



MAMMAL SIGNS: INTERPRETING TRACKS, SCAT, AND HAIR #190508

Start: 5/29/2019 at 9:00 a.m.

End: 6/1/2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Check-in starts at 4:00 p.m. on 5/28/2019

If you are running late please call us at 307.344.7749

Location: Lamar Buffalo Ranch

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 Lamar Valley, a truly special place to call home while in Yellowstone! 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 Yellowstone Forever Institute Mammal Signs program. The content and general schedule for our program are listed below. In general, class starts at 8:30 a.m. (except on the first day when we begin at 9:00 a.m.) and returns from the field at 5:00 p.m. However, if we see something very exciting (like a grizzly attacking an elk or some such happening), expect to be back later than 5:00 p.m.

Each late afternoon and early evening we will work on data analysis and plaster casts. Plan to spend at least an hour each evening with the class.

On the last day the class will finish in Gardiner, Montana, at the Track Education Center and Museum. We will be in Gardiner at lunch time and you may go to a local cafe or bring your own lunch. The overall schedule, of course, will be partially dependent on weather conditions and the whims of the instructor.

Some background: Animals are elusive in the wild and much of what we learn about them comes from our ability to detect and read their sign. Trips to the field are much more interesting when we can interpret "who" has been there and what they have done. Noted naturalists down through history have gained part of their appreciation of nature from their observations of sign.

Our program will focus on developing your skills as a naturalist and field person. Classroom lectures will provide the background necessary for field trips designed to locate and interpret animal signs. Emphasis will be placed on field notes and analysis of signs observed during the day. This is an information-intensive program. As such, expect to spend up to 50 percent of your time in the classroom for lectures, roughly 40 percent of your time tracking, and 10 percent analyzing collected track data. Field trips may include up to three miles of hiking, sometimes on rough, rocky riverbanks. Please try to be in shape by walking at home. We will reduce hiking time to concentrate on doing field observations. Mammal Signs is a field course; expect to get dirty and work hard.

Mammal Signs is CSI-Yellowstone. Plan to be a hard-core detective for four days. While the program is for beginners, it is a professional-level course. The program will provide you with the ability to see evidence, interpret clues, analyze trails, and tell the stories told by the animals. To be a professional-level tracker, you must work hard—as such, this program is both extensive and intensive. Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion from A Naturalist's World (see TrackSceneInvestigation.com).

Special Note: Please Read

We will be working on river mud flats, possibly wading in the river, and even fording a river. Please bring shoes or boots that you can wear in the water. I often wear jogging/tennis shoes or old boots, but some people use fishing or irrigation boots and even hip waders. These types of boots can be heavy when we walk for a mile to a site. Bare feet or open-sided sandals ARE NOT acceptable. Boulders and pieces of obsidian can quickly cut feet. If we ford the river, you may get wet to the waist. I usually wear my pants (wool is best) into the water and then wear them until they dry out. You can, however, bring a second pair to change into if you wish, but others get impatient waiting, hence the “wear it dry” scenario. Sometimes I wear wind pants with polypropylene long underwear into the water, as the nylon material dries quickly.

Tracking can be wet and dirty—be prepared. See the equipment list below, paying close attention to the sections about cotton clothes (no blue jeans) and shoes for wading (no open shoes).

In addition, please bring a ruler and other equipment specific to our class—refer to the “Equipment Specific to Our Class” list below.

I am looking forward to meeting you and to our tracking in Yellowstone. Until then,

Keep tracking!

James C. Halfpenny, Ph.D.

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 Lamar Valley have the opportunity to stay in our comfortable lodging at the historic Lamar Buffalo Ranch for an additional charge. Each log cabin has three single beds, chairs, propane heaters, and reading lamps. The ranch has a bathhouse with private showers and a common building with a fully equipped kitchen where you can prepare your own meals. 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. Be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 600 feet. 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. 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.

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.

Equipment Specific to this Class

- Field book - I will provide a pre-programmed field book for this program
- Pencil - I recommend a good mechanical pencil as it will write under most conditions, often when a pen will not. The Pentel mechanical pencil (0.5 mm lead) with a lead advance under the thumb is good.
- Pen - A good drafting pen such as a rapidograph pen makes excellent notes, but is NOT required. These pens are often hard to keep working in the field. If you can find them, the Pentel cartridge technical pens, called Ceramicron, work very well. Bic ballpoint pens also work excellently.
- Rulers - Please bring a retractable metal ruler or a folding ruler such as is used by carpenters or plumbers. If you can bring both a retractable and folding ruler, it will facilitate taking field notes. Rulers with metric scales are best, but you will have to shop around to find them! You can buy these on the last day at the Track Education Center in Gardiner.
- Magnifying glass - Try to bring a small hand lens. Lenses are handy for interpreting all kinds of sign, especially for working with hair samples. Cost should be about \$10.00.
- Watch - Important for recording the time of your observations.
- Camera - Cameras provide an important means of recording what you observe in the field. If you have a camera please bring it. Cameras capable of taking close-up photos are best.
- Field guides - Bring any that you have that are appropriate for the area, but do not buy them for the program. You may purchase my field guides at the program.

Suggested reading

There are no required textbooks for this program. You may wish to try to get a copy of my book, *A Field Guide to Mammal Tracking in North America*, now out of print (try Amazon or eBay). You may buy a copy of *Scats and Tracks of the Rocky Mountains* or *Scats and Tracks of North America* as part of the program or from the Yellowstone Forever Park Store. You might also wish to purchase one of my regional books in the Scats and Tracks series for your local region. There are, however, several books that, if you get the chance, you might like

to browse before coming to Yellowstone. Try your local libraries for these books. Additional readings will be provided at the program.

You may wish to check out the laminated Quick Reference charts for Yellowstone National Park, available at the Yellowstone Forever Park Store. My chart is called Tracks, Scats, and Signs of Rocky Mountain Mammals.

- Halfpenny, J.C. Multiple years. Scats and Tracks series. There are 10 books in this series for North American regions and one that covers all regions. These books may be ordered at www.tracknature.com.
- Halfpenny, J. C. 1987. *A Field Guide to Mammal Tracking in North America*. Johnson Publishing Company, Boulder, CO. 176 pp. This is a guide, not just to track identification, but to tracking, the process of reading stories in mammal trails. Contains detailed information on gaits and the interpretation of trail patterns. Out-of-print so try Amazon or eBay.
- Bank, P., et al. 1972. *Collins Guide to Animal Tracks and Signs*. Collins Sons and Co. Ltd., London. This is the most comprehensive book for all animals, not just mammals. Although it is a European book much of the information is applicable in North America.
- Murie, O. and M. Elbroch. 2005. *A Field Guide to Animal Tracks*. Peterson Field Guide Series, no. 9. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. An excellent guide to identifying tracks of specific mammals, but has some problems with gait interpretation.
- Rezendes, P. 1992. *Tracking and the Art of Seeing*. Camden House Publishing, Inc., Charlotte, VT 05445. ISBN 0-944475-33-7.
- Elbroch, M. 2003. *Mammal Tracks and Sign. A Guide to North American Species*. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
- Forrest, L.R. 1988. *Field Guide to Tracking Animals in Snow*. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, PA. Designed for use only when there is snow on the ground.
- Smith, R. P. 1982. *Animal Tracks and Signs of North America*. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, PA. Nice supplementary photos, but the text is deficient.
- Stokes, D. and L. Stokes. 1986. *A Guide to Animal Tracking and Behavior*. Little, Brown, and Company, Boston. 418 pp. Again weak on tracking and gait information, but has an interesting section on behavior.
- Miller, D. 1981. *Track Finder. Nature Study Guild*. Berkeley, CA. This guide is to eastern U.S. I mention it for its unique approach and keys. Content knowledge is lacking in some areas.

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.

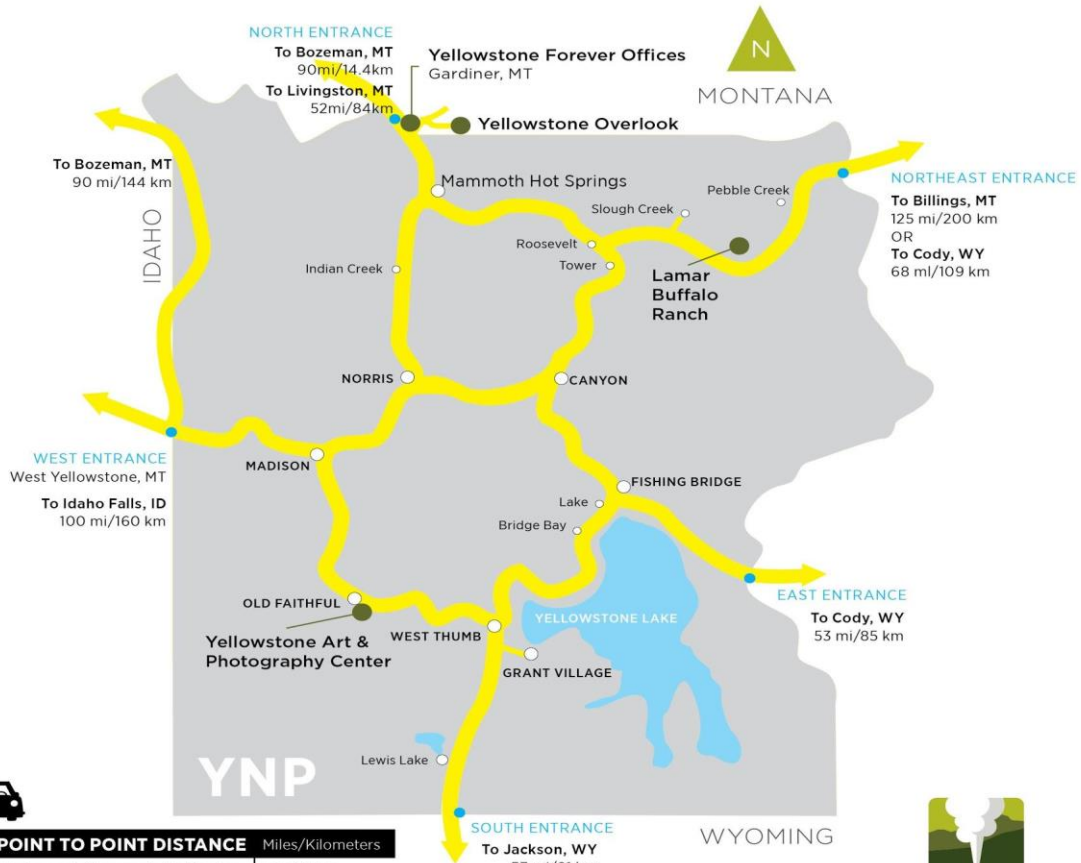
- Leave what you find: It is illegal to remove natural or cultural artifacts (plants, animals, bones, rocks, etc.) from Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever Institute instructors have permission from the National Park Service to manipulate plants, rocks, bones, etc. for educational purposes and will return 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.

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. Under most circumstances, if you cancel on the eighth calendar day or after, 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 urge you to take out accident, baggage, and trip cancellation insurance through a travel agent or website such as TravelGuard.com. Travel insurance can help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip.

LAMAR BUFFALO RANCH INFORMATION

If you need to be reached during your class, the number at the ranch is 307.344.7749.



POINT TO POINT DISTANCE	Miles/Kilometers
North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs	5 mi/8 km
Mammoth Hot Springs to Norris	21 mi/34 km
Norris to Canyon	12 mi/19 km
Norris to Madison	14 mi/23 km
Madison to West Entrance	14 mi/23 km
Madison to Old Faithful	16 mi/26 km
Old Faithful to West Thumb	17 mi/27 km
West Thumb to South Entrance	22 mi/35 km
West Thumb to Bridge Bay	21 mi/34 km
Fishing Bridge to East Entrance	27 mi/43 km
Fishing Bridge to Canyon	16 mi/26 km
Canyon to Tower Falls	19 mi/31 km
Roosevelt to Northeast Entrance	29 mi/47 km
Roosevelt to Lamar Buffalo Ranch	11 mi/17 km
Roosevelt to Mammoth Hot Springs	18 mi/29 km

ELEVATIONS	feet / meters
North Entrance	5314 / 1620
West Entrance	6667 / 2032
South Entrance	6886 / 2099
East Entrance	6951 / 2119
Mammoth Hot Springs	6239 / 1902
Old Faithful	7365 / 2254
Grant Village	7733 / 2357
Lake	7784 / 2373
Canyon	7734 / 2357
Roosevelt	6270 / 1911



- OPEN ROADS
- YF FACILITIES
- ENTRANCE GATES
- COMMON POINTS OF INTEREST

1 mile (mi) = 1.609344 kilometers (km)

Directions

Proceed to "Roosevelt" on the map; road signs say Tower Junction, on the northeast side of the Grand Loop Road. Signs at Tower Junction — "Yellowstone Inst 11" — direct you to turn onto the Northeast Entrance Road (opposite the Roosevelt Lodge) heading towards Cooke City. From Mammoth, it's a left turn; from Canyon, it's a right turn. The campus is located approximately 11 miles from the intersection, can be seen from the Lamar Valley road sign as you enter the valley, and is the first and only group of buildings on that road. If driving from the Northeast Entrance, the campus is approximately 18 miles from that entrance.

What to bring

Shared cabins have three single beds, chairs, propane heaters, and reading lamps. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, extra blankets if you like, a flashlight for getting around at night, and a non-electric alarm clock (cabins do not have outlets). Stoves, lanterns, and candles cannot be used in or around the cabins, and smoking and food are not permitted in the cabins. The heated bathhouse is nearby and has hand soap and paper towels. You need to bring towels and toiletries.

Meals should be kept simple since participants will prepare their own meals in a shared cooking facility. The kitchen has gas stoves, a microwave, toaster, plates, silverware, pots and pans, and spices, as well as coffee, tea, sugar and creamer. Please bring only what you will need during your stay as space in the kitchen and refrigerators is limited. There is no cell phone reception in the Lamar Valley and there is no Internet service. Please bring a calling card to use with the common phone.

What not to bring

The historic ranch runs on limited solar power with backup generators. For this reason, please do not bring electrical appliances such as radios, hair dryers and crock pots as these items overload the system and can cause black-outs. Camping and pets (with the exception of service animals) are not allowed.

When you arrive

Check-in is anytime between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. the day of your arrival. We strongly encourage you to arrive before dark. Come to the bunkhouse (the building with the Yellowstone Forever Institute sign on it). During normal check-in hours, a staff member will greet and orient you to the ranch. If you must arrive after 8:00 p.m., please call us at 307.344.7749 so we know when to expect you. If no one is there to greet you, please find your cabin assignment and the code to the bathhouse on the bulletin board in the kitchen — located at the back of the building — and we'll be happy to greet you the following morning. Check-out is by 9:00 a.m. the day of your departure.

During your stay

Yellowstone Forever Institute programs and facilities benefit from the hard work and generosity of a team of seasonal volunteer program assistants. You'll likely meet one or more of our program assistants hosting your program. Our program assistants receive professional training in Wilderness First Aid, emergency response and procedures, and bus driving. They help with program logistics, cleaning and maintenance of facilities and anything you need during your time with us. The bunkhouse is open at all times and is the center of activity, housing classrooms, the kitchen, and bathrooms. Make yourself at home in the bunkhouse; meet new people; enjoy a midnight snack; relax with classmates and enjoy your experience. The kitchen is a community area where everyone does their own cooking and cleans up after themselves. In the winter, the first classroom is used as a mudroom where coats and boots can be left by the door. Be sure to bring a pair of slippers or moccasins to wear in the bunkhouse.