

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE FOR TEACHERS**

### **July 16-17, 2018 -- 2 credits – Water in the West: Yellowstone and Beyond**

**Instructors:** Alana Jensen, Chloe Doucette

**Supervising Instructor:** Rod Hansen

*The landscape surrounding Idaho Falls is unsurpassed in all of North America. Known for its diversity in geology, biology, and ecology, the landscape is bordered on the west by the Snake River Plain characterized by its stark, barren lava flows and sagebrush dominated landscape. To the east, the rugged Teton Range dominates the landscape, while to the north lies the spectacular Yellowstone Plateau. It would be difficult to find a more attractive landscape for the study of science! We'll observe and study the living and nonliving elements of Idaho's landscape, and provide a wealth of field activities which can be adapted to any grade level. We'll take a multidisciplinary approach as we weave English, History, Sociology, Math, and Art throughout this scientific course. As we will be hiking several miles each day over rough terrain, you will need to be moderately fit.*

**This session will include an overnight stay in West Yellowstone. Note: Lodging will be dormitory-like with modern bathrooms and cots. You will need to bring your own sleeping bag and pillow. Space is very limited, so you will be required to share a room with same-gendered participants.**

**On Day One** of this program we will be taking a professionally-guided whitewater raft trip down the South Fork of the Snake River. This is a class III river (from I-VI), with 8-10 sets of some really fun rapids. This is a very wide and deep river, with some sections up to 80 feet deep. This is a good thing as shallower rivers tend to be very technical and rated in the upper V's. After every section of whitewater, there is a calm section following. This is a great family river! If you have a fear of falling into the water, then the middle of the raft is the place to sit. Water temperature varies throughout July and August from the mid 50's to the mid 60's and throughout September and October in the 50's. One reason the rafting season for this river lasts as long as it does, is because it is fed from the Jackson Lake Dam.

**What to bring/wear for the raft trip:** Wear shorts or bathing suits that dry quickly, not cotton. You will get wet! Sorry, no flip flops or going barefoot but Texas, water shoes or tennis shoes will be fine. The guide company has plenty of life jackets & splash jackets in ALL sizes. Wetsuits and wetsuit boots are available to rent at additional cost. Changing rooms are available at the boathouse, but please wear the clothes you plan to raft in and use the rooms for changing into dry clothes after the trip (a towel is also not a bad idea!). Please bring dry clothes and snacks to leave in the van for the ride to Yellowstone National Park. Cameras are not advisable, unless they are waterproof. Valuables that you do not want to get wet can be stored in the van.

**On Day Two** of this program, we will explore Yellowstone National Park. We will work with park rangers and scientists to understand the unique and complex water system that makes up Yellowstone Park and the effect it has on local flora and fauna.

#### **What to bring/wear in Yellowstone:**

- \* Mountain weather clothing layers - windbreaker, raingear
- \* Comfortable and sturdy walking shoes
- \* Binoculars, hand lens, camera - optional but suggested
- \* Sunscreen, bug repellent, hat
- \* Breakfast, Lunch, snacks, water
- \* Notebook, pen/pencil, plastic bags for plant collection
- \* Backpack or fanny-pack

**Where to meet:**

The Museum of Idaho is working on an expansion and our normal classroom space will be demolished. Information on where to meet will be posted to the website and sent out to participants before the camp begins.

**Daily class schedule:**

Monday, July 16

8:00 – 8:15	Meet and Greet
8:30 – 10:30	Travel to West Table Dock for Whitewater Trip
10:30 – 12:30	Whitewater Trip (tentative, based on guide company schedule)
12:30 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 4:00	Travel through Teton to Yellowstone
4:00 - 8:30	Old Faithful Visitor Center, Geyser Scavenger Hunt and dinner on your own
9:00 – 10:00	Travel to and exploration of West Yellowstone. (Activity options will be provided)
overnight	Overnight Stay in West Yellowstone

Tuesday, July 17

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Make a geyser
8:45 – 10:00	Travel to Norris Geyser Basin
10:15 – 11:15	Leave Norris and head for Lonestar
12:30	Ranger Guided Hike of Lonestar Geyser Trail
12:30 – 4:00	Lonestar Hike
4:30	Pack up and head for home
7:30 pm	Approximate return to Idaho Falls

*--This schedule is tentative based on traffic in the park, scheduling with outside parties, and unforeseen circumstances!*