Wild Rockies Field Institute
2027 SCSA Field Instructor
Position Description

WRFI is currently seeking an instructor with deep experience in the visual arts to co-lead the Southwest Climate Studio Art course for 2027 and beyond. The course curriculum was collaboratively developed with several existing WRFI instructors and leadership staff to serve a population of undergraduate students studying the visual arts who traditionally do not have access to academic field experiences. Several of the original course designers have moved on from WRFI, and we are now seeking an instructor who is interested in teaching from the existing curriculum, collaborating with other instructors, and taking a leadership role in developing the course content and curriculum, particularly in the visual arts.

Who We Are: The Wild Rockies Field Institute offers academically rigorous, place-based field courses that develop engaged, informed citizens and strong leaders capable of addressing complex social and environmental issues. We offer college students the opportunity to study ecology, public lands issues, rural development, philosophy, and cultural history during extended backcountry expeditions and visits to rural communities in the Rocky Mountain West.

Job Title, Location, and Supervisor: Field Instructors work in a field-based setting to facilitate WRFI courses. This position reports to the Field Education Manager. This role is contract-based, short term, and temporary, and therefore not eligible for benefits.

Job Objective: Field Instructors develop and execute WRFI's academic field programs, leading undergraduate students in outdoor settings throughout the American and Canadian Rockies.

Job Qualifications: The successful candidate must have excellent communication and computer skills; the ability to work well with the public, students, other field instructors, and office staff; keen attention to detail; a capacity to work independently; and the desire to participate in a variety of tasks. The successful candidate will be experienced in outdoor education programming, operations, logistics, and staffing, experienced delivering collegiate-level academics, committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion work, and an experienced risk manager. Additionally, the ideal candidate will be familiar with Google platforms. A master's degree in the visual arts is required due to requirements for instruction through the University of Montana. A current WFR or higher certification is required prior to instructing in the field.

Compensation: Field Instructors are paid according to a pay table, both for hourly and daily work. WRFI's most updated pay table is viewable here.

Equal Opportunity: Wild Rockies Field Institute is an equal opportunity organization and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender identity or expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, mental or physical disability, serious medical condition, or military status in any of its activities or

operations. WRFI recognizes that access to environmental education—along with access to nature spaces, clean air and water, and healthy food—continues to be a privilege. WRFI additionally recognizes that in outdoor and environmental education organizations, the voices and work of people of color, people from low income backgrounds, unhoused people, Indigenous people, women, and LGBTQ2S+ individuals have been often overlooked and/or intentionally marginalized. Therefore, we especially encourage applications from people who identify in these groups.

Unique Aspects of Instruction on Southwest Climate Studio Art:

The Southwest Climate Studio Art curriculum bridges a unique space between climate change studies and climate communication as well as visual arts in an upper division setting. The curriculum includes two classes: ***Climate Change Studies CCS 391 - Community-Based Resilience to Climate Change*** *and* ***Studio Art ARTZ 395 - Cultural Climate Expression in the American Southwest*** *which are taught concurrently and collaboratively. WRFI seeks an instructor with an MFA in visual arts to lead the instruction of the art curriculum of this program.*

The expectation students bring to this course is an opportunity to explore Spanish and Indigenous artistic and agricultural traditions/practices in the American Southwest while also developing their own artistic practices to represent an experience of a changing climate today. In order to facilitate this course, an instructor must be comfortable with numerous visits to local experts in the Southwest, including Indigenous and Spanish agricultural leaders, artists, scientists, and community leaders. The SCSA curriculum focuses on two topics: climate change studies, specifically through a lens of human resilience; and visual arts and building a studio practice. A collaborative teaching approach with local experts is critical to building a course curriculum that is coherent, place-based, and impactful for students on the course. WRFI seeks an instructor who is comfortable and committed to teaching these topics through these experiential learning practices.

While this course is fully a "frontcountry" program (vehicle supported), we do require instructors to have a WFR certification, extensive outdoor experience, and comfort and familiarity with leading a group of undergraduate students while camping and living outdoors for the duration of the course. At times, the course will stay in remote, off-grid, dry camping areas without running water, established campsites, or restroom facilities. Additionally, while having an interest in climate change science is encouraged, this instructor will work closely with a co-instructor with a background/expertise in climate change science. We are seeking an instructor comfortable with being the expert in the room when it comes to visual arts who is excited about collaboration with a climate science expert on overall curriculum goals.

Job Responsibilities:

WRFI Field Instructors hold the ultimate responsibility for all happenings while on course, including experiential, academic, and technical. This means that Instructors must:

- Adhere to the WRFI Code of Ethics (see below)
- Adhere to WRFI Risk Management and Safety Policies (see below)

- Accept full responsibility for the course they arranged to co-instruct, demonstrated by clear communication with office staff and fellow instructors, a consistently professional attitude, and a teamwork mentality.
- Complete Pre-Course work, including:
    - Participation in at least three 90-minute pre-course briefing meetings in the 120 days prior to each course's launch date
    - Participation in creating course materials for students (equipment list, syllabus, itinerary, reader, course assignments, etc);
    - Maintain and update shared course electronic files;
    - Obtain and organize necessary gear and food;
    - Participation in creating and submitting course reader and course packet;
    - Obtaining additional curriculum materials as needed;
    - Arrange guest speakers;
    - Arrange front-country camping/lodging;
    - Submit an itinerary to the WRFI office, including marked call-in days and a general outline of daily educational activities/assignments;
    - Update course-specific emergency contact list and evacuation plans.

- Complete Post-Course work, including:
    - Complete course accounting sheets, including all receipts and remaining petty cash within 30 days of the end of your section and/or the course end;
    - Update the course itinerary document with actual use (including permitted use days) and actual itinerary within 30 days of course completion
    - Complete self and co-instructor evaluations;
    - Write student letters;
    - Write parent letters;
    - Complete grading and submit grades to WRFI within three weeks of course end and make copies of grade sheets for WRFI files;
    - Label and submit photos to Google Photos, including at least one close-up group shot and one portrait of each student (if possible);
    - Write and send thank you notes to all guest speakers;
    - Clean and return gear at end of course (make repairs, mark for warranty, or replace as needed);
    - Restock First Aid Kit;
    - Update course documents (including bibliography, syllabus, gear list, itinerary, reading list, and website text recommendations) within 30 days of course end;
    - Participate in course debrief with Office staff and other instructors.

WRFI Instructor Code of Ethics

- The safety of all individuals on the course must be the primary focus of all WRFI instructors.
- Because WRFI is an educational institution, it holds students to rigorous academic performance standards. Grades awarded to WRFI students reflect only the student's academic performance during the course. They do not reflect the personality or an assumed personal worth of the student.
- WRFI instructors are expected to refrain from any inappropriately personal or sexual liaison with any student or intern. No form of sexual harassment will be tolerated.
- Instructors are expected to maintain a focus on the safety and education of the entire group, regardless of personalities or interpersonal relationships.
- Instructors must obey all the laws and regulations of the jurisdictions in which the course takes place.
- Negative environmental and social impacts should be minimized where possible, both in the course area, and during course preparation.
- Wild Rockies Field Institute is an equal opportunity organization and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender identity or expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, mental or physical disability, serious medical condition, or military status in any of its activities or operations. Any acts of harassment, threats of violence, intolerance, or discrimination are grounds for immediate dismissal.

WRFI Safety Policy

Statement of Principle

This section provides an overview of WRFI Safety Policies. Instructors must follow more specific safety policies and guidelines specific to course activities and locations as detailed in the most recent Risk Management and Safety Manual. WRFI will provide these manuals to each instructor.

- Each instructor directly, and WRFI overall, is responsible for the safety of each student while the course is in session.
- Instructors must have a written emergency procedure that includes:
    - an evacuation plan;
    - maps showing details of routes used ;
    - phone lists of local emergency agencies and the WRFI emergency phone-in procedure;
    - policies and procedures for dealing with a major injury and/or fatality;
    - incident report forms ;
    - contact WRFI office for any incident resulting in a student leaving the field.
- Instructors must review and carry a copy of all staff and student medical forms.
- Instructors must carry complete WRFI First Aid Kits.
- Instructors must provide a safety briefing for students before each activity that includes:
    - the general emergency plan including instructor, intern, and student roles and responsibilities;
    - a warning of the difficulty of evacuation and the need for caution;
    - a description of known and potential environmental hazards;
    - instruction on appropriate equipment use including stoves, boats, vans and trailers;
    - See pre-course checklist for more detail on topics to be covered.
- Instructors are responsible to have and maintain all necessary safety equipment
- Instructors will inspect equipment for proper function and safety prior to student use.
- Possession or use of alcohol and illegal drugs is expressly prohibited during all courses.
- Instructors are responsible for communicating behaviors that in their judgment unduly compromises the safety of the group or the educational value of the course to the WRFI office to make a plan, up to and including removal of a student from the course.