

Overnight backpacking trip

The overnight backpacking trip is offered to all return campers based on a first 10 applications basis. We will create a reserve list when applicable. This opportunity extends camp an extra day, starting at 3:00PM on Friday when the regular camp ends and returning backpackers to camp the following day at 1:00 PM. This opportunity is limited to only 10 campers per use restrictions of backcountry sites on national forest lands. The trip will require an approximate 1 ½ hour drive from camp to the trail head on national forest lands NW of Missoula along the Idaho/Montana border. Destinations may vary from year to year based upon conditions but typically require a 1-3 mile hike to an alpine lake where campers will spend the night. Backpacks and sleeping bags can be provided, though if campers possess their own they are encouraged to bring them. Sturdy hiking shoes are required (running shoes do not qualify!) that offer good stable foot protection and traction. If new shoes are used campers are highly recommended to have worn them for at least 5 miles prior to backpacking (putting them on wet and walking them dry is a good way to break them in). This will prevent chances of blisters or foot abrasions as hiking up and down trails with weight is different than just walking. Objectives for this trip are to have fun, experience an out-of-the-way place, learn the basics about packing for a trip (meals, drinking water, clothing, safety), and setting up a comfortable and functional camp with minimum impact to nature. Often there are trout in the lake so campers may want to bring their fishing rods (only rods that can be taken apart to 4 feet or smaller - fly or spincast). Catch and release fishing will be allowed. Swimming (water is typically quite cold) is also possible. A minimum of 2 adults (though typically 4) will accompany campers. Food is supplied.

An additional fee of \$50 applies to help cover travel, permits, equipment sanitation and food.

10 spaces are available. To be considered, please write a brief statement about why you want to go on the backpacking trip. The statement needs to accompany the application and no letters after the **June 14th** deadline will be accepted.

Pickup for backpackers will be Saturday at 1:00 PM at the Lubrecht Castle Center.