



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

COUGARS OF YELLOWSTONE

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2022

INSTRUCTORS: Yellowstone Forever Institute Staff and National Park Service Staff (to also include TBD local area experts, community organizers, and a variety of stakeholder guest speakers)

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: The Yellowstone Institute has been providing in-depth educational programs in Yellowstone for over 40 years. Our field educators are among the best expert naturalist guides in Yellowstone. They're professionals with training credentials who are dedicating their careers to this vital work. They live in the Yellowstone ecosystem, they work alongside park researchers, and thus can provide accurate and exciting "behind the scenes" perspectives on the park's history, management, geology, flora, and fauna.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an activity **level 2** and students enrolled in this course 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.*

**All field activities will be conducted as a group. If you cannot meet the activity level expectations during your program, you may be restricted from participation in daily outings. We will not alter program itineraries or activities to accommodate participants who cannot meet the expectations of the stated activity level.*

LOCATION: Course begins at the Yellowstone Forever classrooms located in Gardiner, MT.

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, and ends on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: No lodging is provided for this course. You can find more information on Gardiner based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#)

MEALS: You will need to bring your own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field with you.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

Yellowstone Forever's new two-day wildlife Field Seminar series will highlight and discuss current hot topic issues involving Yellowstone National Park.

This course will focus on cougars – from natural history, science, human relationships, to management. Yellowstone Forever Institute Staff will facilitate the course providing opportunities for participants to engage with and learn from a variety of stakeholders, community organizers, and cougar experts. Through conversations with guest lecturers, students will receive varied perspectives on cougars and cougar management. Students should be prepared to come with an open mind as the class aims to provide a wholistic approach to understanding cougars in, and outside, of Yellowstone National Park.

A portion of the proceeds from this class will go towards supporting the [Yellowstone Cougar Project](#).

- Yellowstone Forever Institute Staff

PROGRAM ITINERARY

The itinerary is designed to take advantage of the best opportunities in the park, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, wildlife activity, holidays, and road construction. *The details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.*

Day 1

Yellowstone's Top Feline Predator

7:45 a.m. Check-in at Yellowstone Forever Headquarters in the Classrooms

8:00 a.m. The day will be interwoven between classroom discussions, guest lectures, and field trips. The focus of this day is to highlight the science and history of cougars in and around Yellowstone.
Be prepared to bring food that can be eaten in the classrooms or out in the field.
Guest speakers this day might include local wildlife tracking experts and National Park Service biologists.

5:00 p.m. Program Wrap-Up

Day 2

Yellowstone's Predator Diversity

8:00 a.m. The day will be interwoven between classroom discussions, guest lectures, and field trips. The focus of this day is to highlight cougar management and controversy, in and around Yellowstone.
Be prepared to bring food that can be eaten in the classrooms or out in the field.
Guest speakers this day might include Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, mountain lion outfitters, and National Park Service biologists.

5:00 p.m. Class Wrap-Up

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

This course does not require any specific equipment unless you wish to bring your own snowshoes. For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program. Most publications are available at Yellowstone Forever's online store at shop.yellowstone.org Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount and proceeds directly support the park.

- Maurice Hornocker and Sharon Negri. *Cougar: Ecology and Conservation*. University of Chicago Press. 2009.

WHOM TO CONTACT

For any questions, concerns, or additional information please contact the following:

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and activity questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information please contact Yellowstone National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm>
- If running late for a program, please contact 406-848-2400