



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

BACKCOUNTRY 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 5** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared for brisk aerobic, destination-oriented hiking up to 12 miles a day. You should be physically conditioned to do these hikes comfortably. Elevation changes up to 2000 feet on dirt trails or off-trail. Loose rock, uneven footing, steep hillside traverses, and stream crossings are possible. Good coordination is required.

**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, August 30, 2024, and goes through Monday, September 2, 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

Practice and perfect the art of teaching outdoor ethics in one of the world's greatest outdoor classrooms! Yellowstone, like many beautiful public lands throughout the country, has experienced record visitation in recent years. Leave No Trace (LNT) skills are a critical tool, both for you as a general visitor and for outdoor professionals working toward a culture of responsible recreation to preserve these places for generations to come. This three-day Level I Trainer course is designed to familiarize you with state-of-the-art minimum impact techniques and prepare you to lead certified LNT skills courses and awareness workshops. You will apply the seven LNT principles on a two-night backpacking trip into remote areas of Yellowstone and spend your days focused on 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 would be applicable to anyone who spends significant time in wild spaces. Prior backpacking experience is recommended but not required.

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 begins with an evening orientation at 6PM. You will get to know each other, review the itinerary and the seven principles, and assess gear to ensure everyone is has the necessary food and equipment. Please bring everything you plan to take into the backcountry (it does not need to be packed in advance).

Day 2 **Into the Wild**

The first full day will start by exploring the Yellowstone landscape as we hike to the campsite. There will be stops along the way for mini-lessons focused on Principles 1 (Plan Ahead and Prepare) and 2 (Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces). After setting up camp and breaking for dinner, the day will conclude with an evening campfire discussion.

Day 3 **Leave No Trace in Practice**

This day will be spent entirely in the backcountry. All seven principles will be discussed in depth with practice group activities and other outdoor educational techniques. Be prepared for a short off-trail hike in the afternoon.

Day 4 **Leaving the Right Trace**

The last day will focus on outdoor ethics more broadly. Discussions will include personal responsibility, use and preservation, and the process for leading an LNT workshop or skills course. You'll then break camp, assess our impacts, and hike home.

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 detailed list will be provided prior to the course.

RECOMMENDED READING

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

- "*101 Ways to Teach Leave No Trace.*" Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. LNT.org.

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.