



SELWAY BITTERROOT
FRANK CHURCH
FOUNDATION

2021 SBFC Wilderness Ranger Fellowship

Program Dates: May 17-August 19, 2021. *Please note that these dates are firm; applicants must be able to commit to the entire duration.*

About the position

The SBFC Wilderness Ranger Fellow (WRF) program provides an immersive experience in wilderness stewardship for college students and military veterans. The goal of the program is to train, educate, mentor, and provide employment development opportunities while providing skilled support to the US Forest Service to accomplish priority wilderness work. The experience and training offered may be used towards meeting college course requirements.

About Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation

The Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation (SBFC) is a non-profit organization operating from offices in Missoula, MT and Boise, ID. The Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation assists the Forest Service in providing stewardship for the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River of No Return Wildernesses and surrounding wildlands through boots on the ground work, public education, and partnerships.

To learn more, visit our website: www.selwaybitterroot.org.

Diversity & Inclusion

Wilderness benefits everyone. The 1964 Wilderness Act was passed "...to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness" (section 2a). SBFC provides access and opportunity to diverse groups of staff, volunteers, and other participants, while continuing to identify and reduce barriers to being involved in our organization and programs. We encourage applicants of all backgrounds to apply.

Fellowship Benefits

- A living stipend of \$300 per week for a total of \$4,200, pretax. This will be deposited in equal amounts in May, June, July, and August.
- Wilderness First Responder certification or Refresher course
- USFS Crosscut Bucking certification
- Campground and Forest Service bunk-housing will be provided
- Travel reimbursement of \$200 at the completion of your service commitment
- Mileage reimbursement at the federal rate when using your personal vehicle

HEADQUARTERS

PO Box 1886
Boise, ID 83701
208-373-4381

Training

Please note: In 2021 there may be changes to some of the training curriculum due to COVID risk. Our goal is to provide comprehensive and in-depth wilderness skills training.

Housing either in a FS bunkhouse or the Missoula KOA campground will be provided during training. WRFs will participate in approximately 2 to 3 weeks of training both alongside and facilitated by SBFC staff and Forest Service Wilderness Rangers and professionals. Topics include:

- Wilderness First Responder certification (72 hours, \$650 value) (in 2021 this may change due to COVID risk restrictions)
- USFS Crosscut Bucking certification
- Leadership development & communication skills
- Fundamentals of wilderness trail work
- Wilderness Act of 1964 - background, history
- Wilderness campsite monitoring
- SPUR: Solitude, Primitive and Unconfined Recreation Monitoring
- Leave No Trace Ethics - including camping and working in bear country
- Invasive species/noxious weeds monitoring
- Backcountry nutrition
- Intro to defensive horsemanship and stock packing

Hitch Schedule

After training, WRFs will be paired with one to four other WRFs and an SBFC Lead Wilderness Steward. Fellows will be assigned to one of the three national forests SBFC partners with for the season.

From June until August, WRFs *generally* operate on a hitch schedule of 8-9 consecutive days living and working in the backcountry, followed by 4-6 days off. During the 4-6 days off, housing will be provided at a Forest Service bunkhouse or the Missoula KOA campground.

Please note: Most Forest Service bunkhouses are in remote locations and DO NOT have Wi-Fi or cell service.

Volunteer Projects

WRFs may participate in one SBFC Lead Steward-led volunteer project. This is a special opportunity to practice leadership skills by providing one-on-one support with individuals from the surrounding communities. WRFs will be expected to fully assist in cooking, maintaining a clean camp, and managing risk in the backcountry.

Minimum Required Experience & Education

- Applicants must be currently enrolled in a college or university or have graduated from college or university the semester immediately preceding the beginning of the Fellowship
- Effective written and oral communication skills
- Ability to work as part of a team, with a variety of personalities
- Previous experience camping and/or backpacking in a backcountry setting
- Ability to be away on extended overnight trips for up to 10 days at a time
- A valid driver's license and ability to pass a Motor Vehicle Records check

Physical Requirements

- Ability to hike 3-12 miles a day for several days at a time, in terrain that can be steep, rocky, or uneven, often carrying a 40-50 pound backpack and tools
- Ability to lift up to 35 pounds repeatedly and use hand tools
- Willingness to work long, hard hours outside in all weather conditions

While this position description describes the general nature and level of work required as part of the Wilderness Ranger Fellowship, it is not an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required. All Wilderness Ranger Fellows may be required to perform duties outside of their normal responsibilities and duties as requested.

How to Apply

Please visit <https://www.selwaybitterroot.org/fellowship> to upload your cover letter, CV or resume, and college transcript(s). We look forward to hearing from you.

Applications will be accepted until January 31, 2021.

For more information, please contact SBFC Program Support Liaison, Josh Page, at jpage@selwaybitterroot.org.