

2025 Backcountry Stream Corps

CALL FOR APPLICANTS & JOB DESCRIPTION

High School-Aged Students Volunteer* Opportunity with Watershed Education Network (WEN)

Priority Application Deadline: Sunday May 18th by midnight, applications still accepted after on a case by case basis.

*A \$200 stipend at the end and daily lunches are provided



WHAT: The Watershed Education Network (WEN) is offering a Backcountry Stream Corps (BCSC) Summer Monitoring Program and are **now recruiting high school age youth who are interested in working outdoors to become part of a 5-6 member crew this summer, in the middle of July 2025.**

WHO: **High school-aged youth (15-18 years of age by July 13th, 2025) who have interest in and ability to work outside and in Missoula Valley Rivers** rain or shine. Incoming freshmen are also welcome to apply! We are seeking individuals that are experienced bikers, enjoy walking/hiking, and are comfortable in a stream or river (approx. knee to thigh level). We are also seeking individuals that are good at following directions, completing tasks, and working collaboratively as part of a team. We are looking for a wide variety of crew members. WEN welcomes, embraces and respects the diversity of all people, identities, and cultures and we encourage anyone interested in a **2 week stipended volunteer position** in the outdoors to apply. No prior experience is needed in scientific monitoring or being in waders.

WHEN:

Orientation - **Sunday , July 13th 1 - 4:30 PM**

Field Work - **Monday, July 14th - Thursday July 17th (4 days)**

Field Work - **Tuesday, July 22nd - Friday July 25th (4 days)**

Field work days will run approximately from **9 AM - 5 PM** with a lunch break.

STIPENDED POSITION: Backcountry Stream Corps crew members will be paid a stipend of **\$200** at the end of the two weeks. (*daily rate perspective = \$25/day-adjusted based on attendance*)

WHAT: Biking and hiking in the Rattlesnake and Grant Creek watersheds. Crew members will be doing habitat surveys looking at instream wood and beaver habitat. We will also be doing single point sampling looking at stream structure, velocity, aquatic insects, water chemistry, site maps and more! This is a great opportunity to see what scientific monitoring looks like in the field. You will also gain valuable skills in a wide variety of scientific methods that are taught at the level of participants. Students will be trained and supervised by WEN staff; training will include stream monitoring training, GPS 101, Leave No Trace principles, and safety gear. Indigenous land acknowledgment and Native American cultural connections will be an integral part of each day.

WHERE: Rattlesnake Creek and Grant Creek

Additional Details:

- Transportation to the meeting location or trailhead from town may be provided by WEN staff if needed. However, we encourage crew members to meet at the trailhead or pre-defined meeting location for field days. Missoula Mountain Line Bus is an option as well.
- All stream monitoring supplies, including waders, will be provided by WEN.
- Crew members **must** be able and available to work at remote monitoring projects throughout the session time-line. Little to no cell service is expected. Crew leads stay in contact with a satellite phone.
- Crew members will need appropriate outdoor work clothing, sturdy shoes to bike and walk in (no open toed shoes), a bike helmet, rain gear, and backpack. If you are unable to provide this gear, this does not disqualify you for the position, but please let us know prior to accepting a position so WEN can work with you on obtaining these items.
- **Daily lunch will be donated by local businesses in Missoula.**

To apply: To apply, fill out the online Google Application Form, found online on the Backcountry Stream Corps page at: <https://www.montanawatershed.org/backcountry-stream-corps>. Select applicants will be interviewed before the final crew is decided.

Priority application deadline is **Sunday May 18th** by midnight, applications will be reviewed as they are submitted, so the earlier you submit yours the better! Applications will still be reviewed after the deadline on a case by case basis.

For any questions or to get additional information about the summer monitoring project, see the WEN website under the 'Programs' tab and look for Backcountry Stream Corps, email Stephe at stephie@montanawatershed.org, or call WEN's office at **(406) 541-9287**.

We look forward to your application!