



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

AUTUMN WILDLIFE WATCHING

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - Summer 2022

INSTRUCTOR: Samuel Archibald, M.E.M., *Yellowstone Forever Lead Field Educator*

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Sam Archibald is a Lead Field Educator for Yellowstone Forever. After completing his B.A. in history, Sam served with the US Peace Corps, working with an Ecuadorian nonprofit organization to develop outdoor leadership and environmental education programs for youth. Sam has continued to focus on outdoor education, joining the National Park Service as a Crew Leader for the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps and earning his Master's in Environmental Management degree (Western Colorado University). Sam first joined Yellowstone Forever's team as a winter seasonal educator and became a permanent lead educator in 2022. Sam is grateful for every day he gets to spend out in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and looks forward to the continual discoveries offered by this wild and wonderful landscape.

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: Lamar Buffalo Ranch – Yellowstone National Park, WY

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 1, 2022, and ends on Sunday, September 4, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 1, 2022, and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 5, 2022.

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 [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

Welcome to Yellowstone's Northern Range! This iconic stretch of mountains, meadows, rivers, and glacial valleys lies at the heart of the greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and is home to 14 carnivores, 8 ungulates, over 200 birds, as well as rodents, reptiles, and many other species. During this program, we will spend three days looking for and discussing the amazing diversity of wildlife that makes its home in this rangeland, from mammals to birds to reptiles to insects. Discussions will focus on who lives here and how these animals fit into the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. We will spend most of our time in the field watching as many different species as possible.

Although much of our viewing may be possible from the road, short hikes each day (up to 3 miles) will help increase our chances of seeing certain species and give us a deeper appreciation and understanding of the plants and animals that make up this dynamic wildlife habitat. Signs and tracks of various species will also be examined on these hikes.

Be prepared to be outside in Yellowstone's late summer and autumn weather. We will have a few extra pairs of binoculars for those who do not have any and will provide spotting scopes for those harder-to-see animals. We will use a variety of materials designed to assist in identifying the animals, plants we encounter.

Included is a tentative itinerary below, but the bulk of the program can be adapted to people's interests. We will seek a better understanding of what niche each species plays in Yellowstone, and the management concerns that surround many of our more controversial and/or threatened species. Open discussion is always encouraged, so bring your questions, concerns, and even personal experiences with you as we explore one of the most intact and diverse ecosystems on the planet.

We look forward to seeing you!

- Sam Archibald, Yellowstone Forever Lead Field Educator

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

7:00 p.m.

Introductions: class begins.

Days 2 -4

6:00 a.m.

Wildlife Watching and Hikes

Each day begins early to catch the morning wildlife activity. Animals, like wolves and bears, tend to be most active in the early morning. Participants will be led on hikes throughout the days in search of tracks and sign while discussing ecology, behavior, recent research, and management. We expect to return around 4:00 p.m. every day.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

There is no specific equipment suggested for this program.

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.

Websites

- [Yellowstone National Park's website](#)

Books

- Alden, P. et al. 1998. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Rocky Mountain States*. Alfred A. Knopf; New York, NY.
- Craighead, K. 1999. *Large Mammals of the Yellowstone Ecosystem*. Yellowstone Association: Yellowstone National Park, WY.
- Koch, E. D. and C. R. Peterson. 1995. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks*. University of Utah Press: Salt Lake City, UT.
- McEneaney, T. 1988. *Birds of Yellowstone*. Roberts Rinehart: Boulder, CO.
- Streubel, D. P. 1989. *Small Mammals of the Yellowstone Ecosystem*. Roberts Rinehart: Boulder, CO

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