



VOLUNTEER FOR THE SBFC ST. MARY TRAILHEAD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

SELWAY BITTERROOT FRANK CHURCH FOUNDATION

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Help SBFC build a community of responsible wilderness trails users!

**SATURDAYS IN JULY & AUGUST
9 AM - 3 PM**

VOLUNTEERS WILL GREET VISITORS, ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WILDERNESS, LEAVE NO TRACE PRACTICES, AND TRAIL TIPS. VOLUNTEERS WILL WORK IN TEAMS OF 2 FOR 3-HOUR SHIFTS.

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FRANK CHURCH
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Building a community of responsible wilderness trails users

WHAT IS THE SBFC ST. MARY TRAILHEAD VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM?

New for 2021, the Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is launching the St. Mary Trailhead Volunteer Ambassador Program on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana. In partnership with the Forest, the SBFC Trailhead Ambassadors will educate trail users about trail safety, how to be prepared for their hike, responsible trail use, and Leave No Trace principles. Trailhead Volunteer Ambassadors will also record visitor use information and may perform routine trailhead maintenance.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The St. Mary Peak Trail is the busiest trail on the Bitterroot National Forest. In 2020, there was a 23% increase in visitation as more day hikers headed outdoors. High use and visitor misuse has caused trail degradation.

The Trailhead Volunteer Ambassador program is designed to protect the integrity of our National Forest Lands while increasing safe and responsible use and access. Volunteer Ambassadors will help visitors be better prepared for their journey on the St. Mary Peak Trail and for future hikes. Through outreach and education, Volunteer Ambassadors will help develop a new, informed community of trail users.

We hope to extend the SBFC Trailhead Volunteer Ambassador program to additional high-use trails on the Bitterroot National Forest in 2022.

WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM DATES?

Trailhead Ambassadors will be stationed at the St. Mary trailhead on Saturdays in July and August, 2021. Additional days may be added to the calendar depending on demand and volunteer availability.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAILHEAD VOLUNTEERS?

The Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation welcomes volunteers who have experience hiking the St. Mary Peak Trail and other trails in the Bitterroot National Forest—and volunteers who want to learn! Volunteers must be willing to work in teams of two and to commit to shifts of three hours.

Volunteers will be required to attend a virtual training in June. Training topics will include an introduction to outdoor education, how to connect and interact with visitors, the Wilderness Act, Leave No Trace principles, and other protocols.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER?

Visit selwaybitterroot.org/volunteer to sign up, or contact Krissy Ferriter, SBFC Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@selwaybitterroot.org or 406-721-8500.

