



**American
Red Cross**

Southern Tier Chapter

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

P.S.A. (see below)

Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Course Now Offered!

(Southern Tier, NY May 28, 2009) “The backcountry can be a tough place to be if you or a loved one is injured as just about any outdoors person can attest to,” explained Red Cross Health & Safety Director, Stephanie Long. The Southern Tier Chapter of the American Red Cross is excited to announce its first community Wilderness First Aid course. This intensive 16-hour program is specifically tailored for those who work, live or play in remote or backcountry areas – away from the usual EMS service.

An informational session will be held on Thursday, June 4th from 6 – 7pm at the Southern Tier Chapter located at 620 E. Main Street in Endicott. In this session we will introduce the range of topics covered in the course, how and when the skills and knowledge can be used effectively, discuss the location of class sessions, give the community an opportunity to ask questions and meet our Red Cross instructor who will be teaching the two-day program.

The Wilderness First Aid class sessions will be offered over the course of one weekend, Saturday June 27th and Sunday June 28th from 9am – 5pm at a combination of locations including the Chapter in Endicott as well as in a real-life wilderness setting. Students will take three publications home with them including Mountaineering First Aid, When Help Is Delayed, and a Wilderness First Aid Basics Student Guide. The cost per person is \$100.

In many emergency situations, and particularly those where help can be delayed, the actions you take in the first few minutes following the emergency are crucial, and can often dramatically increase the chances of a positive outcome. Even though the emergency workers near these areas may be trained in search and rescue, there can be significant challenges and delays in notification, accessibility, and transportation. “The purpose of the course is to reduce the severity of injuries and to save lives. We don’t want “search and rescue” to become “search and recovery”. Every responsible adult who enjoys the outdoors has a vested interest in taking the Wilderness First Aid course. If not for themselves then for others” stressed Health and Safety Director Long.

Perfect for hikers and backpackers, kayakers and canoers, the Wilderness First Aid program is recommended by the Boy Scouts of America and approved by the American Camping Association.

If you would like more information on this course, attending the information session, or to sign up please call the Southern Tier Chapter at 607-785-7207, or email Stephanie Long, Director of Health & Safety Services at LongSt@usa.redcross.org.

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About the American Red Cross Southern Tier Chapter: The Southern Tier Chapter of the American Red Cross celebrates its 101st year of providing relief to victims of disasters, teaching lifesaving skills, and supporting military members and families. The Southern Tier Red Cross, a charity and not a government agency, depends on voluntary contributions of time and money to perform its humanitarian mission in Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and Tioga counties. For more information about the Red Cross call 607-785-7207.

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P.S.A 30 SECS

Campers, hikers, hunters, fishers, scout masters and nature lovers - this is for YOU...the brand new American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid course! Don't wait another season to learn the skills and knowledge to provide effective first aid actions and care that could help save a life or prevent further injury – maybe your own! Want to know more? Check out our info session on Thursday, June 4th at 6pm at the Southern Tier Chapter located at 620 E. Main Street in Endicott or call us at 785-7207. Empower yourself and be Red Cross Ready this summer!