



MONTANA WILDERNESS
SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE

STUDENT LIVING GUIDE





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The Student Living Guide is for community living while you are attending Montana Wilderness School of the Bible (MWSB). The responsibility lies with each student to read and become thoroughly acquainted with the enclosed materials.

For the short period of time that entails one school year, our prayer is that students will cultivate a love for Jesus Christ, His Word, prayer and all the qualities that should be the passion of each and every believer. We believe that the Scriptures establish certain principles which should guide and govern the conduct of every Christian through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Some of our standards, however, are designed for the well-being of the school and our entire campus community and are not necessarily to be considered Biblical. Your attendance states that while you may not agree with each of the standards of MWSB, you will strive to maintain them while a student. Our intention is not to be legalistic, but instead to promote a culture that honors God.

We have expectations about things such as movies, internet usage and cell phones. While none of these are bad in and of themselves, we have learned they can take away from focus on studies, personal devotional times, and interpersonal relationships along with inhibiting camaraderie among the student body and staff. We have not eliminated these areas entirely but we have reduced the use of them. Again, this is not a “legalistic fix-all.” We just hope this will help in the process of overcoming some of the cultural influences that devalue the Christian life and keep us from more fully knowing our God.

We are aware that the observance of regulations does not necessarily indicate that one is living a life of full commitment to Christ. However, the willingness to adhere to these expectations exhibits a maturity and spiritual concern for everyone and is generally characteristic of those diligently seeking to do God’s will.

We look forward to having you with us and embarking on this journey toward a more intimate and exciting life with Jesus Christ. **Our desire is to help you own your faith and build your life’s foundation on Jesus Christ.**

May the Lord richly bless you on this journey with Him,
MWSB Staff



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OUR LESS DISTRACTED SETTING

One of the unique advantages of MWSB is the location of our campus. We are intentionally situated in a remote area where there is no cell phone coverage, the closest town is 30 minutes away and three wilderness areas are outside our back door. We see these as distinct advantages to help “disconnect” from a fast-paced culture where high speed WiFi, texting, social media and e-mail have become “necessities” of life. We encourage students to focus more on Christ and knowing Him and less on the pressures of being digitally “connected” all the time. We encourage taking steps to “disconnect” enough as to re-think priorities and habits.

In order to promote our less distracted setting, the following guidelines have been established:

- A. WiFi:** WiFi will be made available to students during the hours of 3:00–5:00pm and 7:00–9:00pm each day. Students can access the student WiFi at the Chapel/Office and the Dining Hall. WiFi is intentionally not available in the dorms.
- B. Computer Lab:** There are two workstations located in the library. Internet access is available during the hours of 3:00–5:00pm and 7:00–9:00pm each day. If students are waiting to use a computer we ask for a 20 minute restriction on usage.
- C. Library and Chapel Quiet Hours:** Quiet hours are to be observed from 1:00-4:00pm and 9:00–11:00pm in the Library and Chapel area.
- D. Movies:** We ask that students refrain from watching any movies until after fall break (early October).
- E. Dating:** Dating is discouraged during first semester.



SPIRITUAL LIFE

- A. **Devotional Life:** Throughout the year, the staff here at MWSB will stress the importance of setting aside a certain amount of time each day to be alone with the Lord in prayer and God's Word. This area of the Christian life is seen as crucial to the growth of the Christian.
- B. **Chapel / Community Groups / One-on-Ones:** Regular chapel services are generally held each Wednesday from 8:50–10:00am. Staff, students and guest speakers will take part in the Wednesday chapel. Weekly Community Groups will be held at the various staff homes. In addition, each student will be sought out and scheduled by a staff member from their Community Group for one-on-one discipleship.
- C. **Church Services:** MWSB has good relationships with several "local" churches. According to God's Word, local church attendance and involvement is important. Therefore, each student is expected to select a local church to attend and serve.



FOOD SERVICES

- A. **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are served in the Dining Hall each day with food that is fresh and "home-cooked." During these times, the atmosphere provides for times of good conversations with staff and students.
 1. Students may bring guests to the Dining Hall. However, permission must be requested at least one week in advance from the cooks or office. Charges for guests are \$10.00 per meal and should be deposited in the Dining Hall "box" or paid to the Operations Director.
 2. Only staff and scheduled workers are allowed in the kitchen area. No students should be in the kitchen if they are not scheduled to be working.
 3. Dishes, coffee mugs, glasses, and silverware should not be removed from the Dining Hall without permission from the cooks. Personal coffee mugs being stored in the dining hall cupboard will be limited to one per person.

4. Food should not be removed from the kitchen without permission of the cooks. Unless someone is sick and confined to their dorm, all food served in the Dining Hall should be consumed in the Dining Hall and should not be taken elsewhere.



B. Meals: Although not mandatory, students have paid for meals for the semester they are attending and have three meals per day available while on campus. Dietary needs due to allergies or other health issues will be given consideration by the cooks. A doctor's note for these special circumstances is required to be presented to the Executive Director and Food Service Supervisor. Personal preferences that go beyond what is provided at mealtimes will be the responsibility of the student. If a student is not going to make it to a meal, they should make every attempt to let the cooks know as soon as possible before the scheduled meal. A sign-out board is located in the Dining Hall for this purpose. Students who are going on a weekend backpack trip which leaves directly from the school property are permitted to obtain from the kitchen with the knowledge and permission of the cooks. The students should attempt to let the cooks know in advance and the items given to them will be of a nature so that their basic food supply will be provided in place of regular weekend Dining Hall meals. These food items will be provided at no cost. Food from the kitchen is not available to students going on a weekend trip other than backpacking from the school.

Meal Times	Monday - Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Breakfast	7:30am		7:30am
Lunch	12:30pm	Brunch 10:30am	Pack Lunch at Breakfast
Dinner	5:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm

STUDENT SERVICES

- A. Snack Shop:** The Snack Shop, located in the gym, is called the Hob Nob. The Hob Nob offers a selection of MWSB gear, water bottles, coffee mugs and various snack foods. The Hob Nob is open during designated class breaks. Credit cards are accepted.
- Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri** 10:30-11:00am
Wednesday 10:00-10:30am
- B. Student Health:** If you happen to be sick, please refrain from attending class or meals. Please let your Venture student know so that you can receive proper health care and receive meals in your room. Venture students should inform a staff person of these situations.
- C. Health Service:** A number of MWSB staff members have various certifications in First Aid and Wilderness First Aid. Emergency transportation is available through the ambulance service in Augusta and with the Mercy Flight Helicopter out of Great Falls. For a \$100.00 fee, the school will provide transportation to the nearest doctor's office for non-emergency treatment. All students must have a letter of permission on file for medical treatment in case of emergency and for any other illness or injury that would require a doctor's attention.
- D. Health Insurance:** Each student is responsible for their own medical expenses and insurance coverage. If applicable, policy numbers should be on record in the Main Office.
- E. Mail:** All students will have a personal mailbox. Mail service to and from Augusta is provided on a frequent (not daily) basis. Incoming mail will be placed in the student mailboxes. All incoming mail (including packages) should contain the student's name and the full MWSB address:

Student's Name
6040 Dearborn Canyon Rd.
P.O. Box 366
Augusta, MT 59410

- or -

Student's Name
6040 Dearborn Canyon Rd Box 366
Augusta, MT 59410





Magazines and newspapers to which a student subscribes should be notified of an anticipated change of address at least two (2) months before graduation. The post office will only forward first-class mail.

Outgoing mail can be placed on the top of the mailboxes and will be delivered to the Augusta Post Office on a regular basis (not every day). Unless otherwise assigned by a full-time staff member, only staff and Venture students should pick up mail at the post office.

SOCIAL GUIDELINES

- A. Dress:** It is our desire that each student assume personal responsibility for their dress and appearance as an expression of Christian maturity. Each person must recognize that their personal dress is a public statement about themselves. Cleanliness and modesty are expected of all students.
- Men:** Casual attire is appropriate for life at MWSB. Jeans, shorts, T-shirts and sweatshirts are appropriate attire for class. Please bring casual dress clothes for church and graduation. Hats are to be removed during prayer times. We have two banquets during the year where formal dress is an option. Staff will evaluate concerns on a case by case basis.
- Women:** Casual attire is appropriate for life at MWSB. Modest jeans, shorts, T-shirts and sweatshirts are appropriate attire for class. No low-cut shirts, short skirts or shorts are allowed. Please bring casual dress clothes for church and graduation. We do have two banquets during the year where formal dress is an option. Staff will evaluate concerns on a case by case basis.
- B. Other Activities:** It is our desire that we all live in such a manner as to honor God. Furthermore, because of our campus setting and our commitment to a “less distracted” philosophy, we ask students to adhere to some special policies. Please refrain from the following activities while enrolled as a student at MWSB: viewing of movies that do not honor God, smoking any tobacco products, smoking marijuana, vaping, chewing tobacco, gambling, consumption of alcoholic beverages and using illegal drugs. Students are not allowed to watch movies or TV shows (including downloads) in the dorms but can gain permission to watch movies, after fall break, in the Chapel or staff homes. To promote campus community, group movie watching is encouraged.

- C. Music & Electronics:** Appropriate music has become more and more difficult to define. It has become a field representing a wide range of styles, lyrics, taste, and emotion. Because of music's powerful impact on our emotions and mindset, we strongly encourage you to only choose music that honors God and to be considerate of those around you. Students are not permitted to have TV's in their rooms. The use of personal computers for the viewing of movies or TV shows, using the internet and the playing of video games is prohibited in the dorms. Playing music is allowed but not without headphones between the hours of 10:00pm and 8:00am. Consideration of others in choice and volume is always an important factor.
- D. Dating:** Dating relationships may develop during the school year. We urge each student to prayerfully consider all of their friendships and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's direction in this area. We encourage students to talk to their Community Group leader about relationships, especially regarding the opposite sex. Public displays of affection are discouraged. Poor discernment will be addressed on a case by case basis. Students are expected to honor God in how they interact with the opposite sex.



- E. Social Areas:** There are various gathering areas on campus for regular student activities. These include the Chapel, Dining Hall, Gym and staff houses. The dorms are not co-ed except for special events.
- F. Social Hours:** MWSB sets a regular curfew for the well-being of the entire student body. College is an excellent time to develop good habits. Sufficient sleep is necessary for sound academic and spiritual life and for healthy campus interaction. Therefore, the following curfews have been established:
- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Sunday – Thursday | 11:00pm |
| Friday | 1:00am |
| Saturday | 12:00am |
- * Any exceptions to these times must be cleared with staff in advance.*
- G. Quiet Hours:** Quiet hours in the dorms are from 10:00pm to 8:00am. During these times, consideration should be given to being quiet so that others may study or sleep without interruption.

- H. Library:** The library is located in the Chapel. The books may be used in the library or checked out. Please check with the Office if you need help.
- I. Overnight Guests & Lodging:** All guests requesting to stay in the dorms or Guest Cabin must be registered at least a week in advance, in writing, with the Office. Request forms are located at the Main Office. Each guest is limited to a total of two nights unless special permission is given. Friends of the opposite sex visiting students must stay in a gender specific dorm or staff house. Lodging can be reserved by alumni, MWSB faculty family, current students' family and friends and partners of the ministry.
- J. Departures/Transportation:** Students leaving campus for any reason must sign out on the board located in the Dining Hall. This includes hiking, fishing, shopping, etc. If students need a ride to the airport in Great Falls or Helena, the cost is \$100.00, one-way. For rides to the train in Shelby the cost is \$130.00, one-way. The transportation fees should be paid to the Operations Director in advance.



- K. Discipline:** The goal of discipline at MWSB is the development of maturity in the individual student and encouraging a life intent on honoring God. If correction becomes necessary, the student will be given ample time to make any necessary changes. If the problem persists, the student may be asked to withdraw. Parents will be notified, as needed, regarding areas of disciplinary concern. This allows them to be involved in encouraging the student as well as making the parent aware that a problem exists. Disciplinary measures are subject to the staff's judgement. (Please note, a refund will not be provided in the event a student is asked to withdraw as a result of disciplinary action).



STUDENT HOUSING

The dorms provide an ideal opportunity for you to learn the art of living with others, to make friends and deepen your spiritual life. Along with the benefits of dorm life, you will also have the following responsibilities:

- A. Damage & Report of Needed Repairs:** It is necessary that you will report any damage to the Facilities Director as soon as possible (Repair Request forms are available outside the Main Office). Please do not undertake the repair yourself. A \$250.00 room deposit is required at the beginning of the year and is refundable at the end of the school year if the inspection shows no damage. Any damage to the dorm room beyond normal wear and tear is the financial responsibility of the individual student. Any damage done to public areas of the dorm is the responsibility of the whole dorm.

- B. Electrical Appliances:** Electric razors, hair dryers, curling irons, electric blankets, coffee makers, hot pots, and popcorn poppers are acceptable appliances. Other food preparation is not allowed in the dorms because of fire hazard. Refrigerators and microwaves are not allowed in the dorms, except by staff permission.

- C. Décor:** Pictures and posters are allowed in dorm rooms. Nails and tape are not allowed so please bring your own “sticky tack” or Command Strips.

- D. Inspection:** Rooms are expected to be kept clean and neat. The Staff will make regular inspections of the dorm rooms.

- E. Pets:** No pets of any kind are allowed in the dorms or on campus.

FINANCE

- A. Student Financial Agreement:** Please reference the MWSB Financial Agreement for specific dates and costs. Please pay all fees in U.S. funds. We require all student accounts to be current from first semester (paid in full) in order to continue into second semester.

- B. Refund Policy:** In the event a student must withdraw from the school (for any reason) all tuition and room and board fees will be refunded at the following rate (application and registration fees are non-refundable):

Tuition, Room, and Board:

First Two Weeks	75%
Third and Fourth Weeks	60%
After Fourth Week	0%

**Please note: No refunds will be given in the event of expulsion.*

- C. Check Cashing:** Students may cash personal checks in the Operation Director's office located in the lower level of the Chapel. We cannot exchange Canadian money or checks in our office. Credit cards are also accepted in our office for payments. There is a transaction fee when making payment with a credit card.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

- A. Class Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes, chapel services and Community Groups. Illness and injuries may be excused, although students will still be responsible to make up class work that is missed. Other absences must be approved by the Executive Director. The student must submit in advance his/her request which will be considered and acted upon by the Director. Unexcused class absences will result in a grade lowered by 20% per day. Unless pre-approved for highly unusual circumstances, no class "auditing" is allowed where the student misses class without grade impact.
- B. Classroom Ethics:** MWSB has the privilege of bringing in godly and talented guest faculty from all over the U.S. and Canada. Students are expected to show respect and attention at all times. Talking, sleeping, passing notes and coming in late are disturbing and are not allowed. If this type of conduct occurs, a student may be asked to leave the classroom and will receive an unexcused absence for that class. Beverages and snacks are allowed in the classroom. Electronics are allowed only for the purpose of taking notes or other class related needs.

- C. Grading System:** The American grading scale will be used for all letter grades. A four-point system is used to register the students' cumulative grade point average. Letter grades should correspond to the following range on the 100 percent system:
- | | | |
|----------|----------------|--------------|
| A 90-100 | D 60-69 | I Incomplete |
| B 80-89 | F 59 and below | P Pass |
| C 70-79 | | |
- D. Classroom Communication:** We use an online grade management system that allows students to view their class syllabus, notes from the professor, and other materials digitally as well as allows them to upload coursework and communicate directly with their professor. Therefore, it is required that each student bring their own laptop for use in and out of the classroom.
- E. Low Grade Point Average:** If a student is maintaining a very low GPA, is continually showing no interest in studies and shows no signs of improving grades or growth, the student may be asked to withdraw from the program.
- F. Honors:** Honors recognition is give for the highest GPA at graduation. If a student fails to achieve a 2.0 cumulative GPA, no diploma will be awarded at graduation. Instead, a "Certificate of Completion" will be awarded to give recognition of their growth and achievement at MWSB.
- G. Transcripts:** After graduation, one official transcript will be given to each student.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- A. Firearms:** Firearms are permitted at MWSB but under strict guidelines. Handguns are not allowed. Large caliber rifles, .22 caliber rifles and shotguns are acceptable. All guns (including BB, pellet, air-soft, and paintball) will be stored at a specific location on campus where they are secured. All firearms will be checked in during Registration Weekend by a staff member and will be required to be checked out by either a staff member or Venture student when they are used. Guns found in dorms will be confiscated and removed from the school and the student may face disciplinary action. Guns are not to be fired on the campus except at the designated shooting range. The shooting range is for .22 caliber rifles only. For off-campus shooting, the student is responsible to find a legal location that is approved for firearms.
- *MWSB will not be responsible for loss, theft, or damage of stored firearms.***

- B. Phones:** Phones are in the lobby of the dining hall. Credit card, collect calls and calls to Montana cell phones are available on these phones. Please limit all calls to 20 minutes.
The phone numbers at which students may be reached are:
(406) 562-3822 (406) 562-3823
School business phones (during normal business hours) are:
(406) 562-3803 (406) 562-3806
Phone cards can be purchased at the Hob Nob.
Our campus has an intercom system. All campus phones can be reached using this system. Intercom phone numbers are listed by each campus phone.
- C. Work Study:** One of the ways that MWSB is able to keep the cost of attendance reasonable is by having the students take part in the overall upkeep and function of the school. Each student will be assigned a weekly task that will rotate twice each semester. They will spend approximately six hours each week fulfilling their work assignment.
- D. School Office:** The school offices of the Executive Director, Operations Director, Program Director and Registrar are located in the lower level of the chapel and are open during normal business hours (8:30-4:30, M-F). Some of the staff offices may be open after normal office hours. These offices can be used as a quiet place to work or make a phone call. Please respect these spaces and leave them as you found them. Please ask staff permission to use their offices.
- E. Laundry Rooms:** The laundry facilities are located within the respective bathrooms. The washer and dryer cost is \$1.00 per machine, per load. Our washing machines use quarters.
- F. Pool:** The pool is open during the first part of the fall semester. Permission from a staff person is required to use the pool. Please shower before entering. No eating while swimming. Please stay out of the pump house and lock the gates after usage.
- G. Gymnasium:** Gymnasium hours are according to curfew hours. All gym equipment needs to be put away after usage and all lights turned off upon departure. No "outdoor" or "black soled" shoes are allowed on the gymnasium floor.
- H. Climbing Rooms:** Climbing Room hours are according to curfew hours. Climbing shoes are required in both climbing rooms for the health of all participants. If you use shoes, please put them back in the closet when you are done climbing for the day. In order to belay in our facilities, you must go through a half-hour training session led by one of our staff. Venture students are belay-certified if you wish to climb.

- I. **Backpacking Gear:** The school has an assortment of backpacking/ camping gear available for our students. To use this gear, you must sign it out. Please talk to the Program Director to sign out and to return your gear. You must return your gear in the presence of a staff member. Please return your gear cleaned and dried out. If you damage or lose any borrowed gear, we ask that you help replace it. The cost of the replacement will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- J. **Graduation:** Considering the limited housing available on campus, please no overnight guests over graduation weekend. Also, please limit your graduation guests to five.

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE & TRAVEL

Extra-curricular activities, on top of the homework requirements, leave little time for travel. Unless it is an important need, we ask our students to stay on campus during the week so that they can gain a feeling of belonging and participation. If students sign out and leave campus they are required to return by curfew.

- A. **Vehicles & Driving:** Students are allowed to have vehicles while attending MWSB. All vehicles are expected to be properly licensed and in good working condition. All drivers are expected to be properly licensed and operate the vehicle in accordance with the laws of the State of Montana. Please note that our campus is located down several miles of dirt roads that can become difficult to drive on during inclement weather and can cause premature wear on your vehicle and tires. If you drive with or use another student's vehicle, please help pay for fuel.
- B. **Parking:** Parking is available in the Student Parking Lot at the entrance of campus. Due to the limited space available, we ask that students pull straight into a spot (not angled) with a minimal amount of space between vehicles.





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