

# TRIP DESCRIPTION

## NOLS Alumni Salmon River Family Rafting Trip

### June 25 – 29, 2008

#### Trip Description

It is all about family on this trip! Bring the kids, invite your parents, and get away for some quality time in a beautiful place. The Salmon River bisects the Frank Church "River of No Return" Wilderness area, the largest in the Lower 48. You will spend time in both paddle rafts and oar boats, and enjoy seeing loved ones light up in the magic of the river. When you aren't paddling down Class III whitewater, you will have time to enjoy the magnificent scenery and learn about the river's amazing history. In camp, we will enjoy meals such as Dutch Oven lasagna, play games of horseshoes and Bocce Ball, and relax on big sandy beaches where we can swim in the clear waters of the Salmon River. We will emphasize safety, fun, relaxation, and Leave No Trace camping techniques for fragile river corridors as we move down this 81-mile stretch of river.

**Cost:** \$1000.00

**Group Size:** 12 participants: 4 instructors

#### Features of This Trip:

- Rafting up to Class III rapids
- Natural history interpretation
- Catering to alumni with children
- Minimum age: 8, (children 10 and under must have 1 to 1 child/parent ratio)
- Short hikes
- Group kitchen and social evenings

#### Environment

The remote regions of Idaho's Northern Rockies create a fantastic setting for wilderness vacation and relaxation. The mountains include extensive ranges of steep forested terrain punctuated by numerous rivers and lakes. Few roads and developed trails exist. The area hosts abundant wildlife, including mule and white tail deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black bear, mountain lion, and moose. The Northern Rockies are also home to three endangered species: the gray wolf, the peregrine falcon, and the bald eagle.

The Main Salmon carves its way westward through a region with exceptional diversity of flora, fauna, and human history. Bisecting the Frank Church Wilderness Area, this section of the river is deserving of its *Wild and Scenic* designation. The rapids are rated up to Class III, but primarily this is a pleasant float trip well suited to family travel.

On this trip, you should expect water temperatures to be cold and weather that varies from unrelenting sunshine to rain and either dead calm or fierce head winds. Averages for July's high and low temperatures are 87° and 50° respectively. It usually rains about 10 days in June so at the very least count on one day of rain during your trip. Some of the river hazards you will face on this section include large waves capable of flipping a raft, hypothermia, re-circulating holes, fallen trees within the river, and strong currents.

#### Trip Progression

First day:

You will be met by your instructors at the **Salmon Airport at 8:30 am on June 25, 2008** and will be taken to the NOLS Salmon Base, where you will be issued any personal gear that you might need. After packing our dry bags we will drive for two hours to Corn Creek, the put-in for the Main Salmon trip. Then we will have a raft and safety orientation before launching on the river that afternoon.

In the field:

Throughout your Salmon River journey, you will have time to explore the varied natural history and human history of this spectacular region. We will stop at historic ranches along the way to discuss the colorful characters that called the Salmon River their home. Classes covering this vast ecosystem may offer an understanding of its geology, botany, and the diverse wildlife, which inhabit the area. Rivers are a popular wilderness resource, and their use involves special management and conservation concerns. You may discuss river use, management, and wilderness ethics specific to the river environment while you travel down the river.

Final day:

On the final day, June 29<sup>th</sup>, we will finish our river trip around noon at Carey Creek (23 miles east of Riggins, ID) where we will have lunch and say our goodbyes to the instructors, who will be driving back to Salmon. A bus or van will then transport you to Boise, arriving there around 5:00 p.m. You will need to arrange your own lodging for this evening as travel arrangements would best be made for departure the following morning of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Curriculum**

While on the river you will have the opportunity to learn the basics of paddle rafting and guiding skills, rowing the oar boats, river safety, scouting rapids, and reading water. For the more adventurous, we will be bringing two inflatable kayaks. Mastering paddling, timing, and communication skills needed to put your boat exactly where you need it takes time and practice on the river.

**The alumni trip atmosphere is more relaxed than a typical NOLS course, however, it is not a guided trip—we call it an educational, participatory vacation.** The curriculum is informal and based on participant interest. Trips are self-reliant and you will be miles from the amenities of civilization. You will be living outdoors, sharing a tent with as many as 3 other people, helping cook meals and caring for yourself. Participants have the freedom to bring equipment that is necessary for their comfort and enjoyment of the trip and are expected to take responsibility for this aspect. If you have any further questions about this trip, please contact the alumni office at (800) 332-4280.

### **Registration and Payment**

Call the NOLS alumni office at (800) 332-4280. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person will reserve your space on the trip. Your enrollment will be complete upon receipt of your final payment of \$800 per person and your completed application forms; these are due no later than 30 days prior to the trip start date or May 26, 2008.

**The trip cost covers all group equipment and meals starting with lunch on June 25 and ending with lunch on June 29. Transportation from Salmon to the put-in and from the take-out to Boise is also included.**

**Individuals are responsible for getting to Salmon, ID and back home from Boise, ID, the night lodging in Boise the evening of June 24 and June 29. Any personal equipment that is rented or purchased and any costs incurred by evacuations are the responsibility of trip participants.**

**If you have any questions or concerns about trip costs, please call the NOLS Alumni office at (800) 332-4280.**