



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## THE DREAM OF THE CAVE WITCH: CROW INDIAN MYTHOLOGY OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

**INSTRUCTOR:** Franco Littlelight

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:** **Franco Littlelight** started collecting the mythology, folklore, music, and songs of the Crow people at a very young age. After decades of collecting these cultural treasures, Mr. Littlelight presents the stories, music, and songs of his heritage with non-Native and non-Crow Indians alike in a way that is both accessible and enriching. Supplementing his interpretations with poetry, artwork, and compositions of his own, the lessons of the material is weaved together to enhance the experience of the magical Yellowstone Country.

**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 Wednesday, August 23, and ends on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT:** Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 27, 2023.

**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

Franco Littlelight has presented many programs regionally throughout Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, North and South Dakota as well as Arizona and New Mexico.

In the Dream of the Cave Witch, Mr. Littlelight has assembled a treasury of stories, both mythological, factual, and some in between; as well as music, songs, artwork, and poetry that testifies to the seemingly magical enchantment of Yellowstone Country. With references made to monsters, gods, heroes, and sorcery, Mr. Littlelight weaves the story of a people who transcend time. The romance of the American Indian is brought to life in tales of Little People, Big Foots, mystic shaman, treacherous beasts, and fearless warriors. All these characters have left their marks in the places where they have done battle. In each of these places we will discuss their feats and failures.

Ranging from tales of heroic feats, unrequited love, and mysterious events, the spectrum of these stories span the human experience. Despite the difference in place, time, and background, the lessons of these experiences speak to all of humanity, and these stories are a part of every individual human being. No matter where an individual is in life, new lessons are to be learned from these stories, music, songs, poetry, and art inspired by the Yellowstone Country.

- Franco Littlelight

## 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

Evening welcome, introductions, and background information

### Day 2 In the Field

The Flow of Life: Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Lake Country, & the Geyser Country.

Old Man Coyote, the Warriors of the Sun, the Enemies of Creation, and the systems of protection for the people.

Yellowstone Lake as the Source of the Creation

Presence of dangers, enemies, and hostile "Medicine Beings" in the area.

### Day 3 In the Field

Relics of the Creation Period: Mammoth Hot Springs,

Relics and the power, mystery, and danger inherent in what was left behind

Clearing the Earth of the Medicine Beings

### At the Ranch

The Lodge of Innumerable Suns: Closing Session

Applying these lessons to everyday life in the modern world

### Day 4 Check-Out

Check out of ranch by 9:00 a.m.

## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

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

### Optional:

- Magnifying glass or hand lens
- Camera
- Binoculars

## 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