

# 2026 Backcountry Stream Corps

## CALL FOR APPLICANTS & JOB DESCRIPTION

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

**Priority Application Deadline: Sunday May 24th by midnight, applications still accepted after on a case by case basis.**

\*You receive a \$200 unrestricted scholarship at the end of the program 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 2026.** Days are from 9-5pm and are a mix of stream data collection, guest speakers and nature journaling. Data collection includes measuring beaver habitat, in-stream wood, aquatic insects, water chemistry, mapping the shape of the stream bed, and more! Come spend eight days in the creeks around Missoula contributing towards some great research while gaining hands on skills!

**WHO:** **High school-aged youth (14-18 years of age by July 12th, 2026) 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 enjoy walking/hiking and are comfortable in a stream or river (approx. knee to thigh level). We are 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 12th 1 - 4:30 PM**

Field Work - **Monday, July 13th - Thursday July 16th (4 days)**

Field Work - **Tuesday, July 21st - Friday July 24th (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 given an unrestricted scholarship/check for **\$200** at the end of the two weeks. (*daily rate perspective = \$25/day-adjusted based on attendance*)

**WHAT:** Hiking in the Rattlesnake and Grant Creek watersheds. Crew members will be doing habitat surveys looking at in-stream 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.

**WHERE:** Rattlesnake Creek and Grant Creek, Lolo Creek depending on crew members

**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 town using a satellite phone.
- Crew members will need appropriate outdoor work clothing, sturdy shoes to walk in (no open toed shoes), 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 24th** 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 Stephie at [stephie@montanawatershed.org](mailto:stephie@montanawatershed.org), or call WEN's office at **(406) 541-9287**.

We look forward to your application!