

OUTPOST WRITING WORKSHOP
June 21-26, 2021
Participant Packet

Welcome to Outpost. We hope you are as excited about this opportunity as we are about providing it. Please take a few minutes to read the following pages carefully as they contain important information regarding your Outpost experience.

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.

Outpost Instructor

Kim Stafford is the founding director of the Northwest Writing Institute, and co-founder of Fishtrap. He is the author of a dozen books of poetry and prose, including *Having Everything Right: Essays of Place* in 1986, and the new poetry collection, *Wild Honey, Tough Salt: Poems*, in 2019. He has taught writing in schools, colleges, meadows, forests, and in Assisi, Glasgow, and a remote village in Bhutan. In May 2018 Gov. Kate Brown appointed him as Oregon's ninth Poet Laureate. His new poetry collection is titled *Singer Come from Afar* from Red Hen Press.

Kim is looking forward to an expansive five days outside with you.

Outpost Naturalist

Janet Hohman is a Wallowa County wildlife biologist, naturalist, and trail guide. Although she'd never admit it, she probably knows more about the Zumwalt Prairie's plants and wildlife than just about anyone. During the week, she will lead hikes and happily answer questions about the landscape.

What to expect at Outpost

Part of the beauty of being out on the Zumwalt is that you will be off the modern day grid. But that also means you will be an hour from any medical facility, town, or store. Cell connectivity is spotty if at all, and **there is no wi-fi access**. Please double-check that you have all necessary prescription drugs, several layers of clothing, sun protection, rain gear, and a good warm hat. Bring paper and pen since there is limited electricity (solar). A suggested pack list is included below. We also have an assumption of risk form that you will be asked to complete upon your arrival at Fishtrap.

Food

You are in great luck. A crew of Wallowa County cooks will be on hand to feed you for the week. You'll have fresh nutritious homemade choices with an emphasis on locally grown ingredients. No one will go hungry or thirsty, that's for sure. Please let us know if you have any food allergies and if you prefer regular or vegetarian fare.

Lodging

We encourage you all to pitch a tent and sleep outside under the stars. Bring your favorite tent, sleeping bag, pillow, and any other camping amenities you enjoy including a camp chair. The tent camping area is in an open, rolling grassy field. It will take a little bit of searching to find a nice flat spot but that's part of the adventure.

If you prefer a roof over your head, there are also a limited number of bunks available in an upstairs, shared, co-ed bunkhouse. Due to COVID restrictions we strongly suggest that you pitch a tent but we will reserve four bunks for those who need it on a first come first served basis. Please contact Program Director, Mike Midlo mike@fishtrap.org.

Opening Day Schedule

Outpost sign-in is Monday, June 21 from 3:00-4:00pm at the Fishtrap House, 400 E. Grant St. Enterprise, Oregon 97828. **We will all leave together for Outpost promptly at 4:00pm.** Please give yourself plenty of time for travel. Remember, Wallowa County is a long drive from most anywhere. That's part of what makes Outpost so great. Get an early start. Give yourself time to get any last minute supplies. Maybe plan a stop at Terminal Gravity brewpub in Enterprise for lunch!

After setting up camp, we'll have a welcome dinner and you can all get settled in for a week of discovery and writing.

Transportation to Outpost Camp

Fishtrap provides transportation to the Outpost camp from Enterprise. Sit back and enjoy the 25-mile scenic drive over primitive access roads in the comfort of an air-conditioned van. We'll also transport all your gear. Personal vehicles are not allowed at the campsite. Your car will be safe and sound at the Fishtrap House for the week. Please plan on taking any valuables with you, or you can store a bag or two in the Fishtrap office.

Libations and Treats

Some folks choose to bring special snacks, soda pop, a bottle of wine, or beer to sip at dinner or around the fire. You are welcome to do that but please have it all pre-packed and ready to go. We won't be stopping by a store on the way out to Outpost.

Medical

Outpost is an hour from any medical facility or store. Please pack all your medications and please don't take any physical risks while hiking and exploring. Drink lots of water. Seek shade. We will have first aid kit available and an RN on site all week in the unlikely case that someone needs medical attention. If there is an emergency, you will be transported to the nearest hospital in Enterprise, Oregon. The latter has never happened in the history of Outpost and we don't want to break that good record so please be careful out there.

Background Information

We encourage you to do some research in advance of your Outpost week. The Zumwalt Prairie has a rich history and great opportunities for viewing wildlife, native plants, and the geology of the region. Here's a link to The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie web page:

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/zumwalt-prairie/>

Suggested Pack List

Gear

Sleeping bag
Bedding
Air mattress or pad
Pillow, Blankets
Tent, fly, stakes,
Day pack
Folding chair or sitting pad
Camera
Binoculars
Map & field guides - per your interests
Sunglasses and extra prescription glasses
Sunblock
Insulated mug and water bottle
Headlamp and/or Flashlight
Personal Kit
Medications

Clothing

Lightweight boots or trail shoes
Camp shoes/sandals/slippers
Socks and underwear
Pants & shorts; fleece is nice for mornings and evenings if it gets cold
Shirts; layers – one of fleece, but also be prepared for very hot weather.
Rain gear
Gloves
Shade Hat
Warm Hat
Fleece or down coat

Writing Materials and a flat surface to write on such as a hard backed notebook or clipboard.

Terms, Conditions, and Refund Policy

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

Outpost is held at the Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in Wallowa County. This is an outdoor setting with inherent risks, hazards, and dangers. All registrants agree to follow the rules and policies at these venues. No pets are allowed at either location.

Fishtrap's Outpost Writing Workshop Cancellation and Refund Policy:

If, for any reason, you need to cancel your plans to attend Summer Fishtrap or 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 April 1, 2021 will be issued a full refund minus the deposit. Registrants cancelling registration from April 1-May 31, 2021 will be issued 50% refund of the total registration fee minus the deposit. No refunds will be issued after June 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.

Mike Midlo
Fishtrap Program Director
mike@fishtrap.org