

# NOLS INSTRUCTOR ASSOCIATION .ORG

THINK (CREATIVELY)

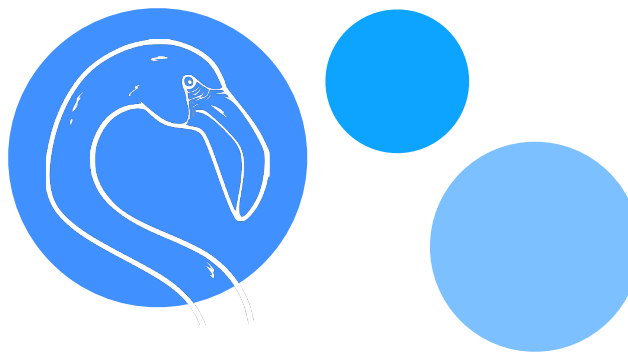


ACT (COLLECTIVELY)

JOIN THE NIA

## OUR MISSION

To communicate and advocate instructor views and work within the NOLS community to promote the school's mission and values.



## OUR HISTORY

In the early 1970s NOLS expanded internationally and increased enrollment, staff and facilities. A dispute between the Board of Trustees (BoT) and the NOLS administration caused tensions that threatened the very existence of the school. In response to this turmoil instructors founded the NIA in 1975. The NIA called a General Strike in order to get a seat at BoT meetings. We've served since as a voice for the faculty among competing interests at the school.

We believe that instructors are the keepers of the mission and the heart and soul of both the school and the student experience. As NOLS continues to grow and change, new challenges will continue to present themselves. The NIA is how we organize to effect positive change.

## MEMBERSHIP TALKS

Instructors show their support for the NIA by paying dues. Our influence with both the Trustees and the Administration is a direct function of the size of our membership. Dues also support our operations; we don't receive any funding from NOLS.

\$20 Annual Membership  
\$200 Lifetime Membership

**JOIN NOW**

[nolsinstructorassociation.org](http://nolsinstructorassociation.org)

## WHO CAN JOIN?

If you are a graduate of an IC or ITC, the NIA needs your support, no matter how many or how few courses you work each year.

**Members:** NOLS Expedition and Wilderness Medicine instructors who have worked in the past 3 years or signed a contract for future work.

**Associate Members:** Anyone with 60 weeks or more who is not an active instructor.

**Lifetime Members:** Pay a one time fee so your membership can make a lasting impact at NOLS.

## WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED?

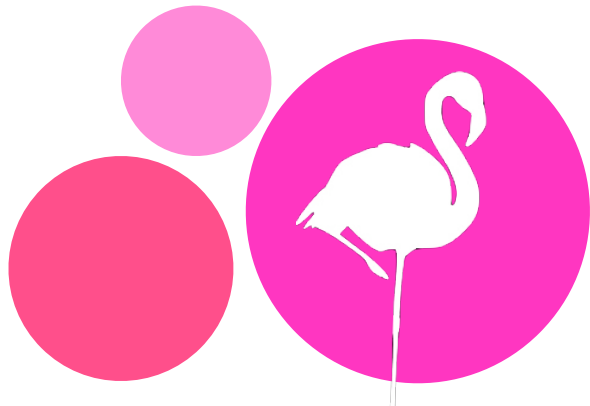
Many of the things NOLS does to support instructors began as NIA projects. Today we may take these "basics" for granted, but it was NIA advocacy, organization, and/or funding that got the ball rolling.

### EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- Seminars
- The Staff Newsletter
- Pro Deal Privileges
- The Instructor Development Fund

### WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATED FOR:

- Increasing Compensation
- Growing Travel Reimbursements
- More Equitable International Pay Scales
- Pay for Instructors Aiding One Section During a Proctorship
- Additional Briefing Time for Rescue Practice



## WHAT DO WE DO?

- Represent Instructors at Board of Trustees meetings
- Dialogue with John Gans, the Executive Director Team, and Program Directors
- Hold Annual and Local meetings
- Maintain [nolsinstructorassociation.org](http://nolsinstructorassociation.org) to facilitate the flow of crucial information to Instructors outside of Lander
- Administer a Facebook Group to allow for the free exchange of ideas among staff
- Conduct surveys on various issues so that our advocacy is evidence based
- Host a Table at the Faculty Summit
- Support staff trainings such as Skill Specific Rendezvous

## THE FLAMINGO FUND

Administered by the NIA to fund quality-of-life projects for instructors and staff around the world.

### RECENT PROJECTS

- Bicycles (PNW)
- Instructor WiFi (RM)
- Bluetooth Speaker (PNW)
- Sauna (Patagonia)
- Kitchen Upgrades (RM)

Submission guidelines are here:  
[nolsinstructorassociation.org/flamingo-fund](http://nolsinstructorassociation.org/flamingo-fund)

Every year we have spots on the board open for passionate and creative instructors. Nominate yourself via our Facebook Group. We're also constantly on the lookout for new Branch Representatives.

## HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE NIA?

**KEEP UP THE NUMBERS:** Join to help keep our influence strong.

**MAINTAIN THE ENERGY:** Participate in local meetings.

**MAKE OUR SUPPORT VISIBLE:** Wear your NIA hat proudly. Put a sticker on your laptop and mug.

**SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK:** Contribute to the Facebook Group and the website.

**CONTRIBUTE DATA:** Take the surveys on our website.

**VOTE:** Elections for NIA Board Members are held every December.

**RECRUIT:** Tell your fellow Instructors about the NIA and why you support it. Get them to join.

