

Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation's Artists in Residence Program

Art in Wilderness

Wilderness has always inspired some of the most amazing art. Some of the earliest and best advocates for Wilderness and Parks were artists like Thomas Moran, Ansel Adams, or Terry Tempest Williams who were called upon to paint, photograph, compose, and write about our wild lands in the largely unknown West. Their work stirred public interest and prompted others to preserve these lands for posterity. Wilderness art was also a marked change and set America apart from European art forms.

Artists in Residence Program

The program provides 2-3 artists a seven- to ten-day immersion in the wilderness from mid-June through mid-September. This immersion provides time for the artist thoughtful reflection and development of their work. With any luck, the solitude and beauty of the Wilderness will serve to inspire musical compositions, prose, photographs or paintings or any type of artform.

After the residency, the artist will be asked to share their experience with the public by demonstration, talk, or other means. The presentation will depend on the artist's medium, interests, and experience and will consume a few hours post-stay. The artist is required, within a year, to donate a piece of work (series of poems, an essay(s) inspired by the wilderness to form part of a collection of works maintained by the ABWF. The donated piece will offer the public an opportunity to experience our wilderness through the artist's unique interpretation of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

About the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is one of this country's preeminent and most endearing wilderness areas--one of the six largest in the Lower 48 states. Rugged on a grand scale, geologically old as far as mountains go, and bejeweled with lakes and broad swaths of alpine tundra, it is a unique place, even to those who marvel at the wonders of better-known Yellowstone National Park.

The A-B Wilderness is an integral piece of this larger region known as the Greater Yellowstone, the largest intact ecosystem in a temperate climate anywhere in the world. To the precisely adapted flora and fauna that live here, such a vast area provides them uninterrupted space and protection to thrive in their natural habitat, affected only by the forces of nature. For the visitor to the A-B, unequalled opportunities exist for solitude and to experience the primeval character of the wilderness for generations to come.

Accommodations

The artist will be hosted in one of three Forest Service cabins in the wilderness: **Meyers Creek** (Beartooth District), **Box Canyon** (Yellowstone District), or the **Cooke City** cabin (Gardiner District).

The Selection Process

A jury composed of artists of various disciplines will select the finalists. The selection is based on resume, statement of purpose, and samples of work. Dates are specific Selections are made without regard to race, religion, marital status, sex, age, or national origin. The facilities being used for this program are not wheelchair accessible. Application Procedure Deadline: Applications are due by March 31st each year. Notification of recipients will be early May.

Application Procedure

Submit the following items by March 31st:

1. Resume

2. Statement of Purpose
 - a. What you are hoping to gain

- b. Why you want to do this?
- c. Why wilderness?

3. Samples of Work

Submit application materials by:

Email: info@abwilderness.org

Or mail:

ABWF
PO Box 392
Red Lodge, MT 59068.

About the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation (ABWF)

The ABWF is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring people to protect and preserve Wilderness by developing their understanding and appreciation for the values and character of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

The Foundation was established in 2007 by a group of citizens who care deeply about the wilderness area.



Our goals are to:

- (1) promote stewardship of the wilderness;
- (2) foster community and individual support for wilderness values, programs, and projects;
- (3) create opportunities for volunteer participation in wilderness and wildland programs and activities;
- (4) develop and inspire people to understand wilderness and wildland values, characteristics, ethics, and ecology;
- (5) foster long term relationships with individuals, communities, tribes, colleges and universities, organizations, businesses, and other agencies to achieve these goals.