



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

YELLOWSTONE BY SKI OR SNOWSHOE

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – WINTER 2021/22

INSTRUCTOR: Shauna Baron, M.S., and Virginia Miller

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Shauna Baron, M.S., was a resident instructor for the Yellowstone Association Institute for more than a decade. She has studied large and small carnivores and worked with the Colorado-based Mission Wolf captive wolf program and US Fish and Wildlife Service Red Wolf Project, as well as volunteering for the Yellowstone Wolf Project.

Virginia Miller comes to Yellowstone from a long history in outdoor education and the Girl Scouts. She first worked in the park in 2012, thinking it would be just a fun one-summer job. But after falling in love with the animals, the thermals, and even the lodgepole pines, she never left! Over the last 10 years as a Yellowstone Naturalist, some of that time as a Lead Instructor for the Yellowstone Association and Yellowstone Forever Institutes, Virginia has worked with families, teachers, school groups and everyone in between.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an activity **level 3** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared for brisk hiking, snowshoeing, or skiing up to 5 miles per day with climbs up to 500 feet, including some trail-breaking in snow.

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

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 30, 2022, and ends on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 30, 2022, and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2022.

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 [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Winter General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

Immerse yourself in Yellowstone's winter landscape, where hot springs, deep snow, and crisp air combine to create a winter wonderland. This is your opportunity to live in the heart of wolf, bison, and elk country and to either hone or learn new ski or snowshoe skills as you gain a deeper understanding of the wildlife and geology of the park's northern range. Excursions may include early morning wildlife watching. Each day will include explorations of quiet, snow-laden trails by ski or snowshoe. You'll return to the warm camaraderie of your fellow adventurers.

- Shauna Baron, M.S., and Virginia Miller

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. *The details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.*

Day 1 Participants are welcome to check into the Lamar Buffalo Ranch starting at 4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet
Introduction to Lamar Buffalo Ranch and course specifics.

Days 2-4 **Ski and/or Snowshoe**

Each morning after breakfast students will depart for the field to ski or snowshoe. Depending on wildlife activity, we may spend the morning watching wildlife before departing on excursions. After a full day in the field, the group will return to the ranch for dinner, followed by an evening program. One early morning will highlight wildlife watching, depending on weather.

Ski and/or snowshoe options will include:

- Tower Fall: 5 miles, groomed trail
- Blacktail Trail: 3-6 miles, groomed trail
- Bannock Trail: 4-5 miles, ungroomed backcountry trail
- Baronnette Trail: 3.5 miles, ungroomed backcountry trail
- Junction Butte: 3 miles, off-trail
- Historic Wolf Pen: 3 miles, off-trail
- Fairies' Fall: 2 miles, off-trail

Day 5 Check out by 9:00 a.m.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Winter General Information](#) document.

Items specific to this course are:

- Winter Layers – should be easily packable and able to be put on to keep you warm when cooling down or easily stripped off when warm.
- Skis/Boots/Poles – bring your own or rent. Ski boots should fit well enough to be comfortable and avoid blisters
- Winter Boots – Yellowstone Forever will provide snowshoes; bring a boot that will fit inside of the snowshoe. Be sure your boots are a comfortable fit (your toes should move freely) and break them in before arrival.

RECOMMENDED READING

There are books and reference materials at the ranch for you to enjoy during your stay. In addition to those materials, the instructor has requested you read/bring the following.

- Schullery, Paul, 1995. *Yellowstone Ski Pioneers*. High Plains Publishing Co.
- Hough, Emerson, et al. *Rough Trip Through Yellowstone*. Riverbend Publishing, 2013.

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