



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## LATE SUMMER DAY HIKING

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

**INSTRUCTOR:** Sam Archibald, M.E.M.

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:** Sam Archibald is a Lead Field Educator for Yellowstone Forever. After completing his B.A. in history, Sam served with the US Peace Corps, working with an Ecuadorian nonprofit organization to develop outdoor leadership and environmental education programs for youth. Sam has continued to focus on outdoor education, joining the National Park Service as a Crew Leader for the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps and earning his Master's degree in Environmental Management. Sam is grateful for every day he gets to spend out in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and looks forward to the continual discoveries offered by this wild and wonderful landscape.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** This course is an activity **level 5** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared for brisk aerobic, destination-oriented hiking up to 12 miles a day. You should be physically conditioned to do these hikes comfortably. Elevation changes up to 2000 feet on dirt trails or off-trail. Loose rock, uneven footing, steep hillside traverses, and stream crossings are possible. Good coordination is required.\*

*\*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 Monday, August 28, 2023, and ends on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT:** No lodging is provided for this course, however, there may be 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

Greetings from Yellowstone!

I'm looking forward to meeting you all and exploring some of Yellowstone's phenomenal trails. Along the way, we will occasionally stop and wonder at the beautiful sights and sounds of this place. I'll provide commentary about the history, geology, wildlife, and more as we hike. I also hope to hear more about your experiences hiking in Yellowstone and beyond. Together we will find new inspiration as stewards of natural spaces, and renew our appreciation for all things wild.

The enclosed information should help you prepare for your trip and make clothing, gear, and food choices a little easier. The gear list below is a good starting point, but it is important to consult as many sources as possible before making your final decisions. Go to a reputable backpack/outdoor store and ask lots of questions, read magazines, books, and travel guides, and talk with experienced friends. In Yellowstone, summer still has the very real possibility of varied weather. While days can be warm and sunny, rain, cold weather, and even snow are not unlikely. Come prepared to dress in layers and with appropriate gear to stay comfortably dry while enjoying Yellowstone's backcountry. Having the right gear, especially properly fitting, sturdy footwear, will make your trip much more enjoyable.

Day hiking is a rigorous activity. For your own enjoyment and for the safety and enjoyment of the group, you should arrive in top physical condition. If you have any questions or concerns relating to your physical condition, please contact Yellowstone Forever Institute staff or the instructor so we can clear up any potential problems before entering the backcountry. It cannot be over emphasized how important good conditioning is for your health and safety as well as the general well-being of the group. Aerobic activities will best prepare you for day hiking; indeed, the best exercise is to put on your gear and get out and enjoy your surroundings at home. If you live at a low elevation, you should consider coming to Yellowstone a day or two early to acclimate yourself. Eating a well-balanced diet and staying well hydrated will help your body acclimatize once you've arrived.

See you soon!

Sam Archibald

## 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

#### Welcome and Orientation

**5:30 p.m.**

Welcome, logistics, meet the participants, introduction to LNT, safety, pack demonstration, finalize trail choices. Time for Q & A.

### Day 2 - 4

#### Leave for the day's hike

(departure time is dependent on weather conditions and trail choices)  
We'll spend each full day on the trail, leaving around 7:00 a.m. and returning around 4:00 p.m.

## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

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

### Required:

- ☐ Rain gear - never leave home without it!
- ☐ Re-usable water bottles
- ☐ Sunscreen/sunglasses
- ☐ Lunch & snacks
- ☐ An extra layer
- ☐ Water shoes for possible fords
- ☐ A good day pack to haul it all around
- ☐ Hiking boots - must be well-fitting and broken-in already!

### Optional:

- ☐ Notebook and pencil for observations
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Hiking poles

## 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.

## 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