



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

YELLOWSTONE WINTERSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – WINTER 2023/24

INSTRUCTOR: Kevin League, M.A.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Kevin League, M.A., is a Helena, Montana based award-winning professional landscape, lifestyle, and wildlife photographer, capturing Montana and the western United States' most beautiful, fleeting, and fascinating moments. He has been a student of photography for several decades beginning as a teenager when his parents handed down their 35mm film Nikon cameras to him. Fast forward a few decades later, Kevin would establish his photography business in 2015, and in 2020 he opened a gallery in downtown Helena, fulfilling a lifelong dream and quickly becoming one of Montana's favorite new visual artists. Inspired by early conservation photographers, Kevin believes his ability to share the beauty of our last best places will inspire others to respect, protect, and enjoy them. Kevin has dedicated his life to conservation through his photography, educational workshops and throughout a career protecting natural places that has spanned over 20 years with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is activity level 2 and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared for hikes on snow-packed trails, or snowshoe trips, up to 3 miles per day with climbs up to 250 feet.

**All field activities will be conducted as a group. If participants cannot meet the activity level expectations during the program, they may be restricted from participation in daily outings. Program itineraries or activities will not be altered 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 PM on Friday, February 23, 2024, and ends on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

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. More information on Gardiner-based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#).

MEALS: This course is not catered. Participants will need to bring their own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Winter General Information](#) document.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Winter is one of the most splendid times to capture Yellowstone's wildlife and stunning snow-covered landscape! This workshop focuses on capturing the park's pristine winter scenery and abundant wildlife. Explore the park's northern region from Gardiner, through Mammoth Hot Springs to Lamar Valley and beyond - stopping to capture the park's inspiring winter landscape scenes while searching for elusive predators like wolves, foxes, and coyotes, as well as large mammals like big-horned sheep, moose, elk, bison, and mule deer.

There is no doubt about it, winter in Yellowstone is cold, but being prepared, having the right gear and a positive mindset will make the best of the challenging conditions and help capture the best images. While there will be a classroom period on day one, discussing camera techniques and settings, a solid understanding of photography fundamentals and camera features and settings is mandatory for this workshop. Newcomers to photography or new camera owners, should spend the time necessary to become familiar with their gear. For example, participants should be able to change ISO, aperture, shutter speed and focus points, with gloves on and without looking at the screen, in addition to learning where to activate the camera's live view, different autofocus settings, exposure bracketing and self-timer functions as well, as these features will be used frequently during the time together.

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.

Participants will meet in one of the Yellowstone Forever Classrooms in the rear area of the Yellowstone Forever building in Gardiner for orientation.

The class will go over the program itinerary, discuss clothing and equipment needed for daily outings, and answer any questions participants may have. Participants will spend some time in the classroom discussing camera technique and settings for landscape and wildlife photography.

Days 2 - 3 Field days

On these days, the class will be meeting early (before sunrise ~7:30 a.m.) and staying out late (after sunset ~5:45 p.m.). There will be some time in the mid-day for sharing tips and techniques and taking some well-deserved downtime. On day three, the class will conclude the workshop after returning from a sunset shot near Mammoth or Gardiner (~5:45 p.m.)

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

This course requires participants to bring the items listed below. Additionally, for general program gear and for a full list of what is included in this course, check out the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Winter General Information](#) document.

REQUIRED CAMERA GEAR

If participants have two camera bodies, they should consider bringing both, setting up one camera/lens for wildlife and another for landscape. This minimizes the time necessary to swap lenses and can help capture fleeting moments and brief encounters with wildlife more quickly.

- ☐ **1 or 2 DSLR or Mirrorless Camera body/ies**
- ☐ **Tripod** – *good quality, sturdy*
- ☐ **Camera Manual(s)**
- ☐ **Extra Batteries and Chargers**
- ☐ **Wide Angle Lens (14-35mm)** - *for landscape*
- ☐ **Medium Lens (24-120mm)**- *for landscape*
- ☐ **Long Lens (200-600mm)** - *for wildlife*
- ☐ **Teleconverter** – *optional*
- ☐ **Spare Liner Gloves**
- ☐ **Microfiber or Dry Cloths** – *for moisture maintenance*
- ☐ **Weather Covering** - *for camera/lens*

ESSENTIAL WINTER GEAR

- ☐ **Gaiters** - *for keeping the snow out of boots.*
- ☐ **Feet and Hand Warmers**
- ☐ **Insulated Boots**
- ☐ **Gloves**
- ☐ **Hat**
- ☐ **Waterproof/Windproof Jacket and Pants**

RECOMMENDED READING

No specific readings are required, but participants might enjoy a variety of Yellowstone themed publications by visiting Yellowstone Forever's online store at 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 general program 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