



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

SPRING BABIES

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Shauna Baron, M.S.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Shauna Baron holds a B.S. in Biology, and a M.S. in Science Education. She has nearly 30 years of experience as an outdoor educator. She has participated in numerous wildlife studies throughout the U.S., including wolves, bear, pelicans and ravens. Shauna saw her first wild wolf while volunteering with the Yellowstone Wolf Project in 1996, and she has been working to protect carnivores and wild ecosystems, ever since. Shauna spent 13 years as a resident instructor for the Yellowstone Forever Institute, where she specialized in creating outdoor education programs for disabled veterans, inner-city youth, as well as autistic youth groups. Today, she continues to share her knowledge of the natural world, working as a naturalist guide in Yellowstone National Park. She is a published author and editor. When she is not writing or guiding a group, she can be found sitting on a hill watching wildlife, with a scope to her eye or book in her lap.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is activity **level 1** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 1 mile per day, comfortably, through relatively flat terrain on maintained trails.

**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: Lamar Buffalo Ranch – Yellowstone National Park, WY

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, and goes through Friday, June 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

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 [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Spring is your time for wildlife watching! The snow is finally melting, making way for green sprouts of grass as babies of every species begin to make their arrival. You'll look for bear cubs, wolf pups, bison calves, elk calves, bighorn lambs, and lots of young birds. You'll use spotting scopes and binoculars and take short walks to better vantage points. You'll also talk about why species choose certain birthing grounds and how they protect and raise their young. You'll be outside from before dawn throughout the day to after sundown, with plenty of free time to enjoy all aspects of Yellowstone's vibrant spring.

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

The program starts with an evening orientation. You will get to know one another and be introduced to the program. Throughout the evening, the itinerary and seminar key concepts will be discussed, as well as what to expect to pack for the field each day.

Day 2

Depart for morning wildlife watching. Please eat breakfast before and make sure to bring your daypack, snacks, water, sunscreen, rain gear, sunhat, and a journal or notebook.

Roadside viewing for wolves, bears, and other animals that are most active in the morning.

Afternoon Lunch break at the ranch, lecture

Afternoon walk up to 1 mile in wildlife habitat, and wildlife field lecture and reflection activity.

Return to the ranch for dinner and a break.

Optional evening wildlife watching on one of these evenings.

Day 3

Eat breakfast and pack a lunch before we leave. You will need your daypack, lunch, snacks, water, sunscreen, rain gear, sunhat, and a journal. We will be gone all day.

T.B.D. Depart for early morning wildlife watching

Roadside viewing for wolves, bears, and other animals that are most active in the morning.

Search for other wildlife species including songbirds, raptors, and sandhill cranes.

Lunch in the Field

Afternoon walk up to 1 mile in wildlife habitat, wildlife field lecture, reflection activity and closing discussions.

Day 4

Check-Out

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

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

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

- Journal, or notebook
- Writing utensil

RECOMMENDED READING

There are books and reference materials at the ranch for the class to enjoy during the stay. In addition to those materials, the following recommended readings are not required but may enhance the visit.

- National Park Service. *2023 Resource and Issues Handbook*. NPS, 2023.

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.