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. We are glad that you are able to join us in Gardiner, Montana, a wonderful Yellowstone gateway community that many of us at Yellowstone Forever call home. 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 program. 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.

Important Information Included in this Document:

- Letter from Your Instructor
- 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 the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), home to one of the largest populations of grizzly bears in the contiguous United States. Encompassing more than two million square acres, Yellowstone National Park offers prime habitat and one of the last strongholds for grizzly bears in the lower 48 states. Grizzlies, which once roamed throughout nearly all of western North America, now have a range that has been reduced to a mere 2% of its former area in the lower 48. Over the program’s three days we will learn about the fascinating natural history of the great bear in the middle of its home and habitat, and why Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding lands that make up the GYE are so important to the overall health of the grizzly bear population in the United States.
This program will offer opportunities to read signs from grizzlies, such as tracks and scat, as well as to see Yellowstone’s largest predator in action while hiking in one of the world’s finest wilderness settings. Each morning we will begin at sunrise for a wildlife-watching session to give us the best possibility of seeing grizzlies in their natural habitat. Throughout the day we will explore what makes Yellowstone such a hospitable environment for grizzly bears, as well as discuss current issues facing the future of the great bear and how to stay safe in bear country. A more detailed itinerary will be available nearer to the start date, as changing trail conditions and area closures are not uncommon in Yellowstone.

Part of the program will be spent indoors discussing topics and viewing slideshows, but the majority of the program will take place outdoors. Weather in Yellowstone can be unpredictable, so please read over the equipment list carefully and be prepared for anything from hot and sunny to cold and snowy. Be prepared to walk on rugged terrain up to three miles and have lunch in the field. A good day pack and sturdy hiking boots are strongly recommended.

Topics covered in the program include:
- Grizzly bear biology/behavior
- Bear habitat
- Management of bears in Yellowstone
- Reading bear signs in the field
- Grizzly bear natural history
- Bear viewing opportunities (no guarantee of seeing bears)
- Endangered Species Act/bear recovery areas
- Human-bear conflicts and how to avoid them

Mike Rosekrans

Program Itinerary
- Day One:
  - Meet in Yellowstone Forever classroom/Intro to bears of Yellowstone
- Day Two:
  - 4:00 a.m. departure to Lamar Valley for bear viewing
  - Return to Gardiner for lunch and afternoon classroom session
  - Evening bear watching/dinner at Canyon Village
  - Return to Gardiner by 9pm
- Day Three:
  - Early morning bear watching in Lamar Valley, Hayden Valley, and Swan Lake Flats (bring a lunch)
Return to Gardiner in afternoon for program wrap-up

What’s Included:
Your tuition includes daily outings and transportation during your program. It does not include transportation to the park, park entrance fees, or lodging. Meals are included only on select programs with included catering. Gratuities are not included in the price of programming. 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 program is an activity level 2 and students enrolled in this program are expected to be active participants. This course will include hikes up to 3 miles per day with elevation gains up to 600 feet with some off-trail hiking possible. 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 www.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. Spring, summer, and fall temperatures can range from below freezing in the mornings to 85 degrees Fahrenheit in the 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 temperature and moisture output changes with different levels of exertion. Some colder-weather items may not be needed in July or August, but please keep in mind that Yellowstone’s weather is unpredictable.

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.

Summer Clothing:

- **Insulating underwear**, capilene, polypropylene, or similar wicking fabric.
- **Midweight insulating layer**, light, 200-weight synthetic fleece or wool shirt/pullover.
- **Heavyweight insulating layer**, wool, down, or heavy-weight fleece jacket, for less-active times.
- **Waterproof and windproof outer layer**, lightweight and breathable. Jackets and pants are recommended.
- **Short sleeved shirt**, cotton okay in summer, but synthetic wicking shirts are ideal.
- **Pants**, synthetic hiking pants, lightweight pile/fleece pants or tights or similar. Jeans are not recommended.
- **Hats**, both a brimmed sun hat and an insulating hat for cool weather.
- **Gloves**, lightweight glove liners and a pair of wool/fleece gloves or mittens.
- **Socks**, light wool or synthetic liner sock with heavier wool or synthetic outer sock. The inner-outer sock combination helps prevent blistering, wicks moisture and reduces friction. Cotton socks do not wick moisture and are not recommended.
- **Hiking boots**, that provide stability, traction, and comfort. Unless you’ve consistently hiked in athletic shoes, bring boots that provide ankle support.
- **Off-duty shoes**, sandals, athletic shoes, or other leisure footwear.

Suggested reading
Many books will be interesting advance reading if you can find them; here are just a few:

- Herrero, Stephen. *Bears Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance* (Nick Lyon Books)
• Schullery, Paul. *The Bears of Yellowstone* (Roberts Rinehart)
• White, P.J., Gunther, Kerry A., van Manen, Frank T. *Yellowstone Grizzly Bears: Ecology and Conservation of an Icon of Wildness*

Key websites:
• Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team: http://nrm.sc.usgs.gov/research/igbst-home.htm
• Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center: http://www.greateryellowstonescience.org/

Park Stores
Our Park Stores feature 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

Supporter Program
Yellowstone Forever Supporters directly fund priority park programs and projects. Supporters also provide scholarships for teachers and help expand programming for underserved youth. Benefits include a subscription to our 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 supporter of Yellowstone Forever, an introductory subscription (one year) to our magazine *Yellowstone Quarterly* is included with your tuition. For more information, visit: Yellowstone.org/donate

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 program and should expect to walk through mud, snow or puddles in the trail.

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

**Field Seminar 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. If lodging is cancelled after the eighth calendar day from the date of registration, 100% of lodging payments will be forfeited. Applicable taxes will be refunded in the event of program or lodging cancellations. 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 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 [TravelGuard.com](http://TravelGuard.com). Travel insurance can help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip.
YELLOWSTONE OVERLOOK FIELD CAMPUS INFORMATION

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 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. on the day of your arrival. Check out is by 9:00 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 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 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. 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!