



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

INTRODUCTION TO YELLOWSTONE'S PLANTS

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Elena Ulev, Master Naturalist and Certified Interpretive Guide

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Elena Ulev is a naturalist guide and environmental educator based out of Missoula, Montana. She has a B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology and has spent the last 23 years working in western Montana as a field biologist and writer for the U.S. Forest Service and as an educator for the Montana Natural History Center and the Lifelong Learning Center. She is the Garden Manager at the Montana Natural History Center and has a huge home garden with a variety of edible plants mixed with native plants to attract wildlife. Elena loves sharing her curiosity and enthusiasm about nature with all ages and backgrounds.

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 Monday, July 24, 2023, and ends on Wednesday, July 26 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

Welcome to the Introduction to the Plants of Yellowstone field seminar! In this course we will spend some time in the classroom learning the basics of how to identify flowers, shrubs and trees found in Yellowstone. Then we will go in the field to explore a huge variety of plants from tiny flowers to old growth conifers. We may even see rare orchids that don't photosynthesize. You will learn how the animals of Yellowstone use these plants for survival and how humans have used them for thousands of years for food, shelter, medicine and more. Your observations will be recorded in your own nature journals that you can take home to share with your family and friends. Get ready to enjoy the wonderful plants of Yellowstone and all that they have to offer!

- Elena

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** Evening Orientation
Welcome and introductions
Background information
- Day 2** In the classroom: Plant evolution, plant anatomy and how to identify plants by family
In the field: Visit an area to identify flowers
- Day 3** In the classroom: Slideshow of common shrubs and trees in Yellowstone
In the field: Visit a forested area to identify shrubs and trees. Lichen identification if time permits.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

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

Required:

- Notebook or field journal and pencil for observations
- Colored pencils
- I recommend students buy Plants of the Rocky Mountains by MacKinnon, Kershaw and Pojar. It's an excellent book that will help with identification. I've been using this book for over 20 years and love it.

Optional:

- Magnifying glass or hand lens
- Camera
- Binoculars

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.

- Wildflowers of Yellowstone Folding Guide
- Wildflowers of the Yellowstone Area

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