



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

YELLOWSTONE WATERCOLOR EXPEDITION: JULY SESSION

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Jill Williams

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Jill Williams is a long time educator, professional watercolorist, and seasonal resident of Yellowstone National Park. Her experience as a landscape artist and full time traveler have taken her across the country drawing and painting the natural beauty of our great nation. Jill's direct connection with Yellowstone and months spent studying and capturing its wild beauty have become the catalyst behind this exciting and personalized experience. It's Jill's hope to inspire and equip others to use watercolor to confidently chronicle the majestic beauty that surrounds them, while also developing a deeper understanding of the natural spaces they observe.

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: Course begins at the Yellowstone Forever classrooms located in Gardiner, MT.

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024, and goes through Monday, July 15, 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. 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

We all grab our phones to capture scenes during our travels, but have you ever wanted to chronicle your visual experiences outdoors in a more artistic and meaningful way? This workshop will teach artists of all skill levels a variety of sketching and painting techniques for creating your own watercolor journal, filled with your observations of the Yellowstone landscape. You're invited to continue in the same artistic tradition of recording and preserving your unique Yellowstone experience, just as artist Thomas Moran did during Ferdinand Hayden's 1871 expedition. Each month of summer will provide new and interesting views, and for each, you'll learn to paint forests, flora, streams, geysers and more, along with several tips on rendering wildlife as well. With the completion of this workshop, you'll be empowered to paint your outdoor experiences, connect more deeply with nature, and create treasured journals that hold your images with more passion than your phone will ever do.

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. Key discussion concepts and what to expect for the field each day will be addressed, with an emphasis on cultivating a deeper understanding and connection to nature through observation and painting.

Day 2 **Training and Prep Session with Afternoon Field Outing**

The morning session will be in the classroom with a focus on strategies and techniques for developing sketchbook content. You will prepare for your field experience by working through several sketching and painting exercises based on photos from Yellowstone, along with a focus on composition, and practical and artistic considerations for chronicling and recording outdoor experiences.

Lunch on your own in Gardiner

In the afternoon, you will be outdoors working on guided sketching and painting objectives in the Gardiner area. At the end of day, you will reconvene for feedback and support for the work produced.

Day 3 **Field Outing**

All day field outing by bus for sketching, painting, and compiling reference photos in areas on the western side of Yellowstone, including Swan Lake Flat, West Thumb Geyser Basin, Old Faithful and more. Artistic direction and support will be provided throughout the day. Midday break and lunch will be on your own at the nearest visitor center, and then returning to Gardiner at the end of day.

Day 4 **Field Outing**

All day field outing by bus for sketching, painting, and compiling reference photos in areas on the eastern side of Yellowstone, including a variety of overlooking views between Tower and Mammoth, Mt. Washburn, Hayden Valley, and more. Artistic direction and support will be provided throughout the day. Midday break and lunch will be on your own at the nearest visitor center, and then returning to Gardiner at the end of day. This will conclude the workshop.

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.

- A quality watercolor/mixed media journal
- [7" x 10" Stillman & Birn Alpha, wirebound](#) (or similar product) I will be using this journal during our sessions.
 - If you want actual cotton watercolor paper in your journal, recommended brands include Winsor & Newton, Saunders Waterford, Arches, or Hahnemühle (you can even make your own with sheets of quality watercolor paper cut to size)
 - Please avoid inexpensive watercolor journals/mixed media pads like Canson, Strathmore, Blick, Master's Touch, Artist's Loft, AquaBee, etc. These cheap surfaces will buckle excessively and disintegrate with watercolor washes, generally ensuring a frustrating painting experience and result.
 - Journal size should not exceed 9" x 12", or be smaller than 5" x 7" for our purposes
- [Quality Drawing Pencils with sharpener and eraser](#) (or similar product)
 - Avoid regular #2 school pencils which have lesser quality graphite and smudge excessively
- Professional watercolors: any **professional** quality colors you have in pans or tubes are fine, **make sure a palette is included.**
 - Bring as many colors as you wish, but the goal is to keep things simple.
 - Recommended Daniel Smith colors (suggested similar colors in parentheses):
 - Phthalo Blue Green Shade
 - French Ultramarine (regular Ultramarine)
 - Quinacridone Sienna (Burnt Sienna)
 - Cadmium Yellow Medium (Hansa Yellow Medium)
 - Imperial Purple (Dioxazine Violet/Purple)
 - Cadmium Red Medium
 - Undersea Green
- Plastic Water container (I use a [1 quart mixing cup](#) from Home Depot)
- 1" masking tape
- 100% Cotton Hand/kitchen towel (avoid paper towels for outdoors, especially in the park)
- Watercolor Brushes (please do not use brushes for oil/acrylic, they are different)
 - #12 round watercolor brush
 - ½" flat watercolor brush
 - #2 rigger (liner) brush (for fine lines and details)
- Legal size clipboard, any material (office supply stores or walmart, etc)

[Use Jill's Blick Affiliate link to purchase the paints & sketchbook bundle](#)

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program.

- Scott, Richard E. *Sketching from Square One ... to Trafalgar Square*. Sierra Madre Press, 2013.

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.
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