

OUTPOST ON THE SNAKE RIVER
September 3-8, 2021
Participant Packet

Welcome to Outpost on the Snake River. We hope you are as excited about this opportunity as we are to provide it. Please take the time to read the following pages carefully as they contain important information regarding your Outpost experience from the trip schedule to the suggested packing list.

Fishtrap's Outpost Program

The goal of Fishtrap's Outpost program is to provide writers with an opportunity to experience a remote, natural environment in Wallowa County in order to find solitude, connect to the landscape in a meaningful way, and write about their experience. Instructor Craig Childs guides your Outpost writing experience this year and Winding Waters River Expeditions leads the river trip. [Winding Waters River Expeditions](#) is a family owned and operated whitewater rafting outfitter based in Joseph, Oregon. They are experienced pros, love what they do, and know what it takes to provide a quality rafting experience.

Outpost on the Snake River

You will raft down one of the world's most dramatic and rugged canyons while receiving personal instruction from award-winning author and adventurer, Craig Childs. To experience the natural world from the bottom of Hells Canyon, the deepest river canyon in the United States, is sure to stir the imagination and provide stories for a lifetime. As hosts of the trip, Winding Waters Expeditions will expertly navigate the river, provide delicious meals, and bring you to the best camp spots on the river. The work that will emerge is sure to paint a complex beautiful landscape, true writing of place.

Explorer and storyteller **Craig Childs** has published more than a dozen critically acclaimed books on adventure, wilderness, and science including his most recent, *Atlas of a Lost World: Travels in Ice Age America*. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Men's Journal*, and *The Sun*, and he is a contributing editor for *Adventure Journal Quarterly*. Childs lives in Western Colorado and teaches writing for both the University of Alaska in Anchorage and Southern New Hampshire University.

From Craig Childs:

Stories are rivers, and the way we write them is how they carry us along. In our narratives, there will be rapids and side canyon choked with boulders and fallen trees. We will translate long stretches of still water through cavernous bends where you hear the faint roar of the next plunge ahead. This will be a nonfiction workshop, true storytelling, though fiction writers will come away with useful tools about narrative and expressing the natural world. You'll need to bring two primary

journals or notebooks to the river, one for your final work and one that can be scribbled and scratched in, that doesn't mind getting wet.

Lodging

Important: You are responsible for your arranging your own lodging **Friday, September 3** and **Wednesday, September 8**. There are many options available from Motels to camping. Learn more at the [Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce](#). Winding Waters River Expeditions also has a good list of resources, too: [Winding Waters – Trip Planning](#)

Schedule

Friday, Sept. 3

6:00pm - Evening Orientation and Dinner at Winding Waters Boat House in Joseph, Oregon. 204 E Wallowa Ave, Joseph, OR 97846

Saturday, Sept 4

7:00am - Meet at Winding Waters Boat House and travel to Launch Site – Breakfast Served

7:30AM – Depart for the 2 to 2.5 hour drive to the Launch Site on the Snake River (Hells Canyon Creek)

Between 10:30-11:30am – Receive a safety briefing & orientation to the boats and embark on the trip. Lunch will be served riverside following the launch.

Afternoon: Upon arrival in Camp, Writing Instruction and River Recreation

Sunday, Sept 5

Camp Day – Writing Instruction and River Recreation

Monday, Sept 6

River Travel Day - Evening Writing Instruction and River Recreation

Tuesday, Sept 7

Camp Day - Writing Instruction and River Recreation

Wednesday, Sept 8

Around 1:00pm Jet Boat up river to Launch Site - Travel to Joseph, Oregon

Between 5:00pm and 7:00pm - Arrive at Boat House

How to Prepare

You're in for a great adventure. The key to getting the most from your trip is to be prepared. The Winding Waters' Trip Planning web page can help answer most of your questions and help you pack for the experience. You'll get insight from the experts on everything from weather and water to information on the geology of the area. Please visit this page and give it a good hard look.

[Winding Waters – Trip Planning](#)

Packing List & Tips

Please visit Winding Waters Packing List Page to help you know what to pack, and what not to.

[Winding Waters Packing List](#)

Alcohol on the Trip

Alcohol is not included with your trip cost. You are welcome to bring your own libations. Winding Waters will provide ice for clinky drinks. They ask all beer to be in cans for safety reasons. Glass wine bottles are accepted. For your convenience, Winding Waters does sell a nice selection of canned beer and box wine that you can order at this link:

[Winding Waters Beer and Wine Order Form](#)

If you order here, simply select paying at the Pre-Trip Meeting. If you are bringing your own alcohol, please bring it to the river the morning of your trip launch.

Medical

Winding Waters staff are all certified first responders. In the case of a life-threatening emergency you will be flown or jet boated out of the canyon.

Pre-Purchase Fishing Licenses: If you're interested in fishing on your trip, we suggest you pre-purchase your fishing license online. Please have a printer at hand to print off your license. <https://or.outdoorcentral.us/or/license>. Winding Waters will provide fishing gear for the trip.

Tipping/Gratuities: Many of Winding Waters' guests ask about and appreciate information on the custom of tipping. Winding Waters' guide crew will work hard to make your Outpost experience the best it can be. While it is not expected whatsoever, if you wish to tip, we recommend treating it like a restaurant (anywhere from 10-15% of your trip cost for the crew). You can either give your lead guide cash at the end of the trip or have us here at Fishtrap put it on your credit card. The gratuities will then be distributed among the guide crew, food manager, and shuttle driver(s). And again, please know this is not expected.

Suggested Reading List

- *Snake River in Hells Canyon* by Carrey, Conley, and Barton - A great resource for homesteader history in Hells Canyon. A series of entertaining short stories perfect for reading before bed.
- *Home Below Hells Canyon* by Grace Jordan - A memoir of a homesteading family at Kirkwood Ranch in the 1930's.
- *Islands and Rapids: A Geologic History of Hells Canyon* by Tracy Vallier - Interesting read by one of the leading research geologists in Hells Canyon.

- *I Will Fight No More Forever* by Merrill Beal - The story of the Chief Joseph Band of the Nez Perce Tribe in the Hells Canyon region.

Interesting Hells Canyon Information

- Hells Canyon is the deepest river gorge in North America at 7,993 feet and approximately 10 miles wide
- It was added to the National Wild and Scenic River System on December 1, 1975
- Total length of Hells Canyon: 78.7 miles from Hells Canyon Dam to Heller Bar
- The Bonneville Flood (approximately 14,500 years ago) is believed to be the second largest single flooding event in geologic history and estimated to move water at 33 million cubic feet per second (cfs) through present-day Hells Canyon. Today, the Snake River in Hells Canyon typically flows between 10,000 and 50,000 cfs. The floods widened Hells Canyon more than deepened it. Many of the benches in Hells Canyon today are remnants of these floods.
- The first people in Hells Canyon are believed to be of the Nez Perce Tribe.
- In 1925 Amos Burg made the first documented float through Hells Canyon in a wooden canoe.

Terms, Conditions, and Refund Policy

These Terms and conditions are valid for each attendee registering for the 2021 Outpost on the Snake River Writing Workshop.

Outpost is held on the Snake River bordering Idaho and Oregon. This is an outdoor setting with inherent risks, hazards, and dangers. All registrants agree to follow the rules and policies of Winding Waters River Expeditions and sign a waiver. No pets are allowed.

Fishtrap's Outpost Writing Workshop Cancellation and Refund Policy:

If, for any reason, you need to cancel your plans to attend Outpost, our refund policy is as follows:

Fishtrap registration includes a \$100 nonrefundable deposit as part of the total fee. Registrants cancelling Outpost registration before May 1, 2021 will be issued a full refund minus the deposit. Registrants cancelling registration from May 1-June 31, 2021 will be issued 50% refund of the total registration fee minus the deposit. No refunds will be issued after July 1, 2021.

In the unlikely event that Outpost is cancelled, all registrants will have the option of receiving a full refund, including deposit, or receiving registration credit for the

following year's Summer Fishtrap Gathering or Outpost event. Fishtrap is not responsible for any travel costs.

Fishtrap reserves the right to refuse to admit or remove any participant or refuse registration to any participant who may be disruptive to the event. This policy is in place to ensure safety and of all participants, instructors, and staff. Registrants refused admittance at registration will receive a full refund. Registrants removed from Outpost while the event is in progress will not receive a refund.

This refund policy covers all fees paid to Fishtrap for registration, meals, and lodging. Changing or canceling lodging reservations made with other parties is the responsibility of the registrant.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Fishtrap prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or age. This policy applies to all Fishtrap administration, activities, and events and will be enforced for all employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants.

Please give us a call or send an email if you have questions or concerns. Everyone on the Fishtrap staff is ready and happy to help.

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