

SAWTOOTH SCIENCE INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 2167, Sun Valley, Idaho 83353

(208) 788-9686

www.isu.edu/ssi; gertchri@isu.edu

2009 Course Syllabus – REVISED 7/13/09

***ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES FOR TEACHERS, Session IV--
July 22-23, 2009 -- 1 credit – Rivers and Streams***

Instructors: K.C. Jones and Alana Jensen

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 dominate the landscape, while on the north lies the spectacular Yellowstone Plateau. It would be difficult to find a more attractive landscape for the study of science!

Join us for one or all of these two-day, one-credit field studies in these spectacular and unique natural environments. We'll observe and study the living and nonliving and provide a wealth of field activities which can be adapted to any grade level. Try your hand at journal activities such as those of Bernd Heinrich, Hannah Hinchman, the Corps of Discovery and more. We'll weave English, history, sociology, math, and art throughout the course. As we will be hiking one-half to two miles each day, you will need to be moderately fit.

Bring:

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

Suggested reference: *Plants of the Rocky Mountains*, Kershaw, MacKinnon, and Pojar

Grades:

This course, section 54, is offered for undergraduate credit 498P (Biol. 152245). If you wish credit, ISU requires that you pay the recording fee of \$50 and prepare a short assignment that demonstrates the use of the professional development workshop to your continuing education. This assignment is **due two weeks** after the workshop. Send it to

the Sawtooth Science Institute, P.O. Box 2167, Sun Valley, Idaho (83353). Questions? Call Chris Gertschen, (208) 788-9686, or email: gertchri@isu.edu.

Note: This course is considered a fall course and grades will be available in December. **IF YOU HAVE A SEPTEMBER 1 DEADLINE FOR RE-CERTIFICATION:** You may request an Acknowledgement of your completion of the course prior to 9/1/09. The State Board of Education will accept the Acknowledgement until you can replace that with an official transcript. If you need an acknowledgement of your successful completion of the course from SSI, please ask (788-9686). We're happy to help.

Please direct questions about grades or to request a transcript to the ISU Registrar at 282-3336.

Our goal in this workshop is to communicate our passion for Idaho's wonderful natural resources and to provide you with new awareness about your place on the planet. While not all of our students are teachers, we try to provide educational resources that may help teachers to create that passion in their students. The required assignment may be chosen from the following alternatives:

- * Write a lesson plan or a unit for your classroom showing how the new information or materials will be used and how it meets your district or state standards
- * Prepare a brief or short portfolio. You may want to include copies of your field notes, photographs, or maps. Remember: We prefer to receive copies of the originals as it is not possible to return your portfolio to you.
- * If you don't see yourself using the information at this time, please hypothesize a setting where you could see yourself using the information. Perhaps it would be possible to work with another teacher in your school to use the new information.
- * Obtain a copy of the *NatureMapping* data collection sheet from the SSI web site: www.isu.edu/ssj, record your observations and send it to SSI. Please be sure to fill in all of the requested information and describe the habitat to the best of your knowledge. You may also want to refer to the Digital Atlas of Idaho to see more information about the species you have observed: <http://imnh.isu.edu/digitalatlas>.

Our intent is that you create something that is of use to you so please keep a copy – or better yet, send in a copy and keep the original. In most cases, your assignment will not be returned to you.

Day 1, July 22

- ◆ 8:00 – 10:15 Travel to Jackson, WY
- ◆ 10:30 – 2:30 Snake River Float Trip (Teton Expeditions)

- ◆ 2:30 – 4:30 (Lunch provided)
Return to the Museum

Day 2, July 23:

- ◆ 8:00 – 9:00 Name That River - Rivers in Music, Art and Literature
- ◆ 9:00 – 9:45 Travel to Tex Creek
- ◆ 9:45 – 11:30 Water Chemistry and Water Canaries
- ◆ 11:30 – 12:00 Lunch at Tex Creek
- ◆ 12:00 – 12:45 River Morphology
- ◆ 12:45 – 2:30 Pooh Boats
- ◆ 2:30 – 3:00 Return to the Museum

You are on your own for evening.

We will be rafting the Snake River. This is a class III river (from I-VI), with 8-10 sets of some really fun rapids. After every section of whitewater you go through there is a calm section following. This is a very wide and deep river! Some sections are up to 80 feet deep. This is a good thing as the shallower rivers can be very technical and rated upper V's. This is a great family river! Also, a great river for all ages who like some big waves. We do like seeing the little kids sitting in the middle of the boat and if you have a fear of falling in then the middle is the place to sit!!

What to wear? You may wear shorts or bathing suits. We do have splash jackets on the river if you want to use them. For those of you who get cold and wish to rent wetsuits, that's not a problem. We have plenty and ALL sizes! We have changing rooms at the boathouse. Sorry, no Flip Flops or going barefoot. Teva's, water shoes or tennis shoes will be fine. We do have some great wetsuit boots that will keep your feet warm for rent at the boathouse.

The water temperature varies. May and June you can expect it somewhere in the mid 40's to mid 50's. July and August mid 50's to the mid 60's and September and October back in the 50's. One reason our season lasts as long as it does is because it is fed from a dam, the Jackson Lake Dam.

7/13/09 cg/