



SISKIYOU FIELD INSTITUTE

DARLINGTONIA

Phenology, Connection to Place Through Change

Have you ever wondered what time of year the Steelhead are running the Illinois River, when the camas fields bloom, or when cliff swallows will be swarming to build their mud nests? You are not the only one; SFI receives requests all year long for information about these natural rhythms.

Because our campus is in such a unique location with many endemic and rare flora and fauna, SFI will begin telling the story of our land by building a phenology project, tracking patterns on our campus and the immediate area.

Phenology is one of the oldest ways of knowing the land through tracking natural migration and seasonal benchmarks. It is our hope to build this knowledge bank to share and track information about seasonal changes, including the effects of climate change in our area.

With the help of skilled volunteers, we will be collaborating to roll out the SFI Phenology Project in 2022. **In the meantime, here are some additional resources to inspire every community observer or citizen scientist:**

[Naturalist](#)

Citizen science & more from your smartphone!

[USA National Phenology Network](#)

Learn how you can get involved or start your own project!

"What are you most proud of today?" & "What is some good advice you've received recently?"



This is how we open our youth programs. When our 5th & 6th graders first arrive at SFI for an Outdoor School program they are often timid, shy, unsure of their place, and wearing masks (literal and figurative!)

As instructors, our first task is to set the stage so our participants feel they can be open to being outside their comfort zone. We share a little about ourselves while sitting in the sun beneath a willow tree, then pose those questions to the group.

When students from Grants Pass District 7 were asked these questions, sitting in a circle and brand new to each other and us, they courageously shared their answers:

"I am most proud of myself for signing up to come here without any of my friends!"

"I changed my mind about being outside. Usually I'm not someone who likes the outdoors but this trip makes me want to be outside more."

"My mom always says to 'Kill them with kindness' so that's what I do and that's what I tell others to do too."

"I moved to Grants Pass last year. I didn't have any friends and had just been adopted so I never really felt accepted. My 5th grade teacher saw me and helped me learn how to make friends."

We are so grateful to witness when students feel safe enough to be authentic, take risks, and continue to become who they are.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Help Us Pick Future Courses at SFI

Is there a field course you've wished SFI would offer, or a subject you've always wanted to learn more about? **Let us know in this [short, two-question survey!](#)** (If you've already taken the survey, there's no need to do so twice). Your interests are integral to our course selection, so thank you for sharing them with us.

[Take Survey](#)

Meet our New AmeriCorps RARE Member!



We are getting to work on some big projects this coming year **creating a new youth mentorship program, improving our outdoor school curriculum, and creating new resources for our community!** That means, we need **more skilled hands on deck!**

Meet Alice Jones. Alice was born in England and raised in north Alabama. In 2020, she received her bachelor's degree in Global Studies with a concentration in sustainability from Auburn University. **Alice has a passion for connecting people to nature and helping others realize their fullest potential.** Her favorite activities include animal watching, exploring areas with unique cultures and environments, dancing, and creating eco-friendly crafts. Alice is excited to be serving her term with SFI in the lovely Siskiyou.

Upcoming Programming



Mushrooms of the Cascades

October 17th 10AM - 3PM

Learn how to safely identify, collect and then eat local mushrooms! Discover key characteristics of typical species and acquire skill in differentiating the poisonous and inedible from the edible types. We'll take to the field and identify fungi commonly found in forests of the Southern Cascades, as well as discuss cooking techniques and share recipes.

[Cascade Mushrooms](#)



Fall Foraging: Nuts and Roots

October 23rd 10AM - 3:15PM

The bounty of nature doesn't end with summer. Join us to learn about harvesting many of the useful roots, berries, bark, and nuts found in the fall months. In the field, identify, learn the benefits of, and collect local flora. Then

get hands-on practice preparing your own medicinal tincture, as well as some warm fall treats and teas. Ages 12+ welcome!

Fall Foraging



Salmon Viewing & Biology

November 13th 9:30AM - 5PM

Learn about the Pacific salmon's tumultuous journey from Siskiyou rivers to the ocean, and back again. Identify and learn about the fascinating life cycles of local salmonid species, including fall and spring Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, winter and summer steelhead, and cutthroat trout. In the field, enjoy a chance to study salmon spawning behavior from the water's edge.

Salmon Biology



Mushrooms of the Siskiyou

Almost Sold Out!

November 14th 10AM - 3PM

Learn how to safely identify, collect and then eat local mushrooms! Discover key characteristics of typical species and acquire skill in differentiating the poisonous and inedible from the edible types. We'll take to the field and identify fungi commonly found in forests of the Siskiyou Mountains, as well as discuss cooking techniques and share recipes.

Siskiyou Mushrooms



Introduction to Siskiyou Truffles

November 20-21st 9AM - 5PM

Nearly 400 different types of truffles are known to exist in Oregon! Truffles are highly evolved mushrooms that have adapted for survival by "going underground," where they often go unnoticed. In a series of labs, lectures, and field trips, discover to look for truffles, how to identify them by sight, smell and under the microscope, as well as their important ecological roles in mycorrhizal networks. Ages 16+ welcome.

Siskiyou Truffles

Found In The Field

