



# THE TREK LEADERS

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFF



JCC Naturalists Kristen Morrow, Frances Owen, and Michelle Wiegand 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.



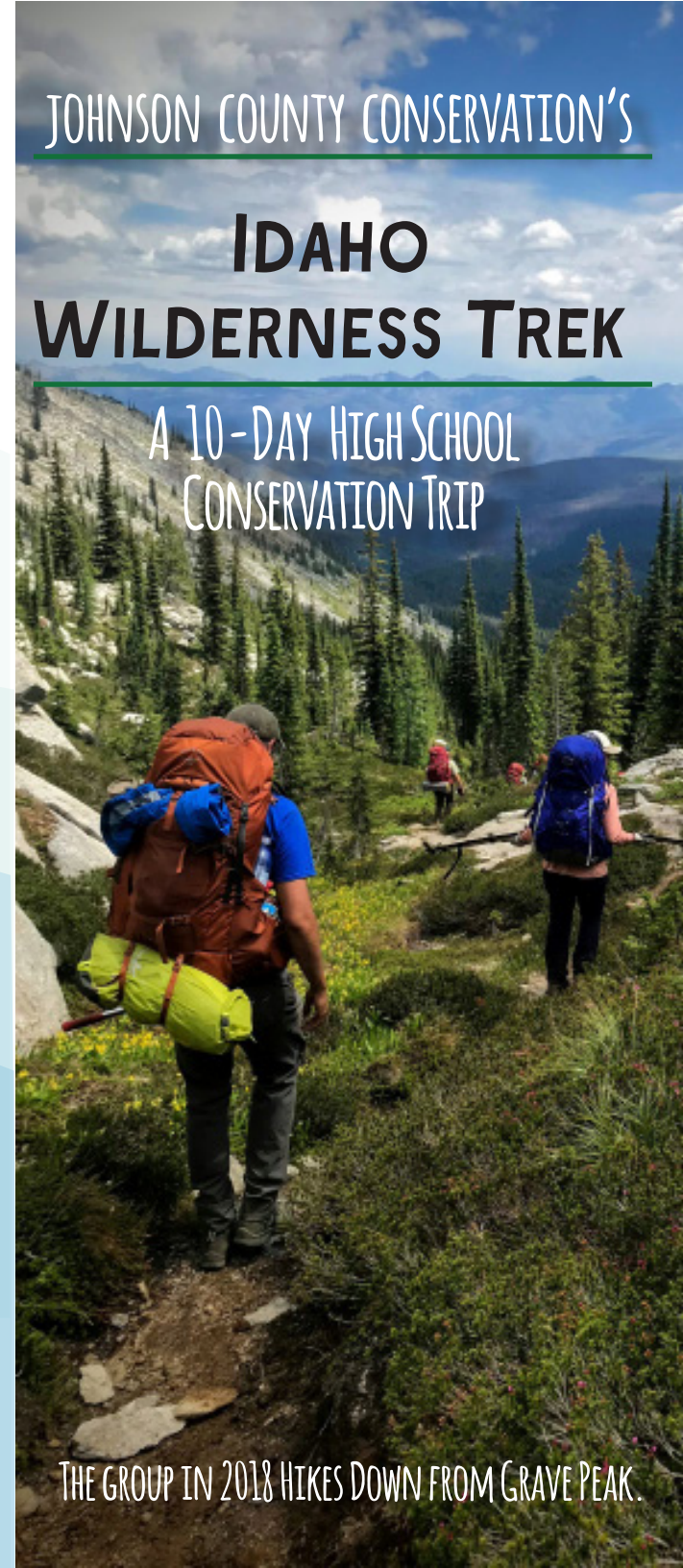
For More information:  
Kristen Morrow, Naturalist  
Johnson County Conservation  
P: 319-645-1011  
E: kmorrow@johnsoncountyjowa.gov



JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION'S

# IDAHO WILDERNESS TREK

A 10-DAY HIGH SCHOOL CONSERVATION TRIP



THE GROUP IN 2018 HIKES DOWN FROM GRAVE PEAK.

# TREK OVERVIEW

The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Trek is a 10-day conservation trek 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 wilderness trips.

**WHO CAN APPLY:** Iowa high school students who have completed freshman-senior years. No conservation, camping, or backpacking experience needed.

**WHEN IS THE TRIP:** July 1-10, 2024

**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. Satellite devices 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](mailto:kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov) for the application.



## Four Pillars of the Trek

**STEWARDSHIP:** Participants will work on a trail work projects designated by the Forest Service and SBFC Foundation. This work centers on clearing trails of blown-down trees to make them accessible. This stewardship makes up the largest component of the trip.

**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:** Participants will gain skills with backpacking basics, campsite set-up, backcountry cooking, water filtration, and map-reading/compass basics.

# TREK TIMELINE

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

**EARLY MAY:** Selection of applicants.

**JUNE 12, 9:00-4:00: Mandatory** orientation session including team-building activities, gear fitting, and backpacking skills training.

**JUNE 19 & 26, 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 likely take place at Lake MacBride and Cangleska Wakan. These hikes are recommended but not required.

**JUNE 28, 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 1 - 10:** 10-day wilderness trek to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness!