foot in tennis shoes and a light jacket to find help for his family.

THE OUTCOME — He covered roughly 16 miles through canyon and snow and died of hypothermia in an icy creek — about one mile from a stocked lodge he had no way of knowing was there.

WHY IT MATTERS — Same emergency, same family, two decisions. The ones who stayed came home.

Geraldine Largay — experienced thru-hiker

APPALACHIAN TRAIL, MAINE • 2013

FATAL

THE DECISION — She stepped off the trail for a few minutes, could not find it again, made camp and waited to be found.

THE OUTCOME — Her texts never sent. She carried a whistle and had no pattern to blow — no signal fire, no ground panel, nothing visible from the air. K9 teams passed within 100 yards. She survived 26 days, two miles from the trail.

WHY IT MATTERS — Staying put is half the job. Being findable is the other half, and it is active work.

Two and a half days in Uwharrie practicing these decisions — before the day you need them.

S.T.O.P. and the stay-or-move call • shelter and fire • water • signaling • navigation • the kit you carry

AFTER YOU REGISTER

Every registrant receives a welcome letter with the full detail for their course — arrival time and directions, the gear list, the schedule, and what is provided on site. Class size is capped at eight, so registration closes when the class fills.

Behavioral percentages and distances: Yosemite National Park search-and-rescue data. Lost-person behavior research: Robert J. Koester, *Lost Person Behavior* (dbs Productions, 2008). Case details from published search-and-rescue reports and news accounts.



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9–11 October 2026 • Uwharrie National Forest • \$500 adults / \$375 ages 15–17 • 8 seats

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