



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## SUMMERTIME ABUNDANCE: YELLOWSTONE AS SPIRITUAL INSPIRATION

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

**INSTRUCTOR:** Barbara Coeyman, Ph.D

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:** Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman is an ordained minister in the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal religion which, inspired by Unitarian naturalists such as Emerson and Thoreau, has long considered Nature an important spiritual source. As a credentialed facilitator with the Center for Courage and Renewal, founded on the writings of Parker Palmer, she incorporates the natural world into her ministry and will offer new overlays of spiritual experiences to the locations in Yellowstone included in this class. Yellowstone Park is one of her most visceral sources of spiritual renewal.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** This course is activity **level 2** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 600 feet. Some off-trail hiking possible.

*\*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 Thursday, July 18, 2024, and goes through Sunday, July 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

**LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT:** Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2024 and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 22, 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

Humans have long found spiritual inspiration through Nature. John Muir explained Nature as “places to play in and pray in, places to heal and give strength to your body and soul.” Indeed, your connections with Nature’s abundant life forms and geography deepen your reflection on the interconnectedness of all life. Nature’s abundance is evident everywhere in Yellowstone. In this class, based on a program called “Geography of Grace” developed by the Center for Courage and Renewal, you will draw on Yellowstone’s summertime abundance as jumping-off points for spiritual deepening. Through classroom conversations called “Circles of Trust,” you will engage in stories, poetry, visual arts, music, and more to explore your own spiritual connections with Nature. Then, expanding “Geography of Grace’s” usual second-hand relationship in talking about Nature, you will enjoy first-hand connections with inspirational locations in the Park: thermals, lakes and waterfalls, wildlife and plants, geology and vistas, and much more. In your excursions on location, you will be invited to continue your classroom exploration of Nature as a spiritual expression. Visits to locations in the Park will be both roadside and through easy to moderate walks on trails.

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**

Each of the three days will include a variety of readings, stories, and small-group conversations about places in geography as sources of spiritual inspiration. Visits throughout the Park will provide first-hand connections with the geographical sites considered in the readings and conversations.

**Day 2**      You will begin with an introduction to "Vista Points" as spirit guides. You will also learn the conversation method called "Circles of Trust." Places in geography considered as spiritual sources will include the high desert and prairies. Field visits, while focused on geography, will include the wide range of plant and animal life which contribute to your spiritual experiences in the field. Your field visits will also include time for individual art, journaling, photography, and other creative expression.

**Day 3**      You will continue to deepen understanding and practice of the "Circles of Trust" method. Places in geography to consider as spiritual sources will include Yellowstone thermals and wetlands, complemented by considering the night sky as inspiration.

**Day 4**      On your final day you will explore mountains and forests, through readings, conversations, and on-location visits. Your closing session will include a ritual in celebration of Mother Earth.

### **Day 5**      **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.

- Basic art materials (colored pencils, watercolors, clay, etc.)
- Journals
- Drawing paper as desired

## 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.

- Palmer, Parker J. *Let Your Life Speak*. John Wiley & Sons, 2000.
- Palmer, Parker J. *Hidden Wholeness: The Journey toward an Undivided Life*. John Wiley & Sons, 2004.
- Palmer, Parker J. *The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring*. Jossey-Bass, 1990.
- Palmer, Parker J. *The Courage to Teach*. Jossey-Bass, 1998.
- Palmer, Parker J. *The Promise of Paradox*. Jossey-Bass, 1980.
- Intrator, Sam M., and Megan Scribner. *Leading from Within: Poetry that Sustain the Courage to Lead*. Jossey-Bass, 2007.

## 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.