

ARTIST * WILDERNESS*CONNECTION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

What is the Artist * Wilderness * Connection?

The program connects artists with the Flathead National Forest, the Hockaday Museum of Art, Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, Swan Valley Connections and area communities. The program consists of the Artist residency, the Forest/Wilderness experience, and the Community extension.

I. THE PROGRAM

THE ARTIST RESIDENCY

The program places professional working artists in various disciplines, media, and styles in remote forest cabins for seven or 14-day stays followed by a public presentation related to the residency experience.

THE FOREST/WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

The program experience will focus on the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness Areas, with opportunities for artists to reside in cabins in or near designated wilderness.

What is designated wilderness? It is a special land designation under the 1964 Wilderness Act establishing a National Wilderness Preservation System to “...secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.” Almost half of the Flathead National Forest’s 2.4 million acres is designated wilderness and includes the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness Areas. To learn more about wilderness, visit www.wilderness.net.

All cabins in this program are located in the Flathead National Forest in the Middle Fork and South Forks of the Flathead River and on the Spotted Bear and Hungry Horse Ranger Districts. Some cabins are very private, suggesting solitude, reflection and personal work; other sites offer the experience of working and/or living with Forest Service work crews. The best residency experiences come from plans that allow for the unexpected and are entered into with an open mind.

Wilderness values, natural processes and features, history, wildlife, resource management issues and other topics related to wilderness and wilderness management are used as themes around which artists' visits are organized. All media of art works will be encouraged, as long as the environment and cabins are left in a natural state.

THE COMMUNITY EXTENSION

A public presentation in Montana initiated by the participating artist, accompanies each residency. It may include demonstrating an art form or techniques to the public. This can include, but is not limited to, an exhibit, performance, open house, workshop, or training session in which the public, school or community groups can participate and learn from the artist about the experiences gained through his/her participation in the artist-in-residence program.

The workshops, performances, exhibits and or other presentations communicate the values, processes, features and resources of both the artist, their work and residency, and the wilderness setting; and be presented at no-cost to the audience. Participants will donate a representative piece of his/her work to the Artist*Wilderness*Connection (AWC) Program with rights to reproduce and use the work to promote and benefit the AWC program including using the artwork in an educational or interpretive manner.

Each artist will work with the program administrators to determine what type of a presentation and donation they will provide. Artists are encouraged to reach out to program partners for assistance with ideas and local connections on potential venues and audiences. Within six weeks after the residency, artists will submit an outline of what they propose to do. Public presentations and donations will occur within one year after the artist residency.

II. PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

- Provide staff time and resources for organization, evaluation and execution of the program.
- Promote and market the program through usual communication channels (e.g. email, social media, newsletters, web page). Provide participating artists a map and reference material, such as brochures/handouts on bear safety, Leave No Trace, plant and wildlife identification and wilderness management.
- Participate in and assist with artist residency orientation.
- Provide assistance in educational projects associated with artists' residencies.
- Provide use of the forest cabins for seven or 14 days, as arranged by the participant and the Forest Service. Forest Service or other partner work crews may join or overlap in schedule during an artist residency; no guarantee that cabins will be available solely for the artist during the residency period.
- While artist is in residency at a cabin, provide propane for the lights and cook stove, wood for the heat stove, cooking pots and utensils for basic cooking, baking and eating needs.

HOCKADAY MUSEUM OF ART

- Provide staff time and expertise for organization, evaluation and execution of the program.
- Host and support the official AWC web page and on-line application process.
- Promote and market the program through usual communication channels (e.g. email, social media, newsletters, web page). Draft and distribute news release announcing request for applications and artist selection.
- Assist with potential exhibit opportunities for products of the program that will facilitate public viewing within the community.
- Provide assistance in educational projects associated with artists' residencies.
- Participate in artist residency orientation.

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

- Provide staff time and expertise for organization, evaluation and execution of the program.
- Secure pack support for artist residencies, to carry artist personal belongings and art equipment/supplies.
- Coordinate with ranger districts on residency schedules and cabin dates. Draft artist residency plans.
- Host web 'landing pages' on the AWC webpage that provide information on living in wilderness, hiking routes, cabin descriptions and packing lists.
- Promote and market the program through usual communication channels (e.g. email, social media, newsletters, web page).
- Participate in artist residency orientation; present and review residency plan with artists.

SWAN VALLEY CONNECTIONS

- Provide staff time and expertise for organization, evaluation and execution of the program.
- Promote and market the program through usual communication channels (e.g. email, social media, newsletters, web page).
- Create flyer to promote artist application.
- Photograph donated AWC artwork to post in AWC on-line gallery.
- Participate in and assist with artist residency orientation.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

- Provide own transportation to cabin trailhead and a Montana presentation.
- Provide an evaluation of the program.
- Participate in artist residency orientation.
- Share the products resulting from the residency through a public presentation and donated representative piece of artwork.

II. RESIDENCY SCHEDULES

During the application process, artists will be given the opportunity to select a cabin and date with one alternate choice. Four cabins, each with set available dates, will be offered. Artists have the opportunity to select a first and second choice. Artists can select a seven day OR 14-day experience. The residency will take place during the months of July, August and September. **(Please see cabin descriptions and the specific scheduled dates for each location, in Appendix A and on the [Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation web page](#).** The Forest will coordinate residency schedules on a first-come reservation basis, and based on cabin availability. The cabin sites are used by Forest Service work crews. Participants will not have special preference if the site has already been reserved, or if it is in need of administrative use.

The participant will be notified of their location and dates and a written agreement between all the program partners will be signed before a residency begins.

The Forest Service reserves the right to cancel a scheduled residency or switch residency locations in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as fire restrictions, a fire or other emergency situation.

IV. WHAT IS PROVIDED

FOREST SERVICE CABINS

The Forest Service administrative cabins provide rustic accommodations in diverse forest settings. The cabins require a 5-mile to 15-mile hike over uneven ground. These cabins are "bare-bones", primitive cabins equipped with a wood heating stove, propane cooking stove, table, and chairs, eating and cleaning gear, propane lights or Coleman lanterns. All cabins have sleeping bunks. Toilets are located outdoors. Firewood and an ax is provided.

Program participants must bring their own food, various condiments, sleeping bag, pillow, and extra clothes. In the backcountry cabins water is taken from area rivers or streams to use for cooking, drinking and cleaning. It is recommended you boil your water or use a water filter.

For pack-in assistance to the backcountry sites, the Forest Service will work with the other program partners to arrange for the packing in of personal gear. For participants staying at backcountry cabins it is recommended to bring along a companion that can stay with you during your residency. A two-way radio is provided during your stay. Pets are only approved to stay at cabins on a case-by-case basis at the time artist applies for a residency. Firearms are not allowed at the Forest Service administrative cabins.

ARTISTIC SETTING

From an artistic perspective, the cabins serve as a great base of operations. Many participants use the time for processing and study, commenting, "It takes a couple of days to settle into the solitude and disconnect from the outside world." The administrative cabins do not guarantee a private experience. Having Forest Service personnel and volunteers, and forest visitors in the general area can be disruptive to some, but add to the experience for others. In general, participants should expect the unexpected. Having an agenda with specific expectations could set oneself up for disappointment. Come ready to relax and reflect.

EDUCATION

Artist will be provided access to wilderness and hiking information, bear safety information including proper food storage, tips to Leave No Trace, packing list, and instructions on using a two-way analog radio.

Detailed descriptions of the cabins are included in Appendix A. A listing of items to bring is included in Appendix B. Rules for occupancy of government-owned buildings are included in Appendix C.

APPENDIX A

CABIN INFORMATION

Spotted Bear Ranger District

Silvertip Cabin



2020 Residency Dates: *Wednesday, September 9th - Thursday, September 17th, or Wednesday, September 9th - Thursday, September 24th**

Located about 16 miles east of Spotted Bear in the Spotted Bear River drainage **about 5 miles from the trailhead**. The original cabin was destroyed in the 1964 flood. The current cabin was built in 1965. Silvertip is part of the 2014 designation of the Flathead National Forest Backcountry Administrative Facilities National Historic District.

*These residency dates overlap with the start of the region's backcountry general big game hunting season that starts September 15.

Hiking Level of Difficulty to Reach Cabin: Easy

Shaw Cabin



2020 Residency Dates: *Saturday, August 15th - Sunday August 23th, or, Saturday, August 15th – Sunday, August 30th*

Located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness **about 15 miles from the Owl Creek Trailhead** on the Swan Range, southeast of Condon. Shaw cabin sits at the confluence of Shaw Creek and Gordon Creek. Gordon Creek is a major eastward flowing tributary of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. The cabin is also located at the junction of two main trails.

2020

Traveling to Shaw over the 6,800 foot Gordon Pass is a treat in itself with views of the Swan Valley, the Mission Mountains and into the reaches of the Bob Marshall. From the cabin, trails take you to Koessler and Doctor Lakes.

Named after early-day Seeley Lake Ranger Ezra Shaw, the cabin was built in 1928 as part of a network of strategically placed pasture and shelter facilities with Shaw only 60 miles from Ovando, Montana, the nearest post office and supply point. Before the cabin was built, the area was “used as a camp ground by Forest officers while passing through this District and as a camp ground by summer patrolmen.” (USDA, 1918). Shaw is part of the 2014 designation of the Flathead National Forest Backcountry Administrative Facilities National Historic District.

Hiking Level of Difficulty to Reach Cabin: Strenuous

Hungry Horse Ranger District

Granite Cabin



2020 Residency Dates: Saturday, August 29th - Sunday, September 6th, or, Saturday, August 29th - Sunday, September 13th

Located in the Middle Fork of the Flathead River Drainage, **about 10 miles from the trailhead on Highway 2 East and about 6 miles from the Granite Creek Trailhead off the Skyland Road, near Marias Pass.** The cabin sits on a rock right along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River and next to the trail that follows the Middle Fork for several miles leading to the historic Schafer Work Center in the Great Bear Wilderness. Cabin was built circa 1950. Granite is part of the 2014 designation of the Flathead National Forest Backcountry Administrative Facilities National Historic District.

Hiking Level of Difficulty to Reach Cabin: Moderate

Spruce Cabin



2020 Residency Dates: *Saturday, July 25th - Sunday, August 2nd, or, Saturday, July 25th - Sunday, August 9th*

Spruce Park Cabin is located in the Middle Fork of the Flathead drainage **about 7 miles from the Bear Creek Trailhead on Highway 2 East**. The Big River Trail #155 is generally flat and takes a mild uphill climb to the cabin. Spruce Cabin sits above the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Flathead River, and is surrounded by an old growth spruce forest. The cabin was built in the late 1960's after the original cabin was washed away in floods. There are hiking opportunities out of the cabin, including up the Vinegar Mountain Trail #260, that give views of the surrounding area and peaks. During rafting season there are occasional rafting parties that pass by. Spruce is part of the 2014 designation of the Flathead National Forest Backcountry Administrative Facilities National Historic District.

Hiking level of difficulty to reach cabin: Easy

Note about the backcountry cabins: Living and working out of these wilderness cabins is taking a step back in time. It's an opportunity few have a chance to experience. These historic sites have housed Forest Service employees for over 50 years, doing business by mule, horseback and hiking--building and maintaining trails, doing fire patrols and winter game counts, stringing and taking care of the miles of phone line. Though some modern conveniences have slipped in--use of GPS units, satellite radios, gortex, water filters--living at these cabins is like turning back the hands of time. Enjoy!

APPENDIX B

Packing for Your Stay in a Backcountry Cabin

Stock Support

Volunteer packers from the Back Country Horsemen will transport your gear, food, and art supplies to the wilderness cabin. Each animal can carry up to 150 lbs. (75 pounds per side), please limit your total gear weight to 300 lbs. Also, place your items in duffle bags or equivalent bags for easy packing onto stock. Please be prepared to carry some of your items to the cabin if need be.

Personal Gear

Wear hiking boots with ankle support; you will need these for those long days of hiking. You are also expected to provide your own personal gear (sleeping bag, backpack, food, etc.). The Forest Service cabin will have cooking utensils and pans, stove, and propane. Remember to bring sandals or some type of water crossing footwear for crossing streams.

- ❑ Food – think lightweight when planning your meals; food weight is part of your total gear weight for packing. (We can offer suggestions on what to bring.)
- ❑ NO GLASS CONTAINERS PLEASE
- ❑ A cooler of food with ice is ok, BUT ice will only last 4 days

Packing List

- ❑ BEAR PEPPER SPRAY (to carry during hikes)
- ❑ RAIN JACKET AND PANTS (good quality)
- ❑ Warm sleeping bag
- ❑ Tent (if you plan to camp outside the cabin)
- ❑ Sleeping pad (if you plan to camp outside the cabin)
- ❑ Hiking clothes (non-cotton recommended)
- ❑ Well-broken in hiking boots with ankle support and hiking socks (wool or synthetic)
- ❑ Warm clothes; come prepared to dress in layers. Nights and mornings can be cold. Bring along your long underwear, wool/synthetic sweaters, hat, gloves, etc.
- ❑ Camp shoes/sandals (leave handy for the hike to cabin; to wear for stream crossings.)
- ❑ *Water bottles/Camelback—at least 2 liters (3 liters recommended). Please don't overlook this suggestion!*
- ❑ Water purification tablets/small personal water filter
- ❑ Flashlight/headlamp
- ❑ Sun hat, Sunglasses, and Sunscreen (non-fragrant type, bears like smelly stuff)
- ❑ Personal medications (allergies? Epi-pen?)
- ❑ Toiletries and Toilet paper (non-fragrant, bears like smelly stuff)
- ❑ Waterproof matches/ lighter (these will be in the cabin also)
- ❑ Dish rag, soap and towels
- ❑ Small garbage bag(s) for kitchen trash can

2020

- ❑ Map of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (Selected artists will receive a map.)
- ❑ Cabin key and/or lock combination (provided)
- ❑ Lightweight Backpack for day hikes and hike into the cabin

Optional items - Keep it light!

- ❑ Leatherman or all-purpose tool (not in airline carry-on!)
- ❑ Battery powered travel alarm clock
- ❑ Personal *biodegradable* soap
- ❑ Bug repellent
- ❑ Camera (and waterproof bag)
- ❑ Books, journals, pens

APPENDIX C

RULES FOR OCCUPANCY OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED BUILDINGS

The following "Rules for Occupancy" are very important. These rules are necessary to insure continuance of this program and to make the next group's stay just as pleasant as yours. We need your help. Before you leave please:

- sweep and mop the floor
- wipe off table, shelves, window sills, etc.
- sack all trash and pack out when you leave
- re-stock wood box; split or cut firewood if more is needed to re-supply stack outside
- split generous supply of kindling
- refuel lantern and gas stove OUTSIDE the cabin
- check for personal belongings
- close and latch windows and shutters
- be sure fire is safe; close draft on stove
- lock cabin and barn doors with padlocks

Additional Notes

Pets are only approved to stay at cabins on a case-by-case basis at the time artist applies for a residency.

Firearms are not allowed at the cabins.

This is Bear Country. It is required under a forest wide food storage order that all attractants such as food and garbage be stored in a bear resistant manner. Keep all food and cooking items cleaned and put away after each meal. Don't leave food items including coolers with food or beverages outside cabins. Keep all food and garbage inside the cabin.

Leave No Trace or leave it better than you found it!