

IN WILDNES IS
THE PRESERVATION
OF THE WORLD.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

MEET THE TREK LEADERS

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFF



JCC Naturalists Kristen Morrow, Frances Owen, and Marci Trana will lead the trip. These leaders have years of experience leading groups in the outdoors and are Wilderness First Responder or Wilderness First Aid certified. Combined, they have spent hundreds of nights leading youth on backpacking treks.

SBFC FOUNDATION STAFF

The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is a community of wilderness-minded and hardworking individuals dedicated to bringing citizens to wilderness to work, live, and play. A staff member from the Foundation will join the group in the wilderness and will be Wilderness First Responder certified, trained in radio communication, and have extensive wilderness experience in the area.



FOREST SERVICE STAFF

A Wilderness Ranger with the U.S. Forest Service will join the group. The Rangers have intimate knowledge of the Wilderness Areas they are assigned to, extensive backcountry experience and are certified Wilderness First Responders. The Ranger will guide the stewardship projects and teach safe tool use to the students.



For More information:

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JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION'S

IDAHO WILDERNESS TREK

A 10-DAY
HIGH SCHOOL BACKPACKING TRIP



A STUDENT ON THE 2018 TRIP ADMIRES
THE SUNSET OVER THE LAKE.

THE GROUP IN 2018 HIKES DOWN
FROM FRIDAY PASS.

TREK OVERVIEW

The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Trek is a 10-day backpacking trip for high school students to one of the largest wilderness areas in the U.S. Through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church (SBFC) Foundation, Johnson County Conservation (JCC) is able to offer this opportunity with guides who have years of experience leading backpacking trips.

WHO CAN APPLY: Iowa high school students who have completed freshman-senior years. No camping or backpacking experience needed. Participants must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

WHEN IS THE TRIP: July 3-12, 2023

WHERE IS IT: The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area is located in northeast Idaho.

IS IT SAFE: Trip guides are highly experienced and trained in advanced wilderness first aid. Radios will be used for daily communication with Forest Service officials.

WHAT IS THE COST: \$500, which includes supplies (such as sleeping bags, tents, backpacks), transportation, and camp food. Scholarship applications are available.

HOW TO APPLY: Students must complete application process by April 15. Demonstrated effort spent on application highly is valued. Scan the QR code or email kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov for the application.



FOUR PILLARS OF THE TREK

STEWARDSHIP: Participants will work on a stewardship project designated by the Forest Service and SBFC Foundation. Past projects have included trail maintenance, campsite rehabilitation, and ecosystem restoration.

A STUDY OF WILDERNESS: Through this trek, participants will form a personal definition for wilderness. After reading about the history of wilderness, trek leaders will facilitate discussions on the philosophy, importance, and ideas of wilderness.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: Trek leaders will stop for trail-side lessons whenever the opportunity comes up. These mini-lessons may cover aquatic biology, tree/flower identification, fire ecology, and more.

OUTDOOR SKILLS: Campsite set-up, backcountry cooking, water filtration, and sustainable camping skills will be gained.

TREK TIMELINE

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 5:30 PM: Parent and student informational session at the Conservation Education Center in F.W. Kent Park. This will include a trek presentation followed by time for questions.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15: Application and letter of support due.

EARLY MAY: Selection of applicants.

JUNE 13, 9:00-4:00: Mandatory orientation session including team-building activities, gear fitting, and backpacking skills training.

JUNE 19TH AND 26TH, 8:00-10:30: Group 4-mile pre-hikes to physically train, test backpacks and boots, check-in with students, and allow time to ask questions about gear and trip. Hikes will take place at Lake MacBride and Cangleska Wakan. These hikes are recommended but not required.

JUNE 30, 9:00-12:00: Mandatory Gear Shakedown: Trek leaders will go through packs as a group, distribute JCC gear such as tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, etc., and teach students how to properly pack up and distribute their gear. A short hike with fully-loaded packs will follow. Loaded packs will be left with trek leaders at the end for loading onto trailer. All personal items should be prepared and packed to bring to this session.

JULY 3 - 12: 10-day wilderness trek in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness!