



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

YELLOWSTONE WINTER NATURALIST CERTIFICATION

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – WINTER 2022/23

INSTRUCTOR: Amanda Evans

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Amanda Evans is a Lead Field Educator for Yellowstone Forever. Her passion for wildlife and wild places has taken her across the country for work, including guiding in Ketchikan, AK, working as an Outdoor Education Specialist for the Ocean Institute, and an Education Specialist for the Los Angeles Zoo. Amanda has an immense passion for Yellowstone, and when not working in the park spends most of her spare time exploring and learning all she can about the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. She feels that it is through firsthand experience with the natural world that people build the strongest connections to it. Her goal is to use education to foster the same appreciation she feels and to inspire others to preserve and protect nature in all spaces.

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, snowshoe, or ski on snow-packed trails, up to 3 miles per day, with climbs up to 250 feet. *

**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 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 29, 2023, and goes through Friday, February 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 29, 2023 and lodging check-out is at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2023.

MEALS: This course is catered. If you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions, please include those in your registration form.

SHUTTLES: For an additional fee, we provide an optional Bozeman airport shuttle for those interested. The shuttle service will pick up participants from the Bozeman International Airport on the first day of the program with a 1:00 p.m. departure. The shuttle will return participants to the Bozeman International Airport on the last day after lodging check-out with a departure from the Lamar Buffalo Ranch at 8:00 a.m. If you opt-in to the shuttle service, please ensure that your flight booking will allow for you to be picked up and dropped off during the above timeframes.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Winter General Information](#) document.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

There is no better outdoor classroom than the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem – one of the largest nearly intact temperate-zone ecosystems in the world. Yellowstone's wealth of natural and cultural diversity includes the largest concentration of hydrothermal features, 10,000+ years of vast human history, an abundance of wildlife, varied vegetation, numerous lakes, rivers, and creeks, and unique geologic wonders. Based out of the historic Lamar Buffalo Range, this certificate-level course participants will learn in-depth about this unique and amazing ecosystem. Through a variety of outings, guest speakers, activities, and lectures participants will gain the skills of a Yellowstone naturalist and will encounter a diversity of winter ecosystems. During this week-long course, learn to understand and interpret wildlife, geology, plants, cultural history, and ecological management of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. With completion of this course participants will be provided a Yellowstone Naturalist certification in addition to a Montana Master Naturalist certification, through the Montana Natural History Center.

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.

Example itinerary below; the details and timing of the agenda are subject to change – participants will be informed immediately of any changes. Be prepared for a packed schedule, as there is much to do and learn in Yellowstone National Park.

1/29/23 Check-In & Orientation

Participants are welcome to check into the Lamar Buffalo Ranch starting at 4:00 p.m.
Class orientation begins at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Evening presentation about naturalist skills and history.

1/30/23 Nature Journaling & Geology

Participants will learn the basics of nature journaling so they can continue to document the week's learning sessions and outings. Geology will also be a focus this day. Geology is the boss in Yellowstone and influences the framework of the park, a good topic to start with.

1/31/23 Wildlife Watching & Management Discussion

Spend the day learning how to best find wildlife, while also learning about wildlife ecology, natural history, and management. Meet up in the field with Yellowstone wolf educators and Yellowstone Wolf Project to discuss current wolf research. There may be opportunities to meet with additional wildlife biologists to learn about other charismatic species.

2/1/23 Birds & Cultural History

Spend the morning and afternoon with a bird biologist learning about winter bird identification, adaptations, and behaviors. Spend the rest of the day learning about the rich cultural heritage of the area now known as Yellowstone National Park.

2/2/23 Wildlife Tracking & Snow Science

Morning to late afternoon will be spent learning about winter tracks, and gaits. Later participants will learn about the complex nature of snow science and climate science within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

2/3/23

Putting It All Together & Presentations

Morning will be spent learning about the larger ecology of Yellowstone National Park. In the late afternoon participants will give a 10-minute presentation to the group about a Yellowstone specific topic of their choice. To round out the day there will be an award ceremony followed by dinner.

2/4/23

Check-Out

Breakfast and check out of cabins by 10:00 a.m.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

This course does not require any specific equipment unless you wish to bring your own snowshoes. For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Winter General Information](#) document.

RECOMMENDED READING

There are books and reference materials at the ranch for you to enjoy during your stay. In addition to those materials, the following recommended readings are not required but may enhance your visit.

- Smith, Douglas W., et al. [Yellowstone Wolves: Science and Discovery in the World's First National Park](#). The University of Chicago Press, 2020.
- McIntyre, Rick. [The Reign of Wolf 21: The Saga of Yellowstone's Legendary Druid Pack](#). Greystone Books, 2022.
- Lamplugh, Rick. [Deep into Yellowstone: A Year's Immersion into Grandeur and Controversy](#). CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017.
- Nelson, Megan Kate. [Saving Yellowstone: Exploration and Preservation in Reconstruction America](#). Scribner, 2022.
- Halfpenny, James C., and Roy Douglas. Ozanne. *Winter: An Ecological Handbook*. NetLibrary, Inc., 1999.
- Dunn, Jon L. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. National Geographic Society, 2017.
- Craighead, Frank C. *For Everything There Is a Season: The Sequence of Natural Events in the Grand Teton-Yellowstone Area*. Falcon Press, 1994.
- National Park Service. [2022 Resource and Issues Handbook](#). NPS, 2022.

WHOM TO CONTACT

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

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and general program 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