



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## LEAVE NO TRACE INSTRUCTOR COURSE

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

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

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:** Sam Archibald is a Lead Field Educator for Yellowstone Forever. Sam first started with outdoor education as a US Peace Corps volunteer, working with an Ecuadorian nonprofit organization to develop outdoor leadership programs for youth. After earning his master's degree in Environmental Management through Western Colorado University (Gunnison, CO), Sam joined the National Park Service, working as a Crew Leader for the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps. What was supposed to be a single season in YNP turned into many as Sam fell in love the vivacity of this ecosystem. Sam first joined Yellowstone Forever's team as a winter seasonal educator and has been a permanent instructor since 2022. 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 activity **level 4** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 8 miles per day, at a brisk pace, comfortably, with climbs up to 1500 feet on dirt trails. Loose rocks, uneven footing, and off-trail hiking are possible. Good coordination is recommended.

*\*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 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, and goes through Thursday, April 18, 2024, 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:** 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, preparation for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

## PROGRAM ITINERARY

Practice and perfect the art of teaching outdoor ethics in one of the world's greatest outdoor classrooms! As you are likely aware, Yellowstone, just like many beautiful public lands throughout the country, have experienced record visitation in recent years. Leave No Trace (LNT) skills become your tool, both as a general visitor and as an outdoor professional to work toward a culture of responsible recreation to preserve these places for generations to come. In this two-day Level I Trainer course, you will become familiar with current techniques to minimize impact. The certification will also prepare you to lead certified LNT skills courses and awareness workshops.

You will apply the seven LNT principles through field-based discussions, hands-on demonstrations, and interactive activities designed to teach LNT to larger groups. You will also explore the dual mandate of the National Park Service and how it relates to wildland ethics more broadly. This course is designed for outdoor educators and guides, but it's applicable to anyone who spends significant time in wild spaces.

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** The course begins at 8:00 AM in the Yellowstone Forever classroom in Gardiner. After a welcoming orientation (Principle 1: Plan Ahead and Prepare), you will travel into the park for field-based discussions during an off-trail hike (Principle 2: Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces, Principle 4: Leave What You Find). You will return to Gardiner and break for dinner, then conclude the day with an evening campfire discussion (Principle 5: Minimize Campfire Impacts).
- Day 2** This day begins early with a 7:00 AM departure to take advantage of morning wildlife activity. Your instructor will cover principles 3 (Respect Wildlife) and 4 (Be Considerate of Other Visitors) in the field, as well as general techniques for teaching LNT workshops. The course concludes in Gardiner at 5:00 PM.

## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

- ☐ Notebook
- ☐ Writing Utensil

## RECOMMENDED READING

The following recommended readings are not required but may enhance the visit.

- Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. [101 Ways to Teach Leave No Trace.](#)

## 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](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.