



P.O. Box 117 Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190 \* 406.848.2400 \* [YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://YellowstoneAssociation.org)

Welcome to Yellowstone National Park! If you are a newcomer to the Institute, you will be amazed at what awaits you during each day of exploration. If you are a veteran of Institute programs, you are aware of the many perspectives from which learning can take place in this diverse place. Since its inception in 1976, the Institute has been providing educational programs that offer diverse and in-depth studies of the Yellowstone area, bringing back instructors and participants year after year. We are glad you are able to join us. As Yellowstone National Park's primary partner in education, our goal is to provide you with an enjoyable, high-quality educational experience and a safe and memorable visit to Yellowstone.

The following information is provided to help you prepare for your program. Please read it thoroughly and call us at 406.848.2400 or email [registrar@yellowstoneassociation.org](mailto:registrar@yellowstoneassociation.org) if you have any questions. Please return your completed health questionnaire at least 30 days prior to your program. We recommend that first-time visitors seek general park information through the National Park Service at 307.344.2107 or [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell).

**Important information included in this document:**

- Program Overview
- What's Included
- How to Prepare for this Program
- Program Itinerary
- Suggested Reading
- YA Park Store Information
- YA Membership Information
- Code of Ethics
- Cancellation Policy
- Travel Information

**Program Overview: Roosevelt Rendezvous**

This unique program features four days of learning, exploration, and fun at the historic Roosevelt Lodge in Yellowstone. During the day, you will choose from a variety of full-day and half-day field trips. There are many ways to learn about the natural processes and experience the distinct feel of this special time of year. Trips will allow you to participate in vigorous guided hikes, search for wildlife in the early morning, enjoy easy geology strolls, take a photography tour, and do your own thing during downtime. Each evening, you will return to the Roosevelt Lodge, a rustic log outpost in the middle of Yellowstone's Northern Range. All field activities take place in small groups, however it is fine if you choose not to participate in arranged activities.

Late afternoons and early evenings are reserved for rest and relaxation; you can read, have a drink on the Roosevelt porch, chat with other participants in the main lodge, or just take a nap. ***Roosevelt Rendezvous*** creates a social atmosphere allowing participants to learn from each other and build lasting relationships with the park, as well as with each other. During the cocktail hour, naturalist guides introduce the next day's excursions and participants sign up for their chosen activity. Dinners are served buffet-style in the main lodge where participants exchange tales of the days' field trips and all enjoy good food and company in an historic environment. Dinners are followed by evening educational presentations by Yellowstone geologists, wildlife biologists, historians, interpretive guides, or other fascinating guests.

### What's included?

**Roosevelt Rendezvous** includes four nights lodging in a private cabin at Roosevelt Lodge, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 5, instruction by Institute instructors, in-park transportation, and evening presentations. Each evening before dinner there will be a cocktail hour in the main lodge with a cash bar serving beer and wine. Any gratuities, including gratuities for instructors, are discretionary.

Accommodations are in rustic, private, studio-style cabins that do not have bathrooms. Shower and restroom facilities are a short walk away in one of two bathhouses. A small wood stove heats each cabin and fuel will be delivered to your cabin daily. Lighting a woodstove can be a fun experience, but can take some practice—be prepared to take some time to learn this important skill. Please note that even a roaring fire does not last all night in the cabin woodstoves, and when the fire is out, temperatures drop quickly in these minimally insulated cabins. For those who do not relish the idea of feeding the woodstove throughout the night, we recommend bringing an extra sleeping bag or blanket to keep you warm. Remember, Yellowstone is at a northern latitude and a high elevation, so temperatures are lower than most visitors expect.

We look forward to sharing Yellowstone with you!

### How to prepare for this program

#### How fit do you need to be?

A variety of options will be available so that each student can pick and choose to create their own experience based on their individual interests, skills, and changing energy levels. Additionally, participants may choose downtime. Depending on the daily field trips you choose, activity levels will range from short walks on level ground to day-hikes of up to 12 miles and elevation change of up to 2000 feet. All field trips include some short walks, so be prepared for some level of activity.

We recommend you begin an exercise program right away if you have not already done so. Participants residing at lower elevations may want to arrive a day early to adjust to the altitude. To learn more about how specific medical conditions can be affected by Yellowstone's environment and our activities, please visit [www.tinyurl.com/yahealth](http://www.tinyurl.com/yahealth)

#### General clothing and equipment list

Much of your time will be spent outdoors and all programs are held rain, snow or shine. ***You should be prepared for a variety of mountain weather conditions and temperatures. Appropriate clothing, equipment and footwear are very important.*** Spring, summer and fall temperatures can range from below freezing in the mornings to 85 degrees Fahrenheit in the afternoons. The layered use of garments for protection against the wind, sun and temperature extremes should guide your clothing choices. Loose-fitting layers allow you to maintain a comfortable and dry body as outside temperatures change, and as your own body temperature and moisture output changes with different levels of exertion. Some colder-weather items may not be needed in July or August, but please keep in mind that Yellowstone's weather is unpredictable.

#### Summer clothing:

- ☐ **Insulating underwear**, capilene, polypropylene, or similar wicking fabric.
- ☐ **Mid-weight insulating layer**, light, 200-weight synthetic fleece or wool shirt/pullover.
- ☐ **Heavyweight insulating layer**, wool, down, or heavy-weight fleece jacket, for less-active times.
- ☐ **Waterproof and windproof outer layer**, lightweight and breathable. Jackets and pants are recommended.
- ☐ **Short-sleeve shirt**, cotton is okay in summer, but synthetic wicking shirts are ideal.
- ☐ **Pants**, synthetic hiking pants, lightweight pile/fleece pants or tights or similar. Jeans are not recommended.

- ☐ **Hats**, both a brimmed sun hat and an insulating hat for cool weather.
- ☐ **Gloves**, lightweight glove liners and a pair of wool/fleece gloves or mittens.
- ☐ **Socks**, light wool or synthetic liner sock with heavier wool or synthetic outer sock. The inner-outer sock combination helps prevent blistering, wicks moisture and reduces friction. Cotton socks do not wick moisture and are not recommended.
- ☐ **Hiking boots**, that provide stability, traction, and comfort. Unless you've consistently hiked in athletic shoes, bring boots that provide ankle support.
- ☐ **Off-duty shoes**, sandals, athletic shoes, or other leisure footwear.

**Equipment:**

YA field staff assigned to your program will be carrying a first aid kit, bear spray, and emergency communication device.

- ☐ **Daypack**, with enough capacity to carry extra clothes, water, lunch, camera, binoculars, field guides, etc.
- ☐ **Water bottle**, one-quart is the minimum. Camelback or similar hydration systems work well in summer but can freeze in winter.
- ☐ **Sunglasses**
- ☐ **Sunscreen/lip protector**. Sun at high altitude can burn unprotected skin quickly.
- ☐ **Camera, binoculars.**
- ☐ **Notebook/pencil.**
- ☐ **Pocket hand and foot warmers**—recommended November through May.
- ☐ **Alarm Clock:** Make sure you're ready for early mornings! Not all hotel rooms/cabins have alarm clocks.
- ☐ **Sleeping Bag/Heavy Blanket:** Autumn evenings in the Roosevelt Lodge rustic cabins can be cold. The wood stoves in the cabins do not burn all night long—bringing an extra sleeping bag or blanket will keep you more comfortable after the fire burns out and is strongly recommended.
- ☐ **Flashlight:** A small light for walking to and from your cabin in the evenings and mornings.

**Program Itinerary**

Daily events will vary for each person depending on his or her choices, each day. The itinerary below lists the basic outline of the progression through each day. Field trip departure/return times will vary by topic and will be announced each evening.

**Day 1                      Welcome to Roosevelt Rendezvous/**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 3-5:30 p.m. | Arrive and register at Roosevelt Lodge                               |
| 5 p.m.      | Cocktail hour begins in the main lodge with cash bar (beer and wine) |
| 5:30 p.m.   | Welcome reception and program overview in the main lodge             |
| 6:30 p.m.   | Buffet dinner in the main lodge                                      |
| 7:45 p.m.   | Educational presentation in the main lodge (approximately 1 hour)    |
|             | Overnight at Roosevelt Lodge   |

## **Days 2, 3, 4 Exploring Yellowstone in Autumn**

6 a.m.	Coffee available in the main lodge Early departure field trips pick up box breakfasts and lunches in the main lodge
6:15 a.m.	Wildlife watching field trips depart
7 a.m.	Buffet breakfast in main lodge (closes at 8:30 a.m.) and box lunch pick-up in the main lodge
7 - 8 a.m.	Other field trips depart
12 p.m.	Morning field trips return Boxed lunches in the field or at lodge
1 p.m.	Afternoon field trips depart
3 p.m.	Wildlife watching field trips return
4 p.m.	Full day and other half day field trips return
5:30 p.m.	Cocktail hour begins in the main lodge with cash bar (beer and wine)
6 p.m.	Field trip review: Instructors provide a synopsis of the day's events and an overview of next day's options—participants must be seated in the main lodge no later than 6 p.m. for this presentation. During this time, sign-ups will be made for the following day's field trips.
6:30 p.m.	Buffet dinner in the main lodge
7:45 p.m.	Educational presentation in the main lodge (approximately 1 hour) Overnight at Roosevelt Lodge

## **Day 5 Check-Out and Farewell**

6 a.m.	Coffee available in the main lodge Wildlife watching field trip <b>check-out</b> and pick up box breakfasts in the main lodge
6:15 a.m.	Wildlife watching field trip departs
7 a.m.	Buffet breakfast in the main lodge (closes at 8:30 a.m.)
10 a.m.	<b>Check-out</b>
10:00 a.m.	Wildlife watching field trip returns

## **Suggested Reading**

No prior reading is required, but you might want something to occupy the long plane or car ride to Yellowstone. Whether your passion is history, geology, wildlife or ecology, there's something for everyone. Most publications are available from the Yellowstone Association's online Park Store at [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/shop](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/shop) or by calling 406.848.2400. Yellowstone Association members receive a 15 percent discount and proceeds go directly back into the park for education and research.

- Craighead, F.C.Jr., 1994. *For Everything There is a Season: The Sequence of Natural Events in the Grant Teton-Yellowstone Area*. Falcon Publishing, Inc. 206 pp.
- Marchand, P, 2000. *Autumn: A Season of Change*. University Press of New England. 224 pp.
- Phillips, M.K. and Smith, D., 1998. *The Wolves of Yellowstone*. Voyageur Press, Inc. 128 pp.
- Ferguson, G. 2003. *Hawk's Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of Yellowstone*. National Geographic. 240 pp.
- Schullery, P.D., 1999. *Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness*. First Mariner Books, Houghton Mifflin Company. 338 pp.

## **Park Stores**

Our Park Stores features more than 900 books, maps and videos to help you plan your visit, along with a wide selection of shirts, hats and other logo items to remind you of your visit to Yellowstone. Yellowstone Association members receive a 15 percent discount on merchandise online or at any of 12 locations in and around Yellowstone. Proceeds directly support education and research in Yellowstone. Visit: [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/shop](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/shop)

## Membership

Yellowstone Association members directly fund education and research, provide scholarships for teachers and expand programming for underserved youth. Member benefits include a subscription to our magazine *Yellowstone Quarterly*, early registration and discounts for Institute courses and discounts on retail purchases throughout Yellowstone (exclusions apply). If you are not a member of the Yellowstone Association, an introductory subscription (one year) to our magazine *Yellowstone Quarterly* is included with your tuition. For more information about membership, visit: [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/join](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/join)

## Code of Ethics

The Yellowstone Association Institute is committed to demonstrating a high standard of appropriate and ethical behavior in Yellowstone. As a participant in an Institute program, we ask you to adhere to the following Code of Ethics. In addition to the ethics highlighted below, the Institute abides by all National Park Service rules and regulations. We also practice Leave No Trace guidelines for traveling responsibly in the wilderness.

**Observing wildlife:** We will do our best to have as little impact on wildlife as possible. Animals will be observed from a distance, using high-powered spotting scopes to help keep our presence from affecting their behavior. Participants should not expect to get close-up photographs of wildlife. The Institute will adhere to National Park Service regulations by keeping a minimum distance of 25 yards from bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, coyotes and nesting birds and 100 yards from bears and wolves. We will not entice wildlife with food, animal calls or any actions that change their behavior.

**Leave what you find:** It is illegal to remove natural or cultural artifacts (plants, animals, bones, rocks, etc.) from Yellowstone. Institute instructors have permission from the National Park Service to manipulate plants, rocks, bones, etc. for educational purposes and will return them to their natural positions and locations.

**General etiquette:** Institute groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people—remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (including wolf howls) prevail.

**Roads and vehicles:** Expect wildlife on the road, and drive at or below the posted park speed limits. When stopping to observe wildlife or other park features, the Institute will move vehicles entirely off the road. If there is no safe pullout available, we will drive to the next safe place and walk back to observe the wildlife. We will not stop in the middle of the road, and should a traffic jam develop as a result of our activities, we will cease the activity.

**Properly dispose of waste:** We will pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. Your instructor will discuss techniques for properly disposing of human waste in the field.

**Traveling lightly:** When hiking or walking in Yellowstone, we will use existing trails and boardwalks. We will follow appropriate techniques when walking off-trail. Walking around muddy or wet places in the trail increases erosion and negatively affects the resource; proper equipment is essential to hiking ethically. Participants should come adequately prepared with the equipment listed for their course and should expect to walk through mud, snow or puddles in the trail.

*Thank you for helping us set a good example in Yellowstone!*

## Cancellation and Refund Policy

For packages, 60-day notice is required to receive full refund of your deposit amount. Cancellations made between 30-60 days will result in 50% forfeiture of package cost. Cancellations made within 30 days of arrival result in 100% forfeiture of package cost. We recommend the purchase of travel insurance to help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip due to unforeseen circumstances. For more information about travel insurance please ask our representative when booking your reservation.

