



November 2025

Special Announcement!

Montana Field Experience

A Pre-College Collaboration between

The Wild Rockies Field Institute

and

University of Montana's Davidson Honors College



Hi Dana,

[The Wild Rockies Field Institute](#) (WRFI) is excited to announce a new collaboration with the [University of Montana's Davidson Honors College](#) (DHC) called the Montana Field Experience.

This program will offer *rising high school juniors, seniors, and college freshmen* the opportunity to earn two Environmental Studies credits while traversing the wild places of Montana. This collaboration builds on over 30 years of accredited field studies partnership between WRFI and UM and a five-year pilot program of pre-college courses between the institutions. Expanding and strengthening this work with the DHC provides opportunities for engaged high school students to explore Honors college curricula and field studies courses.

Montana Field Experience has two course offerings for summer 2026: [Environmental Ethics: Climate Change and Sense of Place](#) and [Biking the Bitterroot: Sustainability Studies in Western Montana](#). These courses each offer a rich interdisciplinary academic curriculum coupled with expertly-guided outdoor field experiences. Cohort size for these programs will be capped at 12 students each. Applications will be accepted and processed on a rolling basis; space is limited and we anticipate these programs to both fill. Each program costs \$3,250-4,500 per student on an automatically-applied sliding scale.

Read on to learn more about each of these amazing courses!

[Schedule a call to learn more!](#)



Biking the Bitterroot

Sustainability Studies in Western Montana

July 13-24th, 2026 | \$3,250-4,500

Biking the Bitterroot is a two-week experiential learning adventure where students cycle from Missoula to Darby, Montana, exploring sustainability initiatives and issues in the Bitterroot Valley. The interdisciplinary curriculum covers topics like regenerative ranching, social justice, green energy development, and organic agriculture, featuring guest speakers who are academic researchers and community leaders. Students will ride the entire Bitterroot Trail, camping in various outdoor settings, and culminate their experience with a return to the University of Montana campus to integrate their understanding of sustainability from a local to global perspective.



Environmental Ethics

Climate Change and Sense of Place

July 13-24th, 2026 | \$3,250-4,500

Environmental Ethics is a field-based study of climate change and environmental ethics within Montana's Crown of the Continent landscape, including the ancestral homelands of the Séliš-Q̓ispé, Ktunaxa, and Blackfeet peoples. Students study the regional effects of climate change, hear from community leaders on justice issues, and explore how sense of place informs environmental decisions while building a strong community through immersive outdoor activities. Students will visit frontcountry areas from Missoula to Glacier National Park, complete a four-day backpacking trip in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, learn from Indigenous guest speakers near Browning, and conclude on the University of Montana campus for final integration.



WRFI = Academic In Nature

The mission of the Wild Rockies Field Institute (WRFI) is to inspire the next generation of engaged leaders capable of addressing complex issues through rigorous, field-based academics in the American West.

For us at WRFI, academics happen in the field--And they have, since 1993. Our small-group, cohort based learning model is built around expert instructors (all of whom have graduate degrees as well as teaching and guiding experience) leading engaged, qualified students in immersive educational programming. We know that the best learning happens when students are learning from the landscapes, people, and issues happening in the real world. Students regularly return from their WRFI courses saying that they've learned more in a few weeks in the field than in full semesters on campus.

We know the power field-based learning -- will you?



Want to learn more about Montana Field Experience?

We're Here to Talk — Literally!

We're excited to connect with interested students, parents, educators, counselors, and advisors to share more about these incredible course opportunities! Ash Sward, WRFI's Enrollment and Operations Coordinator, is excited to hear from you, share some more about the courses, and get out into the field! Want to chat?

[Schedule a call with Ash to learn more!](#)



Interested in other WRFI courses?

Know a college student who needs a course in the field?

We'd love to connect!



WRFI provides a broad spectrum of field-based learning opportunities for currently enrolled university students, as well as students pursuing alternative degree paths. These experiences range from three weeks to full semesters, and all focus on interdisciplinary environmental/conservation topics. You can read more [on our website](#) or [click here to schedule a call](#) with Kelsey Wellington, our student experience manager. We love connecting with others passionate about rich, experiential, field-based academic learning!