



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

AUTUMN WILDLIFE WATCHING

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2021

INSTRUCTOR: Amanda Evans, *Yellowstone Forever Lead Field Educator*

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Amanda Evans is a Yellowstone Forever lead field educator. Her passion for wildlife and wild places has taken her to working in California, Texas, Wyoming, Alaska, and Montana. She feels that it is through firsthand experience with the natural world that people build the strongest connections to it. Her goal is to use education to foster the same appreciation she feels and to inspire others to preserve and protect nature in all spaces.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an 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 you cannot meet the activity level expectations during your program, you may be restricted from participation in daily outings. We will not alter program itineraries or activities 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 Monday, September 6, 2021, and ends on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: No lodging is provided for this course. You can find more information on Gardiner based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#)

MEALS: You will need to bring your own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field with you.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

Welcome to Yellowstone's Northern Range—a wildlife hotspot renowned throughout the world for its charismatic megafauna but also home to many rare or potentially threatened species - bears, bison, pronghorn, wolves, falcons, eagles, snakes, and even lizards live here. During this program, we will spend the better part of three days looking for and discussing the amazing diversity of wildlife that makes its home in this rangeland, from mammals to birds to reptiles to insects. Discussions will focus on who lives here and how these animals fit into the more complex Yellowstone ecosystem. We will spend plenty of time in the field looking for as many different species.

Although much of our viewing may be possible from the road, short hikes each day (up to 3 miles) will help increase our chances of seeing certain species and give us a deeper appreciation and understanding of the plants and animals that make up this dynamic wildlife habitat. Signs and tracks of various species will also be examined on these hikes.

Be prepared to be outside in Yellowstone's late summer and autumn weather. We will have a few extra pairs of binoculars for those who do not have any and will provide spotting scopes to use on those harder-to-see animals.

Included is a tentative itinerary below, but the bulk of the program can be adapted to people's interests. A variety of materials, designed to assist in identifying animals we may encounter, will be used. We will grasp a better understanding of what niche or role they animals play in Yellowstone, and the management concerns that surround many of our more controversial and/or threatened species. Open discussion is always encouraged, so bring your questions, concerns, and even personal experiences with you as we explore together one of the most intact and diverse ecosystems on the planet.

We look forward to seeing you!

- *Amanda Evans, Yellowstone Forever Lead Field Educator*

PROGRAM ITINERARY

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.

Day 1 **Welcome and Orientation**

7:00 p.m. Orientation at Yellowstone Forever Classrooms

Participants meet at the Yellowstone Forever classroom at 308 W. Park Street, Gardiner, MT. The group will cover program logistics and itinerary.

Days 2 - 4 **Wildlife Watching and Hikes**

6:00 a.m. Depart Gardiner for Wildlife Watching

Each day begins early to catch the morning wildlife activity. Animals, like wolves and bears, tend to be most active in the early morning. Participants will be led on hikes throughout the days in search of tracks and sign while discussing ecology, behavior, recent research, and management. We expect to return by 4:00 p.m. every day.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

There is no specific equipment suggested for this program.

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program. Most publications are available at Yellowstone Forever's online store at shop.yellowstone.org Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount and proceeds directly support the park.

Websites

- [Yellowstone National Park's website](#)

Books

- Alden, P. et al. 1998. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Rocky Mountain States*. Alfred A. Knopf; New York, NY.
- Craighead, K. 1999. *Large Mammals of the Yellowstone Ecosystem*. Yellowstone Association: Yellowstone National Park, WY.
- Koch, E. D. and C. R. Peterson. 1995. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks*. University of Utah Press: Salt Lake City, UT.
- McEneaney, T. 1988. *Birds of Yellowstone*. Roberts Rinehart: Boulder, CO.
- Streubel, D. P. 1989. *Small Mammals of the Yellowstone Ecosystem*. Roberts Rinehart: Boulder, CO

WHOM TO CONTACT

For any questions, concerns, or additional information please contact the following:

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and activity 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