BOLT, Brown Outdoor Leadership Training is the only outdoor orientation program in the country specifically for college sophomores, transfer students and resumed undergraduate students.

BOLT believes in supporting those entering their second year of college. BOLT provides an opportunity to meet new people, develop a new community, reflect on the past year(s) of college and what you want out of the rest of your college experience, and challenge yourself.

BOLT Leaders and BOLT Groups offer students the opportunity to expand their network of social support and peer mentorship. BOLT is a truly welcoming and supportive community that can lead to lifelong friends and skills.

The BOLTer program begins with a five-day backpacking trip in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and continues back on campus with a series of events throughout the fall.

The goal of the fall program is to provide support and mentoring, create opportunities for experiential learning and leadership and promote community and individual relationships for BOLTerers and BOLT leaders.

All experience levels are welcome.

Financial aid is available.
Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the time commitment for BOLT?
You arrive early to campus in the Fall to participate in a required pre-trip meeting and depart for a 5-day hiking trip in the White Mountain National Forest of New Hampshire. This trip launches our year with a common experience for our groups.

Throughout the fall, we have four levels of support and events for our BOLTers: All BOLT Community, Family Group events, BOLT Group activities and 1:1 Leader/BOLTer check-ins.

BOLT groups continue to have fun and strengthen the bonds that begin from working together as a team on the trip and there are larger group events to enjoy, learn new skills and meet new people.

Do I need previous experience to apply?
BOLT accepts people with all experience levels. For many BOLTers, BOLT is an opportunity to experience their first backpacking trip. Our student leaders complete 160+ hours of group facilitation and outdoor skills training in the spring prior to the trip and are nationally certified at the wilderness first aid, wilderness first responder or Wilderness EMT level.

How are the BOLT groups decided?
One goal that we have for BOLT is to bring together members of the Brown community that have never met before to expand your support network. Every effort is made to keep offer each group has a chance to begin with a “clean slate” in learning how to work together as a team. 35 leaders and 125 BOLTers are placed into 16 hike groups to work together as a team. 35 leaders and 125 BOLTers are placed into 16 hike groups of the Brown community.

One goal that we have for BOLT is to bring together a diverse group of students in the program. Summer transfer student applications begin on June 15th and are accepted on a rolling basis until our groups are filled. The application closes on July 15th.

Applications
We save 10 spots aside for considering applications from brand new fall transfer students. We hold these spots until July 15th.

For transfer students entering in January 2016, your opportunity to apply is in April 2016. http://brown.edu/BOLT

BOLTers are selected with consideration on the content of their application and interest level. An effort is also made to include a diverse group of students in the program. Summer transfer student applications begin on June 15th and are accepted on a rolling basis until our groups are filled. The application closes on July 15th.

Early Arrival Info
Please know that you will move into your on-campus room on Saturday prior to the trip in order to participate in the Pre-Trip meeting on Sunday. We will return from our trip in time for you to participate in Transfer Orientation.

If you are traveling from a location outside of the US and need to schedule flights that arrive Friday, please contact us. We can make arrangements for your housing accordingly.

Transfer students who have questions about orientation may contact the Dean of the College Office: 401-863-9800

What is?
An Application is the first step. Once accepted, then we need to work with you for the following...

Medical Forms and Waivers
All students participating in the BOLT program are required to fill out a medical form, an assumption of risks form and a waiver. Copies of these forms are available on our website under BOLTer mailings.

Equipment
Our detailed equipment list is available on our website under BOLTer mailings. BOLT provides the necessary group gear and can provide some of the required individual equipment such as rain jackets and rain pants, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and backpack. We ask our BOLTers to borrow or purchase personal items such as clothing and boots (required) for the trip.

Cost
For BOLTers: The fee is $390 to support the program. Financial aid is available by completing our online financial assistance form.

Fall Trip: Sat Aug. 29 - Fri Sept. 4
Saturday – Move-in, 8:30am-5pm w/Res Life
Sunday – Pre Trip Meeting, 12-6 pm (required)
Monday – Friday White Mountains, NH
Friday – 7-9 pm banquet in the Campus Center
Saturday – no BOLT, but you likely have transfer orientation events
Sunday – Gear Clean-up 10 am-1pm. If you have orientation events, let us know.

Questions?
Please feel free to email us with questions. One of our student managers will be happy to talk with you by phone or by email.

BOLT@brown.edu