

July 23, 2008

Mr. Don Harter  
President, SCIF Mid-Michigan Chapter  
1375 N. Cedar Point Dr.  
Weidman, MI 48893

Mr. Harter:

I would like to thank the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International Foundation for my sponsorship to the 2008 American Wilderness Leadership School. Special thanks goes to you and Dr. Jeff Chauk (the education committee) for your efforts and dedication to make this happen.

The AWLS experience was something that I will not forget. The facility was beautiful and the accommodations were first class. We had a variety of wildlife in camp everyday, including several moose and male deer. I was fortunate to lodge in a cabin situated in a valley with mountains towering above us on all sides. Granite Creek ran through camp and provided a haven for Rocky Mountain flora and fauna.

The AWLS staff was fabulous. They were knowledgeable, friendly, and most importantly patient, while working with us first time hunters and fishermen. Mr. Don Brown and his staff went out of their way to make this a memorable experience. Activities and lessons were very interesting and appropriate for today's conservation issues. AWLS kept us busy from morning to late evening and provided delicious meals at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

I learned so much while in the classroom and during field trips. Our activities included wildlife management discussions followed by field trips with guest speakers from the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Fisheries and Wildlife, National Park Service. We were introduced to basic hunter's safety and were able to shoot a variety of firearms. Personally, I really enjoyed the archery range and the 3-D archery shoot. Other opportunities included fly tying, fly casting, and fly fishing. In addition, hunting ethics were discussed and we observed demonstrations of outdoor survival, orienteering, and first aid. The week concluded with a whitewater rafting trip down the Snake River.

This experience has given me so much insight to share with my students for years to come. I teach science and outdoor education at Gaylord Middle School. Currently we offer a great curriculum including hunter's safety, archery, taxidermy, and fly-tying. I learned so much from the professionals at AWLS and look forward to incorporating my outdoor education in the classroom.

Again, thank you for this opportunity. The philosophy of teaching the teachers is working and, in my opinion, is the right thing to do. Our ability to positively influence a great number of young people is invaluable. I recommend AWLS for any educator with a desire for the outdoors and conservation.

Thank you.

*Scott Doederlein*  
Scott Doederlein

For more information about the AWLS and applications for the summer of 2009 check out the web site and/or call Scott Holmes at 989-506-1949

## Send your Teacher to School!

### SCIF's American Wilderness Leadership School

**N**estled in the beautiful Bridger-Teton National Forest near Jackson, Wyoming, SCIF's American Wilderness Leadership School provides the perfect atmosphere for the accredited educational programs. Established in 1976 with the vision of providing educators with a useful hands-on experience that they can use in the classroom, AWLS has provided a credited wildlife management program for 4,728 teachers who reach more than a million students annually. Accommodations include a main lodge and cabins with beautiful lodge pole pine furnishings.

#### Program curriculum includes the following:

- Academic lectures, discussions and field trips covering Rocky Mountain wildlife, wildlife ecology, environmental ethics, natural resource management and conservation.
- Visit state and federal wildlife areas and meet with experts trained in management/conservation.
- Exposure to current environmental education trends, materials, and outdoor interpretive techniques.
- Introduction to Project WILD, a K-12 interdisciplinary, supplementary environmental and conservation education program emphasizing wildlife.
- Outdoor Skills - with hands-on experience in plant identification, map and compass, firearms safety, fly tying, survival techniques, muzzleloading, archery, white water rafting and climbing wall.



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