



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## OFF TRAIL ADVENTURES

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

**PROGRAM DATES & TIMES:** The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, and goes through Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

**LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT:** Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 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

Welcome to Off-Trail Adventures, where you'll experience three days of discovery beyond the asphalt, boardwalk, and even the trail. You will take advantage of the open landscape along the northern range to explore seldom-visited areas, hiking up to 8 miles a day through sagebrush and aspen groves, past rushing streams and wildflowers, and up to new vistas of iconic areas. Along the way, you will look for tracks, scat, bones, and general wildlife signs; evidence of Yellowstone's early human residents; and other unique features of this living landscape. You'll also engage in discussions about wildlife ecology, geology, park history, and more.

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**

After catching the sunrise at the Buffalo Ranch, you'll head to the hike, stopping en route for any wildlife viewing opportunities. Most of the day will be spent hiking off trail, exploring the wonders of the fully intact Yellowstone ecosystem.

### **Day 3**

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

Blazing the Trail: the last day will focus on the significance of Yellowstone's two million acres and public lands more broadly. After breakfast, you will pack up and convoy out to the hike location. Most of the day will be spent looking for geologic artifacts, wildlife sign, and hidden vistas. The course ends after the last hike, with participants free to return to Gardiner for dinner or continue on to wherever your trails lead next.

## 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.

## 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](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.