

2019 SBFC Wilderness Ranger Internship

Program Dates: May 13-August 16, 2019

About the position

The SBFC Wilderness Ranger Intern (WRI) 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.

About SBFC

The Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation (SBFC) is a non-profit organization operating from offices in Missoula, MT and Boise, ID. The mission of SBFC is to connect citizens and communities to provide wilderness stewardship for the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church- River of No Return Wilderness areas and surrounding wildlands. To learn more, visit our website: www.selwaybitterroot.org.

Diversity & Inclusion

SBFC provides access and opportunity to a diverse group of staff, interns, and participants, while continuing to identify and reduce barriers to being involved in our organization and programs. We encourage applicants of all backgrounds to apply.

Internship Benefits

- AmeriCorps education award: \$1,500
- Monthly living stipend of around \$1,000. (before taxes)
- Forest Service bunk-housing will be provided
- Travel reimbursement of \$200 at the close of service
- Mileage reimbursement of \$0.40/mile when using your personal vehicle

Training

WRI's will participate in approximately 4-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)
- USFS Crosscut Bucking certification
- 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
- Leadership development & communication
- Invasive species/noxious weeds monitoring
- Backcountry nutrition

- Defensive horsemanship and stock packing

Hitch Schedule

After training, WRI's will be paired with one to four other WRIs and an SBFC Lead Steward. Interns will be assigned to one of the three national forests SBFC partners with for the season.

From June until August, WRI's *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.

Please note: Most Forest Service bunkhouses are in remote locations and do not have WIFI or cell service.

Volunteer Projects

WRI's will participate in at least 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. WRI's will be expected to fully assist in cooking group meals, 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 internship.
- 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.
- Experience with Microsoft Word and Excel
- 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 60 pound backpack and tools.
- Ability to lift up to 35 pounds repeatedly and use hand tools.
- Willingness to work long, hard hours in all weather conditions.

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