

## **International Rafting Federation (IRF) Guide, Trip Leader, & Instructor Workshop**

<https://acraft.com/event/irf-workshop/>

Location: ACE Adventure Resort, WV, USA

Rivers: New, Gauley, Meadow, Cherry

Length: 3 - 7 days

Dates: May 15, 2024 - May 21, 2024

Price: \$450 - first three days of raft guide/safety kayak workshop

\$750 - two additional days of Trip Leader workshop

\$1050 - two additional days of Instructor workshop

(\*can be booked individually for \$300 by guides who already have valid IRF TL certification)

Meals: lunch will be provided each day of instruction

Prerequisites: Experience as a commercial guide, logbook, and first aid certifications

Additional Cost: IRF Award Fees

Join us for an International Rafting Federation (IRF) workshop for river guides and trip leaders facilitated by IRF Instructor Bryant Baker along with IRF Instructor Trainer Mark Hirst of Lapin Koskikoulu. This course is intended for experienced river guides and whitewater professionals looking to increase their knowledge and skills. IRF certifications can be used for guiding and trip leading whitewater around the world.

### **Raft Guide and Safety Kayak Workshop(3 days/May 15-17)**

The first three days of the workshop assesses the fundamentals of commercial river guiding and/or safety boating. Assessments are completed on the level of whitewater corresponding to the level of the guide. While on the course, experienced river guides are assessed on a variety of tasks including:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Safety and paddle talk
- Whitewater boating skills and crew management
- Flip and throw-bag tests
- Whitewater swimming
- Building a 3:1 rope system with appropriate anchors

In order to receive an IRF Guide Certification you must first submit a logbook, first aid, and CPR certification. During the workshop you will need to pass a guide assessment which includes a written exam.

### **Trip Leader Workshop(2 days/May 18-19)**

The fourth and fifth day are spent evaluating trip leader candidates with on-river scenarios. These scenarios are designed to test their decision-making, communication skills, delegation ability, and performance during a rescue. They are designed to be as realistic as possible, again corresponding to the level of the guide being assessed.

An IRF Trip Leader candidate also needs to have a valid advanced first aid certificate that includes CPR. Upon successfully passing the qualification, the IRF issues an IRF Trip Leader Certification.

**Instructor Workshop/Assessments(4 days/May 20-21 & Sept 25-26)**

Instructor candidates will teach IRF Guide & Trip Leader skills as well as facilitate assessments. Instructor Trainers are required to be rigorous and meticulous when assessing Instructor candidates to ensure that all Instructors are conforming to the established norms. Except in cases where the Instructor candidate can prove extensive experience as a guide trainer/instructor, all candidates must first hold an IRF Trip Leader certification thus gaining a better understanding of the GTE assessment curriculum and skills requirements.

About Bryant Baker -

Baker has been working as a commercial river guide for over two decades. His passion for whitewater is matched only by his passion for empowering others with skills and knowledge as an IRF Instructor. When not teaching rafting and rescue courses, Baker works as a guide and River Operations Mgr. for ACE Adventure Resort in West Virginia. For questions about the IRF Course, contact Baker at [bbaker@aceraft.com](mailto:bbaker@aceraft.com).

About Mark Hirst

Mark is an international rafting and safety instructor who teaches courses for Rescue 3 Europe and the International Rafting Federation. He is originally from Manchester, England and is now based in Finland. He currently teaches river guide and safety courses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Nepal, India, and Morocco. Learn more about Mark's philosophy on this [Lapin Koskikoulu Blog](#).