



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

YELLOWSTONE WOLVES & THEIR STORIES

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

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 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 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, and ends on Friday, June 2 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: No lodging is provided for this course, however, there may limited lodging available through Yellowstone Forever at the Yellowstone Field Overlook Campus. For more information, please contact the Institute at institute@yellowstone.org. You can also find more information on Gardiner based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#). (Yellowstone River Motel will grant you 10% off their rooms if you mention that you are taking a Yellowstone Forever Field Seminar.)

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

With Yellowstone celebrating its 28th anniversary of the wolf reintroduction this year, we have close to three decades worth of stories and research of the species whose reintroduction has restored Yellowstone to its historic suite of native species. During this course, we will delve into the life stories of many of the individual wolves who have played and continue to play an important role in Yellowstone's pack dynamics. In these stories, we will be able to perceive how our relationship with wolves has changed drastically within Yellowstone's history from becoming the world's first national park to today. Throughout the week, we will also discuss wolf behavior, wolf conservation and natural history, and wolf management.

This course is designed to take advantage of some of the best wolf watching opportunities in the world. It will take place during the spring denning season, during which time the wolves' movements tend to be more predictable, allowing us a better chance to witness their behavior. However, Yellowstone wolves are wild animals, and there is always the possibility that on any given day they may not be visible. Many other species, several with spring babies, will be readily visible during this time. While the course content material is wolf-focused, we will stop to watch other species and discuss their natural history and management as we see fit.

Additionally, there will be opportunities to engage with Yellowstone wolf researchers and experts while out in the field to gain an inside look at how wolves are studied within Yellowstone.

Yellowstone Forever will provide high-powered optics (binoculars, scopes) for long-distance viewing opportunities, but participants are encouraged to bring their own if they have any.

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.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

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Day 1	7:00 PM	Welcome and Orientation Evening orientation at the Yellowstone Forever Headquarters building in the classrooms located on the S 3rd St. side of the building for a program orientation by their Yellowstone Forever Field Educator. Orientation will provide an opportunity to go over the program itinerary, discuss clothing and equipment needed for daily outings, and answer any questions you may have.
Day 2-4	6:00 AM	Wildlife Watching and Habitat Exploration Each day begins early to catch morning wildlife activity. After viewing wildlife, you will be led on a short hike (up to 3 miles) in search of tracks and animal sign while discussing ecology, behavior, recent research, and management. After a day spent in the field, guests will return to Gardiner to enjoy a relaxing evening on their own.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

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

There are no items specific to this course.

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.

- *American Wolf*. Blakeslee, Nate. Broadway Books, 2017.
- *Decade of the Wolf*. Smith, Douglas and Ferguson, Gary. Lyons Press, 2005.
- *The Rise of Wolf 8: Witnessing the Triumph of Yellowstone's Underdog*. McIntyre, Rick. Greystone Books, 2019.
- *The Reign of Wolf 21: The Saga of Yellowstone's Legendary Druid Pack*. McIntyre, Rick. Greystone Books, 2020.
- *The Redemption of Wolf 302: From Renegade to Yellowstone Alpha*. McIntyre, Rick. Greystone Books, 2021.
- *The Alpha Female Wolf: The Fierce Legacy of Yellowstone's 06*. McIntyre, Rick. Greystone Books, 2022.
- [Yellowstone Wolves: Science and Discovery in the World's First National Park](#). Smith, Douglas W., et al. The University of Chicago Press, 2020.

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