



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

A YELLOWSTONE WRITING WORKSHOP

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2022

INSTRUCTOR: Ilona Popper, M.A.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Ilona Popper, M.A., naturalist, poet, freelance writer, has coached writers and taught writing for forty-four years. She is the author of the poetry book, *Break*, and her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. Ilona has published articles about wildlife and has written scripts for Landis Wildlife documentaries. She has worked as a biotech for wolf research; as a naturalist and wildlife guide; and as a wildlife advocate.

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 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, and ends on Saturday, October 8, 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

Nature writers need time, in nature and in the studio. I created this workshop based on my own experience as a writer-naturalist and as an instructor in my special approach to writing drafts.

My aim is to give you time in nature and time to write; inspiration in watching wildlife firsthand and from discovering the best Yellowstone-based science and in reading nature writers; and good group and instructor feedback.

- Ilona Popper

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 Participants are welcome to check into the Lamar Buffalo Ranch starting at 4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet and Studio Session

- Introduction to the three phases of writing.
- In-session writing.
- Discussion of participants' writings: identifying the core of a writing.
- Introduction to readings.

Days 2-4 Morning FIELD SESSIONS will include some or all of the following:

- Early morning wildlife observation. (At least one day will focus on wolves.)
- Note taking or writing in the field.
- Hiking and/or stationary observations in the field.

Afternoon STUDIO SESSIONS will include some or all of the following:

- Writing in-session.
- Visiting lecturer and/or readings of nature and other writers. (Visiting speakers will attend for about an hour, only if this meets covid restrictions.)
- Discussion of participants writings to identify the core ideas.
- Demonstration: the process from drafts and notes to a finished piece.
- Last day: Mini reading of Participants Expressive Stage writings.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

Items specific to this course are:

- Notebooks
- Pens and pencils
- Laptop, if you prefer to write on one
- Writings that inspire you
- Optional - a small tape recorder for dictating field notes

RECOMMENDED READING

This course does not require or recommend any specific readings. However, the instructor will provide a packet of readings and a bibliography during the course and there are books and reference materials for you to enjoy during your stay.

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