



April 30th and May 1st, 2021 at Ritter Springs Park

What is WOW?

- WOW is a National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School that introduces families and individuals to a variety of outdoor activities.
- WOW is a hands-on learning experience that attracts a wide range of ages, interests and abilities.
- WOW is a great family outing with educational components.
- WOW teaches basic skills necessary for families and individuals to enjoy outdoor activities in a safe and responsible manner.
- WOW is a leisure time recreational activity with health benefits that promote the quality of life while enjoying the outdoors.
- WOW is taught by knowledgeable instructors.

For more information, call Wonders of Wildlife at 417-225-1162; or e-mail Wonders of Wildlife at edu@wondersofwildlife.org. Registration **materials** are available online at <https://wondersofwildlife.org/education/wow-school/>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS April 15th, 2021

Check out our other WOW Schools!

Kansas City / **September 24th-25th, 2021**

St. Louis / **September 18th-19th, 2021**

Roaring River State Park / **October 8th-10th, 2021**

Join us on Facebook! Become a fan of WOW School

<https://www.facebook.com/wowschool>

PROGRAM INFORMATION

MISSION STATEMENT

WOW National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School is designed to teach participants how to enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation activities while practicing personal safety and outdoor responsibility. Each WOW course will include an outdoor skill and a conservation, safety and ethics component.

LOCATION

WOW National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School will be held on April 30th and May 1st, 2021 at Ritter Springs Park. Ritter Springs Park is located north of Springfield 3683 W Farm Rd 92, Springfield, MO 65803.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Participants must be nine (9) years of age or older to attend WOW School classes. Children four (4) to eight (8) years old can attend the Kid's Camp program, see below. An adult must accompany children age nine (9) to twelve (12) to all classes and program activities. (This means the adult/guardian must be registered for and attend the same class as the child.) Discretion will be left to the parent or guardian to determine whether a child, age thirteen (13) or older, is capable of attending classes unsupervised. All individuals who attend any WOW class must be registered.

KIDS CAMP

Designed for children four (4) to eight (8) years of age, the Kids' Camp offers exciting outdoor activities. Located in Ritter Springs Park the Kids' Camp is fun-filled and full of educational activities designed to teach and inspire a child's natural curiosity about nature and the great outdoors. All staff and volunteers working with Kids Camp are required to have a background check.

PROGRAM CHANGES

Organizers reserve the right to cancel, reschedule or relocate any proposed offering without prior notice. Insufficient enrollment or emergency cancellations by the instructor are examples of why a program could be cancelled. Organizers also reserve the right to substitute instructors if necessary.

SPECIAL NEEDS

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, WOW will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with special needs. Please enclose a letter with your registration form stating any special needs you may have. This includes any dietary needs, as we will do our best to accommodate you and make alternative arrangements.

TRANSPORTATION

Individuals are responsible for their own transportation to classes and program activities. All classes are within walking distance of the camping area. If a class location is located farther than participants can walk, participants can drive. However, parking is limited and all vehicles should only park in designated areas.

REGISTRATION

For 2021, we have two options to register for WOW School Springfield, online or paper registration. For online, please visit: <https://wondersofwildlife.org/education/wow-school/>, the registration link will be uploaded as soon as registration is open. For paper, please follow the instructions below.

1. Complete a **registration** form (**one for each person** please, unless you are taking the same classes) Indicate first, second, and third choice of classes – this is very important!
2. Enclose payment in full: make check payable to WOW School Springfield.
3. Sign and enclose the **WOW liability/photo release** form.

Mail registration materials and payments to:

Wonders of Wildlife
Attn: WOW School Springfield
500 W. Sunshine
Springfield, MO 65807

Or Fax to: (417) 225-1169

If any of the above is not received, your registration will not be processed

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation and refund requests must be submitted in writing to WOW School, prior to Thursday, April 15th, 2021. All refunds are subject to a \$10 non-refundable service fee. When, if applicable, refunds will be processed after a three-week (minimum) waiting period.

CONFIRMATION LETTER

Participants will receive a confirmation letter after registration has been completed (please allow several weeks for processing). The letter will provide: a list of classes in which the participant has successfully been enrolled, any special instructions for the course (including clothing or equipment needs), a detailed map of the WOW campus and any special event information. The confirmation letter is meant to ensure participants are aware of their responsibilities and expectations before arriving at WOW School.

MEALS

The registration fee covers all meals served during the event. Dinner will be provided on Friday, April 30th, breakfast and lunch will be provided on Saturday, May 1st. Please enclose a letter with your registration form stating any special dietary restrictions you or members of your party may have. We will do our best to accommodate you and make alternative arrangements.

CAMPING

Sites will be available to participants for tent camping only. Camping will be primitive as there are no electrical or water hook-ups. We ask that you bring your own tents and bedding. However, both tents and sleeping bags are available on a limited basis, and will be provided based on need and the date registration was received. Staff will be on hand to help anyone who needs assistance setting up their campsite. Camping is not required you can just come for the evening and day activities.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GUIDE

To help participants anticipate each course and know what physical levels to expect, a physical activity rating system has been created. Listed in the course catalog, you will find a physical level rating for each course.

- **Low** - Requires minimal physical skills/endurance. Ex. Lecture based and hands on activities in a classroom setting.
- **Moderate** - Requires moderate physical skills/endurance. Ex. Lecture based and hands on activities while standing and short walks.
- **High** - Requires high levels of physical skills/endurance. Ex. Lecture based and hands on activities while standing, hiking, lifting and full body movement.

- **Extreme** – Requires the highest level of physical skills/endurance with added emotional engagement/participation. Ex. Lecture based and hands on activities while experiencing, heights, confined spaces, crawling and full body movement.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE!

Financial assistance for registration will be available for families who are in need. To apply, submit a one-page request letter along with a completed registration form and liability release waiver for each person in your party on or before April 15th, 2021. In your letter include the following: why you want to attend, the reason for hardship, annual income, the ages of your family members and a phone number to best reach you by.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Friday April 30th, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Beyond S'mores:

(Low)

S'more WHAT?? That is right; there are MORE treats to make around a campfire than just the ole S'more. You will have the opportunity to learn and eat delicious campfire treats that are also made on a stick. Bring the whole family for a sweet evening of fun and tasty treats. Wet wipes will be included!

Instructor: Lisa Carpenter, *Wonders of Wildlife Volunteer*

Friday April 30th, 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM

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(Low)

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Friday April 30th, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Bat Flight and Nature Hike

(Low/Moderate)

Join us for a leisurely nature night hike through Ritter Springs Park and experience the flight of a lifetime! Learn about and witness a federally endangered species, the Gray Bat, flying through the night sky! The night hike will also include games and amazing facts about our local bats.

Instructor: Justin Smith and Jerome Brauner, *Springfield-Greene County Park Board*

Disc Glow

(Moderate)

Join us for a nighttime disc golf course complete with glow sticks on the baskets and targets as well as on the disks. We will teach you the basics of the game and show you the course and then you're off to play this fun game! Discs and glow sticks provided.

Instructor: Matthew Murray, *Wonders of Wildlife*

Owl Prowl

(Low)

Calling all night owls! Join us for a fun and informative owl prowling to learn about owls that roost here in Missouri. Bring the whole family as we will begin with s'mores and a fireside story time to get us in the owling mood. Then, we'll set off into the night to listen and call for these head turning predators!

Instructor: Aubree Riepl, Lead Educator, Dogwood Canyon Nature Park

Saturday May 1st, 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

CAMP OH NO! (Leave No Trace)

(Low)

This "hands-on" course is designed to introduce Leave No Trace principals for a variety of outdoor activities – hiking, camping, paddling, fishing, etc. By learning and adopting LNT, we are pledging to be good stewards of the environment and to responsibly recreate so future generations may enjoy the outdoors as we do.

Instructor: Todd Wilkinson, James River Basin Partnership

Dutch Oven Cooking:

(Low)

Participants can expect a "hands-on" approach and a full stomach with their gourmet cooking results. Have fun learning how to prepare food for camping excursions. Participants will become familiar with the equipment used in outdoor cooking. Safety will be stressed along with respect for fire. Participants must be at least 12 years of age to register for this course.

Instructor: Dr. Larry Quinalty, *Dutch Oven Cooking Specialist*

Intro to Atlatl

(Moderate)

This course is designed to introduce students to the history, physics, construction and use of the Atlatl and dart. We will learn about the Atlatl from prehistory to its current use as a legal hunting method, talk about different types of Atlatl and darts, and construct some quick field Atlatls as well as a few darts. There will be targets set up to learn throwing techniques and, if time allows, we may have a contest with an Atlatl and dart kit up for grabs.

Instructor: Adam Crook, *Bushcraft and Primitive Skills Practitioner*

Intro to Bowfishing

(Moderate)

In this class you will learn the basics of bowfishing. This includes an introductory knowledge of what kinds of equipment is used, how to set it up, bowfishing regulations for the state of Missouri and even practice using this equipment on lifelike targets on an underwater bowfishing course!

Instructor: Matthew Murray, *Wonders of Wildlife*

Miniature Garden Creation:

(Low)

Have you always wanted a lush, beautiful garden but worry about the amount of time and energy it takes to maintain it? Why not start small, forgo the huge commitment and create your very own miniature garden. In this course you will learn the basics of potting and maintaining living plants. You will even get to choose a whimsical theme for your garden.

Instructor: Sara Anderson, *Wonders of Wildlife*

Physical Education in Nature

(Moderate)

Families and individuals from youth to senior maturity will enjoy the morning in the outdoors by participating in a physical education-inspired traverse! The group will journey along a path through nature with stops that will include challenges and physical education-inspired activities. You will also be learning about and making healthy snacks along the way (some food may contain nuts). Endurance and movement expectations will be adjusted for participants' ability levels, along with guidance by a certified physical education instructor.

Instructor: Thomas Ley and Jessica Hayes; *CrossFit Fitness*

WOOF EM

(Low)

Woof'em sticks are a new fun way to cook over the campfire. Each participant will make and take their own woof'em stick. We will teach you different recipes and tips, in addition you will create your own meal, including the best part - dessert!

Instructor: Deanna and Lisa Carpenter, *Wonders of Wildlife Volunteer*

Saturday May 1st, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Appreciating MO Wildflowers

(Low)

"Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them." This course will expand your knowledge in identifying Missouri wildflowers, and when/where to find them. This course will include a light walk.

Instructor: Gala Keller, *Missouri Master Naturalist*

Backpacking Essentials

(High)

Hiking; the activity of going for long walks, especially in the country or woods. I think we all agree you need to take a long walk from time to time to be surrounded by nature's remarkable beauty. In this class, you will learn that there is a difference in being prepared for a light walk on a paved path, and a true hike on game trails through brush and uneven terrain. We will also go over the proper prepping method for a half-day hiking trip and traverse uneven terrain on several trails.

Instructor: Alexander Konarski, *Wonders of Wildlife*

Dutch Oven Cooking:

(Low)

Participants can expect a "hands-on" approach and a full stomach with their gourmet cooking results. Have fun learning how to prepare food for camping excursions. Participants will become familiar with the equipment used in outdoor cooking. Safety will be stressed along with respect for fire. Participants must be at least 12 years of age to register for this course.

Instructor: Dr. Larry Quinalty, *Dutch Oven Cooking Specialist*

Fuzz Sticks and Fire Starter

(Moderate)

Do you know what a "Fuzz Stick" is, or how it is used? In this class, you will learn how to make fire starters from items found around your house, which should allow you to start a fire with one match. You will also learn about the fire triangle, fire structures and how they are important in building and sustaining a fire. Participants will make fire starters, and start fires as time allows.

Instructor: Tim Smith, *Missouri Department of Conservation*

Intro to Caving

(High)

A family oriented “wild” caving experience at Ritter Springs Park’s Junction Cave and Cricket Hole. This is a hands-on learning experience that will take participants inside of two caves and include information on cave habitat, caving safety, cave life, and cave restoration. Dress for the outdoors and the potential of getting dirty. Crawling is optional.

Headlamps and helmets will be provided. Knee pads are recommended.

Instructor: Justin Smith, *Springfield-Greene County Park Board*

Nature Wreath Making

(Low)

You will be able to create your own unique designs by working with natural tree and plant forms to fashion small bouquets. Wreath designs can consist of greens, pods, cones, dried flowers, moss twigs, and a plethora of other wild and garden goodies. Finishing touches to your one-of-a-kind decoration can be given with bows, applying sparkles and crafting sprays, or choosing from other items to give your inspired by nature creations a special addition!

Instructor: Jessica Hayes, *Bass Pro Shops Conservation Department*

Saturday May 1st, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Camping Basics

(Moderate)

Are you new to camping? Have you wanted to pack up and escape it all but not quite sure how or what to bring? Be sure and join us for our camping basics session as we learn all the ins and outs of how to camp successfully in any type of situation. From preparing a checklist to choosing the right gear, you will be confident in your camping skills by the end of this course!

Instructor: Alexander Konarski, *Wonders of Wildlife*

Geocaching with a Smartphone:

(Moderate)

This is an introductory course to Geocaching with a smart phone. After we cover the basics we will hit the trail to find a “treasure” with your smart phone. Users MUST bring their own smart phone with a data plan.

Instructor: Trish Tannehill, *Geographic Information Systems Specialist*

Intro to Fly Fishing

(Moderate)

This course is designed to introduce students to fly fishing gear, the categories of fishing flies and how to choose and outfit your fly rod. We will also learn how to fly cast, and participants will benefit from using their own equipment. A limited number of rod outfits will be available for those without one. Sunglasses and a hat are recommended for your safety. Waders are not needed.

Instructor: Allen Keller, *Missouri Master Naturalist*

Intro to Paddle Sports

(Moderate)

Splash around on the spring fed pond at Ritter Springs Park while learning the basics of paddle sports. Try out both canoeing and kayaking with experienced instructors who will be teaching basic paddling strokes and ways to keep you and your family safe while on the water.

Instructor: Justin Smith & Jason Schmidt, *Springfield-Greene County Park Board*

Tree ID

(Moderate)

Missouri is home to more than 14 million acres of forests, spreading to every boarder of the state. In this class you will learn to how identify several species of native trees and how they benefit us. Be sure to bring a pencil and notebook, if you want to take notes. If time permits we will identify the tress growing nearby.

Instructor: Tim Smith, *Department of Conservation*

Nature Jewelry Making

(Low)

Get artsy with us and create your own nature jewelry! Using some of earth's natural resources, along with materials such as UV resin you can make jewelry that is truly one of a kind!

Instructor: Audrey Moore, *Wonders of Wildlife*

Saturday May 1st, 8:15 AM – 4:45 PM

Kids Camp

This program is designed for children ages four (4) to eight (8). The Kids' Camp, offers lots of exciting outdoor educational activities that will help inspire a child's natural curiosity about nature and the great outdoors. The entire day will be fun-filled and include, hiking, nature crafts, and lots more. (Children will return to parent/guardians during the lunch break)

Instructor: Holly Balch, *Wonders of Wildlife*