

Bringing the Adventure and Science Communities Together

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nonprofit Leads Local Middle School Students on Winter Adventure Science Expedition

Bozeman, MT, 12 December 2013 - <u>Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation</u> (ASC) will be leading a group of middle school students from Arrowhead Middle School in Pray, Montana on a winter adventure science outing in the Northern Gallatin Range this January. For the second year in a row students from this rural school district in the Paradise Valley will have the opportunity to gain valuable outdoor experience while participating in hands-on scientific research in the mountains.

Students will spend two nights (January 7th and 8th) camping in the Gallatin National Forest and participating in scientific research to document the presence or absence of rare carnivores including the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) and Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*). With the help and expertise of ASC guides, students will learn to identify and collect wildlife signs, tracks and scat for use by researchers at Wild Things Unlimited and the Gallatin National Forest. Students will also learn to install and maintain camera traps, an important non-invasive method of monitoring wildlife frequently used by biologists. On the Gallatin National Forest scientist are studying the population and distribution of wolverines and lynx. The lynx is currently listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the wolverine was added to the list in 2013.

Students will be trained by ASC staff to successfully collect wildlife observations. This will include teaching students backcountry travel skills, plant and wildlife identification and proper scientific technique. Students will also study the larger scientific and conservation context of

these projects. Hands-on science education experiences like this have proven to be invaluable for encouraging students to pursue STEM careers.

ASC has one spot available for a member of the press on this this trip and we you to join us. If interested please contact Jordan Holsinger (jordan@adventureandscience.org) for more information.

For more information about how to be involved with ASC guided adventure science outings for schoolchildren as well as other projects please visit www.adventureandscience.org. Follow up with the Arrowhead Middle School trip and other ASC programs on our blog, facebook and twitter.

About Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation

Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation was founded in January of 2011 with the understanding that many people traveling in the outdoors genuinely want to do more for the places they visit but often struggle with how to help. ASC exists to bridge this gap by pairing adventure athletes already traveling to some of the earth's most difficult-to-reach places with the scientists who need information from these areas. ASC also has the goal of creating unique and innovative learning experiences about science while also saving the scientific and conservation communities millions of dollars in data collection costs. For more information visit www.adventureandscience.org

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