



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## MIXED MEDIA & WATERCOLOR FIELD JOURNALING

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

**INSTRUCTOR:** Suzie Garner, M.FA

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:** Suzie Garner is a Professor of Art and Design at Colorado Mesa University where she has taught graphic design and drawing since 1994. As an avid sketchbook artist and graphic designer, her research focuses on capturing her experiences in the natural world with ink and watercolor. She enjoys teaching others how and has taught field journaling/sketching workshops at for the Colorado National Monument, Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park and Yellowstone National Park. In 2017, she completed an Artist Residency in Yellowstone National Park at the Yellowstone Art and Photography Center in the Old Faithful Historical Area.

**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, August 9, 2023, and ends on Saturday, August 12 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](mailto: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

Field journaling is a perfect way to capture your experiences while exploring the natural world. This class is for all artistic levels. I will be sharing some of my favorite field journaling techniques and approaches. You will find new directions, and ideas for capturing the moment as we experiment with quick sketches, notes, stamps, maps, composition, color, and drawing techniques. In addition, I will demonstrate my approach to plein air painting with watercolor and you will have a chance to apply all of these lessons.

Our first day will start in the evening at 7:00 p.m. with introductions and an overview of what to expect in the course. Then the next three days will begin at 7:00 a.m. as we head out into the park. We will travel to different locations where we can hike to various sites and sketch the landscape and wildlife. Each day will include site-based demonstrations and sketchbook time with different prompts for documenting your experience in the park.

In the classroom, we will look at examples from texts, slideshows, and my personal sketchbooks. Opportunities to share our work with friendly discussions and critiques will be plentiful. I will offer advice/help with any questions with the media/approaches you will be experiencing. Feel free to bring previous work to share during our time together.

Please contact me with any questions you have about the program or supplies at [sgarner@coloradomesa.edu](mailto:sgarner@coloradomesa.edu).

Sincerely,  
*Suzie Garner*

## 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 in the Gardiner Classroom**

Welcome and introductions  
Overview of Course Activities

### **Day 2 Field Journaling In the Field**

Pack your sketchbook and various art supplies for a day in the field. Pack a lunch too! We will be exploring the Lamar valley, the Northern Range and beyond while creating, documenting and making interesting pages in our journals.

Supper Break & Evening studio time at the YF Gardiner classroom to practice, critique (optional) and visit about art.

### **Day 3 Field Journaling In the Field**

Pack your sketchbook, various art supplies and lunch for our second day in the field. We will explore a different are of the park today while continuing to create, document and make interesting pages in our journals.

Supper Break & Evening studio time at the YF Gardiner classroom to practice, critique (optional) and visit about art.

### **Day 4 Field Journaling In the Field**

Pack your sketchbook, various art supplies and lunch for our last day in the field. We will explore a different are of the park today while continuing to create, document and make interesting pages in our journals.

Class will end at 5pm.

## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

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

### Required:

- Field Journal/Sketchbook of your choice  
(I recommend using 110 to 140lb weight paper when using watercolor.)
- Faber Castell Pitt Artist Pen (Superfine) or other waterproof technical pen
- Pencil (I prefer HB or harder to prevent smudging on pages.)
- Winsor & Newton™ Cotman Watercolour™ Compact Field Set
- Prismacolor Premier Verithin Colored Pencils
- Hand-held Pencil Sharpener
- Small 2-4 Ounce Nalgene to carry water for your watercolors. (Available at REI)
- White Plastic Eraser
- Small Pack to Carry Supplies

### 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](http://shop.yellowstone.org) Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount and proceeds directly support the park.

- John Muir Laws, 2016. *The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling*. Heyday.
- Kurt F. Johnson, 2013. *Field Guide to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks*. Farcountry Press.

## 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](mailto: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