Welcome to Yellowstone National Park. If you are a newcomer to the Yellowstone Forever Institute, you will be amazed at what awaits you during each day of exploration. If you are a veteran of our programs, you will know the many perspectives from which learning can take place in this diverse place. We are glad that you are able to join us. Our goal is to provide you with an enjoyable, high-quality educational experience and a safe and memorable visit to Yellowstone.

The following information is provided to help you prepare for your course. Please read it thoroughly and call us at 406.848.2400 or email contact@yellowstone.org if you have any questions. We recommend all first time visitors seek general park information through the National Park Service at 307.344.2107 or www.nps.gov/yell.

Winter Travel
The only road open to wheeled vehicles in the winter (early November to mid-April) is the road from the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance. All other roads are closed to wheeled vehicles. Because Cooke Pass is closed to wheeled vehicles, it is not possible to enter or exit Yellowstone National Park through the Northeast Entrance. You must enter the park through Gardiner, Montana. Current road conditions are available through the NPS Road Report at 307.344.2117.

Important Information Included in this Document:
- From the Instructor with Program Itinerary
- What’s Included
- How to Prepare for this Program
- Suggested Reading
- Yellowstone Forever Park Store Information
- Yellowstone Forever Supporter Information
- Code of Ethics
- Cancellation Policy
- Travel Information
- Supplemental Lodging Information

From the Instructor
Welcome to an intense and challenging course with Yellowstone Forever. The Naturalist Guide Certificate Program teaches professional skills for those interested in leading, guiding, and teaching groups in a natural environment. This course responds to the growing demand for naturalist guides in field schools, eco-tourism
companies, zoos, nature centers, environmental science centers, camps, travel programs, and state and national parks across the nation. Natural resource managers seek individuals who have a solid foundation in natural history, the skills to communicate this understanding with others, who can lead groups safely and comfortably in the field under changing conditions, and who have the ability to recognize and manage group and individual safety and expectations. As such, this course focuses on methodology of instruction over depth of content knowledge.

To learn these skills, students in this course will earn credentials as a Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) through the National Association for Interpretation, Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainer through Leave No Trace, Inc., and receive a naturalist guide certificate through Yellowstone Forever. Students may also earn four undergraduate credits through University of Montana Western. This is an opportunity to earn these professional certifications simultaneously, and learn from experienced instructors.

These three weeks will be challenging and busy. Expect to work hard. There will be classroom instruction, field-based learning, and demonstrations of teaching skills by students. You can expect to be in the field and/or classroom eight hours a day and have evening homework and assignments. Parts of your weekends will need to be dedicated to class assignments. Each student will give three presentations: a 10-minute talk, a 30-minute Leave No Trace lesson, and one-hour interpretive walk. Our goal is to help you become a skilled guide. To facilitate this, expect lots of direct feedback. Your job is to learn as much as you can in three weeks and demonstrate your skills as a naturalist guide. Expect to challenge yourself and think on your feet. Unlike other Yellowstone Forever courses, this course is a professional certification program with Yellowstone as its classroom. Plan to pack a lunch each day in order to be flexible with the schedule. All assignments are graded and must be passed at 80% in order to receive certifications in each area.

Your primary instructors will be Julianne Baker, M.A. and Carolyn Harwood, both of whom are instructors with the Yellowstone Forever Institute. Guest instructors will supplement the course curriculum. Classroom sessions will be held in the Yellowstone Forever Classrooms in Gardiner, Montana, which is the base from which we’ll venture into the field for hands-on experience. Affordable housing is available at the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus in Gardiner. Local participants should plan to meet with the class at the Overlook for completion of evening assignments.

We look forward to you joining us this spring in Yellowstone.

Carolyn Harwood

**Subject to change caveat**
The instructor(s) may adjust the course schedule and assignments if necessary in order to adapt to changing conditions in the field, the needs of the class, or other situations that may arise. Be prepared to adapt to changes.

SYLLABUS
Course Requirements
Students will be graded based on the following:

- Field journal, class participation, book report, CIG presentation outline, CIG 10 minute presentation, and LNT 30 minute presentation: 50%
- One hour final interpretive walk: 50%
- Each component must be passed at 80% or above.

Content Objectives and Outcomes

Objective 1: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the principles of thematic interpretation and the ability to deliver a short interpretive program.

Outcome 1: Students will demonstrate the understanding of Objective 1 by completing the requirements for Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation. Course elements include:

- Overview of Interpretive Profession
- Audience and Resource Research
- Program Development
- Program Delivery
- Certification Requirements (open book literature review, written presentation outline, and 10 minute presentation).

Objective 2: Students will gain naturalist skills by learning how to understand a landscape by observing, identifying, and recognizing relationships between the animals, geology, plants, and climate specific to a particular location.

Outcome 2: Demonstration of an understanding of Objective 2 will be assessed through the submission of a field journals. Students will be required to maintain a field journal in the Grinnell System, with daily journaling assignments related to natural history and interpretation topics. Field journal assignments will be assessed weekly for an understanding of course concepts. Finally, students will be asked to share observations from their field journal assignments in class.

Objective 3: Students will understand how to guide trips in a sustainable and responsible manner with minimal impact on the natural environment.
Outcome 3: Students will demonstrate an understanding of Objective 3 by completing the requirements for Leave No Trace Trainer certification through Leave No Trace, Inc. Students will apply the seven principles and ethics of LNT to specific field situations, and deliver a 30-minute educational program about an LNT principle that demonstrates effective teaching techniques for different learning styles.

Objective 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to deliver guided tours and interpretive programs, including the ability to:

- Effectively manage group safety, comfort, and interpersonal dynamics
- Facilitate field-based learning
- Interpret the landscape and draw meaningful natural history connections
- Teach appropriate minimum impact behavior

Outcome 4: Over the course of the program, each student will give three presentations; a 10-minute interpretive program on a natural history topic, a 30-minute program on a specific Leave No Trace principle, and a one-hour guided hiking tour of an assigned Yellowstone area. The 10-minute and 30-minute programs are described in outcomes 1 and 3. The hour-long program is a cumulative practical exam. Students are evaluated based on their fulfillment of the four points listed under Objective 4.

Grinnell System Field Journal
You will be required to keep a journal in the Grinnell System with the purpose of documenting observations in the field. Your journal will include wildlife sightings, habitat description, weather conditions, and other observations. You will make observations, but you will also be stepping back and observing how the group leader teaches.

There are two steps in creating the field journal. The daily field notes are kept while you are in the field, using the Grinnell System plus variations. The finished product is a hand-written or electronic journal.

Electronic Journal: If you use a computer, you must bring a laptop with either Microsoft Word, Open Office, or the capability to create a PDF document. If you do not have Microsoft Word, then use Open Office. Open Office is compatible with Windows as well as Mac operating systems. The website to download the free Open Office program is: http://www.openoffice.org/. **You must be familiar with the program and how to create documents, insert photos, and make columns. Familiarize yourself with these actions prior to class.**

Slow internet connection is available at Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus. Speed varies with the number of people using the service. Internet is also available in the Gardiner classroom and at several businesses in Gardiner. The classroom will be available for use during business hours on weekends. Verizon works at the Yellowstone Overlook.
Hand-Written Journal: We will be teaching the Grinnell System; we will not be teaching computer skills in this course. If you struggle with the computer, you may choose to hand-write your journal. If you plan to hand-write your journal, bring a blank journal to class and plan to transcribe your field notes into your journal each evening. You must either print and paste photos or draw/paint quality pictures to go into the hand-written journal. Your journal must be easily read by instructors, which means you will need to print legibly.

Class Participation
To be successful, it will be important to be prompt, professional, and present throughout the course. Respect, attention, and active engagement will enable you to get the most out of this class. You will have the opportunity to meet with an instructor each week to discuss presentations and questions you may have.

Literature Review and Group Book Report
The literature review is an open book, multiple choice test and best completed as part of a group. It will help you to become familiar with some of the landmark books in the interpretive field. This assignment is a requirement for CIG certification. For the book report, you may work with a partner to briefly (10 minutes) present the main themes of one book. Both partners must present. Book and partner assignments will be given by the instructor. The literature review and book report will come from the listed texts for this course (library copies will be available).

CIG Presentation Outline
This outline is your 10-minute presentation and a requirement for CIG certification. You will turn in and receive approval for your outline prior to your 10-minute presentation.

Presentations
Additional information about each presentation will be provided during class. Each presentation focuses primarily on methodology over depth of content knowledge. You are encouraged to choose topics with which you are already familiar.

10 minutes: A requirement for CIG certification. It will be indoors on a topic of your choice. You are graded on how well your presentation meets the criteria established by the National Association for Interpretation. Notes are discouraged for CIG presentation.

30 minutes: You may work with a partner to teach an LNT principle. Partners and topics are chosen by the instructor. The presentation will occur in the field.

60 minutes: This presentation is an interpretive walk on a topic of your choice. You will be graded on your group management, teaching/interpretive, and natural history skills while following LNT principles. You will be required to turn in a presentation proposal prior to leading your walk.
Attendance
This is a field-intensive course where class participation is an integral part of the learning experience; 100 percent class attendance is required. Excused absences (serious illness or death of a loved one) will have additional outside class work to complete. Certificates will not be granted until all course requirements are completed. Class begins at 7 p.m. April 8 and ends by 5 p.m. on April 27. Please make travel plans accordingly.

Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Journal 1 (April 11)</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Includes Grinnell journal, guide process notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Journal 2 (April 12 or 13)</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Includes Grinnell journal, guide process notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book report</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>10 minute class presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written presentation outline (CIG)</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Use form provided in CIG packet (Draft due April 14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 minute presentation (CIG)</td>
<td>April 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 minute presentation (LNT)</td>
<td>April 20-21</td>
<td>In the field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open book literature review (CIG)</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Use exam provided in CIG packet - Scantron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal for one hour interpretive walk</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Use form provided (draft due April 21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Journal 3 (weekend choice &amp; April 19)</td>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Includes Grinnell journal, guide process notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>One hour interpretive walk (Final exam)</td>
<td>April 26, 27</td>
<td>In the field</td>
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Program Itinerary
Week 1 FOCUS: Certified Interpretive Guide Training

The class will always meet at the Yellowstone Forever Classrooms, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Flexibility is a virtue in Yellowstone – we may adjust the itinerary to accommodate for weather, wildlife, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Sunday, April 8
7 p.m.  Orientation:
- Course schedule, assignments, certification requirements, course credit, and expectations
9 p.m.  Class adjourns

Monday, April 9
7:45 a.m.  Meet in classroom
8 a.m.  Depart for guided tour
12 p.m.  Return to classroom
- Lunch
12:45 p.m.  Classroom:
- Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG): Overview of the Interpretive Profession I II
- Assignment of book review
- LNT: assignment of LNT field presentations
- Journal: Grinnell system (please have computers with the ability to create installed and be familiar with usage, if you plan to use a computer)
4-5 p.m.  Class adjourns

Tuesday, April 10
8 a.m.  Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) course in the classroom
- How people process information
- Know your audience
- Know your resource
12 p.m.  Lunch
12:45 p.m.  Depart for the field
- Understanding the landscape in the field
4-5 p.m.  Class adjourns

Wednesday, April 11
DUE:  Journal Entry from April 11
8 a.m.  CIG in the classroom
- Know your materials
- Know your biases
- Program development
11:30 a.m.  Sample 10-minute presentation
12 p.m.    Lunch
12:45 p.m.  Depart for the field  
            Understanding the landscape in the field
4-5 p.m.   Class adjourns

**Thursday, April 12**

8 a.m.    CIG in the classroom  
           Program Delivery  
           Presentation outline
11:30 a.m. Sample 10-minute presentation
12 p.m.   Lunch
12:45 p.m. Depart for the field  
            Understanding the landscape in the field  
            Personal conference sign up
4-5 p.m.   Class adjourns

**Friday, April 13**

DUE:  
      Journal entry from either April 12 or 13  
      Written CIG 10-minute presentation outline by the end of day (homework-write final CIG outline)

8 a.m.    CIG in the classroom  
           Personal conferences in the classroom
           Work on CIG 10-minute presentation outlines during class time, with CIG instructor feedback
           Work on book report and literature review as time permits
4-5 p.m.   Class adjourns

**April 14-15 OFF**

**Week 2    FOCUS: Leave No Trace**

**Monday, April 16**

DUE:  
      Book report presentation  
      Final outline

8 a.m.    CIG in the classroom
           Small groups present book reports to the class
10:30 a.m. Depart for the field
           Lunch in the field  
           Understanding the landscape in the field
4 - 5 p.m.  Class adjourns
Tuesday, April 17
DUE: 10-minute presentation
8 a.m. CIG Presentations through early afternoon
12 p.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Continue presentations as needed
          Rest of afternoon off

Wednesday, April 18
8 a.m. Meet in classroom
8:30 a.m. Introduction to Leave No Trace (Classroom)
9:30 - 4 p.m. Field: Sample day hike (Yellowstone/Lamar Confluence)
              Lunch in the field
              Debrief guide process
4 - 5 p.m. Class adjourns

Thursday, April 19
DUE: LNT presentation
           Open Book Literature Review (CIG)
8 a.m. Meet in classroom
8:30 a.m. Literature Book Review Scantron in classroom
9:30 a.m. Leave No Trace presentations in the field
          Lunch in the field
          Sign up for personal conference times
4 - 5 p.m. Class adjourns

Friday, April 20
DUE: Proposal for 1-hour interpretive walk draft (Bring to class)
          LNT presentation
8 a.m. Meet in classroom
8:30 a.m. Depart for field
          Leave No Trace presentations in the field
          Lunch in the field
          Return to classroom
        Personal conferences for one hour walk with Julianne or Carolyn and prep time
4 - 5 p.m. Class adjourns

April 21-22 OFF

Week 3 FOCUS: Putting it all together

Monday, April 23
DUE: Finished proposal for 1-hour interpretive walk

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PO BOX 117  YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK  WYOMING 82190  P 406 | 848 | 2400  F 406 | 848 | 2847  YELLOWSTONE.ORG
8 a.m. Meet in classroom
Department for field (activity hike)
4 - 5 p.m. Class adjourns

Tuesday, April 24
DUE: Journal entries from April 19 and one weekend day
8 a.m. Classroom
8:30 a.m. Heritage Research Center Tour
11:00 a.m. Preparation for walk, conferences as needed
Lunch
Preparation time for one hour interpretive walk, conferences as needed
4 - 5 p.m. Class adjourns

Wednesday, April 25
DUE: One hour interpretive walk
8 a.m. Student-led one hour interpretive walks—in the field
Lunch in the field
4 - 5 p.m. Class adjourns

Thursday, April 26
DUE: One hour interpretive walk
8 a.m. Student-led one hour interpretive walk—in the field
Lunch in the field
4 - 5 p.m. Class adjourns
Evening: Potluck dinner and celebration at the Yellowstone Overlook

Friday, April 27
8 a.m. Student-led one hour interpretive walks—in the field – as needed
Classroom:
Feedback
Where do we go from here?
Wrap-up
4 - 5 p.m. Course conclusion

What’s Included:
Your tuition includes daily outings and transportation during your program. It does not include transportation to the park, park entrance fees, meals, or lodging. Gratuities are not included in the price of programming, nor are they expected. If you would like to recognize exceptional service by a Yellowstone Forever Institute staff member, tips are appreciated. Donations to support Yellowstone Forever educational programs are also appropriate and will be used to improve and expand opportunities for people to make deep connections to Yellowstone.
Continuing Education Credit
Many of our Field Seminars are recognized by universities across the country. We are happy to provide a letter of completion and supporting documentation that you can submit to the institution of your choice to request approval for university credit or CEUs.

Lodging Option
Yellowstone Forever Institute students in Field Seminars based out of Gardiner, Montana, may have the opportunity to stay in our comfortable lodging at the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus for an additional charge. The Yellowstone Overlook features comfortable cabins on 80 acres, awe-inspiring views, and easy access to the northern section of the park. Cabins include self-serve kitchens for preparing meals and open-floor plans for group dining and evening activities. For more information, please see the last page of this document. Feel free to call our contact center at 406.848.2400 to make your reservations today.

How to Prepare for this Program:

How Fit Do You Need to Be?
This course is an activity level 3 and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. This course will include brisk hikes up to 5 miles per day with occasional elevation gains up to 1000 feet in undulating terrain. We recommend you begin an exercise program right away if you have not already done so. Participants residing at lower elevations may want to arrive a day early to adjust to the altitude. To learn more about how specific medical conditions can be affected by Yellowstone's environment and our activities, please visit Yellowstone.org/experience/health-information/

General Clothing and Equipment List
Much of your time will be spent outdoors and all programs are held rain, snow, or shine. You should be prepared for a variety of mountain weather conditions and temperatures. Appropriate clothing, equipment, and footwear are very important. Winter temperatures can range from below zero in the mornings to 35 degrees Fahrenheit in the early afternoons. The layered use of garments for protection against the wind, sun, and temperature extremes should guide your clothing choices. Loose fitting layers allow you to maintain a comfortable and dry body as outside temperatures change and as your own body’s temperature and moisture output changes with different levels of exertion.

Equipment:
Yellowstone Forever field staff assigned to your program will be carrying a first aid kit, bear spray, and emergency communication device.

- **Daypack**, with enough capacity to carry extra clothes, water, lunch, camera, binoculars, field guides, etc.
- **Water bottle**, one-quart is the minimum recommended. Camelback or similar hydration systems work well in summer but can freeze in winter.
- **Sunglasses**
Sunscreen/lip protector, sun at high altitude can burn unprotected skin quickly.

Camera, binoculars

Notebook/pencil

Pocket hand and foot warmers, recommended November through May.

Flashlight/Headlamp, a small light for walking to and from your cabin in the evenings and mornings.

Alarm, so you’re on time for the day’s activities.

Clothing:

- Insulating underwear, capilene, polypropylene, or similar wicking fabric.
- Mid-weight insulating layer, light, 200-weight synthetic fleece or wool shirt/pullover.
- Heavyweight insulating layer, can be wool, down, heavy-weight fleece, or other synthetic fabric. In the winter, a heavy winter coat with a water resistant shell will suffice for less active courses.
- Waterproof and windproof outer layer, lightweight and breathable. Both jackets and pants are recommended.
- Short sleeved shirt, cotton is okay in summer, but synthetic wicking shirts are ideal.
- Pants, in the summer, synthetic hiking pants, lightweight pile/fleece pants, tights, or similar. In the winter, wool or fleece pants or tights. Jeans are not recommended.
- Hats, both a brimmed sun hat and an insulating hat that covers your ears for cold weather.
- Gloves, lightweight glove liners and a pair of wool/fleece gloves or mittens. A water and windproof outer layer is recommended.
- Socks, light wool or synthetic liner sock with heavier wool or synthetic outer sock.
- Insulated boots, winter, must have water repellent layers outside, thick insulation inside, and be large enough to fit over thick socks. Tight boots are the surest way to get painfully cold feet. Soles with proper traction or traction devices (i.e. Yaktrax) are essential for icy conditions. General hiking boots will not provide adequate insulation or traction in most cases.
- Off-duty shoes, sandals, athletic shoes, or other leisure footwear.

Suggested Reading

The following are the texts that will be references useful during portions of this course. It is not necessary to purchase these books unless you wish to begin a naturalist library. You may be able to find some of these texts at your local library if you wish to look over them before class. Once you arrive, three or four copies of each book will be available to borrow from the Yellowstone Forever Institute library for sharing with classmates. The four books denoted with an asterisk (*) are the texts which will be used during the NAI Literature Review Open Book Exam for Certified Interpretive Guide.

- Ham, Sam. (2013) Interpretation: Making a Difference on Purpose. Fulcrum Publishing *


Leave No Trace. North American Skills and Ethics. Leave No Trace. **Students will receive a copy of this book.**


**Park Stores**

Our Park Stores features more than 900 books, maps, and videos to help you plan your visit, along with a wide selection of shirts, hats, and other logo items to remind you of your visit to Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15 percent discount on merchandise online or at any of our 11 locations in and around Yellowstone. Proceeds directly support Yellowstone. Visit: [Shop.Yellowstone.org](http://Shop.Yellowstone.org)

**Supporter Program**

Yellowstone Forever’s supporter program includes more than 50,000 people worldwide who have made a commitment to preserving and enhancing Yellowstone National Park. Supporter contributions generously fund educational programs and priority park projects such as wildlife research, visitor safety, and trail restoration. With an annual donation of $35 or more, supporters receive valuable premiums including a subscription to our educational magazine *Yellowstone Quarterly*, early registration and discounts for Yellowstone Forever Institute programs, and discounts on retail purchases throughout Yellowstone (exclusions apply). If you are not yet a Yellowstone Forever supporter, please visit [Yellowstone.org/donate](http://Yellowstone.org/donate) to learn more or to sign up.

**Code of Ethics**

The Yellowstone Forever Institute is committed to demonstrating a high standard of appropriate and ethical behavior in Yellowstone. As a participant in a Yellowstone Forever Institute program, we ask you to adhere to the following Code of Ethics. In addition to the ethics highlighted below, the Yellowstone Forever Institute abides by all National Park Service rules and regulations. We also practice Leave No Trace guidelines for traveling responsibly in the wilderness.

**Observing wildlife:** We will do our best to have as little impact on wildlife as possible. Animals will be observed from a distance, using high-powered spotting scopes to help keep our presence from affecting their behavior. Participants should not expect to get close-up photographs of wildlife. The Yellowstone Forever Institute will adhere to National Park Service regulations by keeping a minimum distance of 25 yards from bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, coyotes and nesting birds and 100 yards from bears and wolves. We will not entice wildlife with food, animal calls or any actions that change their behavior.
Leave what you find: It is illegal to remove natural or cultural artifacts (plants, animals, bones, rocks, etc.) from Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever Institute instructors have permission from the National Park Service to manipulate plants, rocks, bones, etc. for educational purposes and will return them to their natural positions and locations.

General etiquette: Yellowstone Forever Institute groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people—remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (including wolf howls) prevail.

Roads and vehicles: Expect wildlife on the road, and drive at or below the posted park speed limits. When stopping to observe wildlife or other park features, the Yellowstone Forever Institute will move vehicles entirely off the road. If there is no safe pullout available, we will drive to the next safe place and walk back to observe the wildlife. We will not stop in the middle of the road, and should a traffic jam develop as a result of our activities, we will cease the activity.

Properly dispose of waste: We will pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. Your instructor will discuss techniques for properly disposing of human waste in the field.

Traveling lightly: When hiking or walking in Yellowstone, we will use existing trails and boardwalks. We will follow appropriate techniques when walking off-trail. Walking around muddy or wet places in the trail increases erosion and negatively affects the resource; proper equipment is essential to hiking ethically. Participants should come adequately prepared with the equipment listed for their course and should expect to walk through mud, snow or puddles in the trail.

Thank you for helping us set a good example in Yellowstone!

Cancellation and Refund Policy
If you cancel within seven calendar days of your registration date, your payment is refundable less a $50 per person per course processing fee. On the eighth calendar day from the date of registration, 100% of registration payments will be forfeited. We reserve the right to cancel a course up to 30 days before the first class day. If we cancel, you will receive a full refund of your payment. We regret that the Yellowstone Forever Institute cannot make exceptions to the refund policy for any reason, including but not limited to illness, travel delays, emergencies, or weather. We urge you to take out accident, baggage, and trip cancellation insurance through a travel agent or website such as www.TravelGuard.com. Travel insurance can help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip.
Directions:
From Livingston, travel south on Highway 89 into Gardiner, Montana. Just before you cross the Yellowstone River, you will see the Conoco gas station on your right and 4th Street on your left. Turn left on 4th Street (you'll see a green sign indicating 5 miles to Jardine) and go up the hill for 1.5 miles. Turn right on Above the Rest Lane at the sign for the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus (by the mountain man carving) and follow the signs to the cabins.

From Yellowstone, leave the park through the North Entrance and go through the Roosevelt Arch. Turn left on Highway 89 towards Livingston. Cross the bridge over the Yellowstone River. You will see the Conoco gas station on your left and 4th Street on your right. Turn right on 4th Street (you'll see a green sign indicating 5 miles to Jardine) and go up the hill for 1.5 miles. Turn right on Above the Rest Lane at the sign for the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus (by the mountain man carving) and follow the signs to the cabins.

What to bring:
Each cabin includes a fully equipped kitchen for you to prepare meals. You will need to bring your own food and toiletries. Groceries are available nearby in Gardiner. Linens and towels are provided. Smoking is not allowed in the cabins. Camping and pets (with the exception of service animals) are not permitted.

Arrival and departure:
Our volunteer campus host will be available to greet you between 4 and 8 p.m. on the day of your arrival. If you experience travel delays that may prevent you from arriving before 8 p.m., please call the overlook caretakers at 406.848.9128 to alert them. Check out is by 9 a.m. the day of your departure to allow our volunteers to begin preparing the cabins for the next group. Parking is available in front of your cabin. Please do not store food in your vehicle as it can attract animals.

If you are visiting during the winter we recommend an all-wheel- or 4-wheel-drive vehicle as roads can be snow-packed and icy. Feel free to call our office at 406.848.2400 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to check the local weather and road conditions.
During your stay:
Our volunteer caretakers live on-campus in the cabin with the “Welcome” sign. They will help orient you to the Overlook campus. An emergency phone is available all hours outside their cabin. We do not have a housekeeping staff at the Overlook. Quiet hours are observed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Verizon is the only cell phone provider currently providing reliable coverage at the campus. In the event of an emergency during your stay, the caretaker’s cabin phone number is: 406.848.9128. Wireless Internet is available in the cabins and at several businesses in Gardiner.

The campus has a picnic table and pond. A marked, 1-mile-long trail leads down to the Yellowstone River. Wildlife is abundant. You may see bison, wolves, elk and deer. You may also see rattlesnakes in the warmer months. Please exercise caution, and notify someone of your plans if you will be away from the campus alone. Each cabin has a TV/DVD player and an educational library with books and videos. The Overlook is designed to be a comfortable and peaceful base from which to explore and learn in America’s first national park. We look forward to your visit!