



National Outdoor Recreation
& Conservation School

COURSE GUIDE 2025

FOR ENROLLMENT, VISIT:
[WONDERSOFWILDLIFE.ORG/WOW-SCHOOL](https://wondersofwildlife.org/wow-school)

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, conservation, safety, and ethics component.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WOW School is designed as an annual event that offers a comprehensive educational program through selected courses and workshops. Some courses are designed to provide a complete range of instruction, while others deal with only one topic. Each year, the program will vary depending on requests and previous participation.

LOCATION

WOW School will be held the weekend of October 10-12, 2025, at Roaring River State Park, which is located just seven miles south of Cassville, Mo., on Highway 112. Registration and check-in will be located inside the Emory Melton Inn and Conference Center. For information about Roaring River State Park, log on to mostateparks.com/park/roaring-river-state-park.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Participants must be five (5) years of age or older to attend WOW School classes; however, children ages 5-8 must be registered for Kids Camp for Saturday and Sunday (see below). Children ages 9-12 must be accompanied by an adult to all classes and program activities. (This means that 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 aged thirteen (13) or older is capable of attending classes unsupervised. All individuals who attend any WOW School class must be registered for that class. (Some classes may have other age restrictions or requirements – see class descriptions.)

KIDS CAMP

Designed for children five (5) to eight (8) years of age, the Kids Camp offers exciting outdoor activities in a summer camp-like setting. Located in Roaring River State Park, Kids Camp is fun-filled and full of educational activities that are designed to inspire a child's natural curiosity about nature and the great outdoors. The registration fee for the Kids Camp is \$60 per child. Kids Camp is held all day, Saturday and Sunday. Please note children 5 and up will attend Friday afternoon and evening classes with their parent or guardian.

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 offering could be canceled. Organizers also reserve the right to substitute instructors if necessary.

SPECIAL NEEDS

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, WOW School will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with special needs. Please include special instructions or notes in your online registration stating any special accommodation you may have.

REGISTRATION

WOW School registration is now online. Registration opens at 9:00am on August 12, 2025 and closes at 12:00am on September 22, 2025.

TO REGISTER FOR WOW, YOU MUST:

- Visit: <https://wondersofwildlife.org/education/wow-school/>

- If you are unable to register online, email edu@wondersofwildlife.org or call 417-225-1162.
- Participants ages 5 - 8 will attend regular courses with their parent/guardian on Friday **only**. For Saturday and Sunday, children ages 5 - 8 must be registered for Kids Camp.
- Participants ages 9 -12 must be enrolled in the same course as their parent or guardian, with a maximum of two children per parent or guardian.
- **Registration is \$70 for Adults** (age 9 and up) **and \$60 for Kids Camp** (ages 5-8). Plus applicable taxes and fees.
- **Classes fill up quickly. When registering online, only the classes with availability can be seen for each time slot.**
- Registrations received after Sept. 22, 2025, will be accepted only if space is available and will be subject to a \$10 late fee.
- Financial assistance is available, see link below:
<https://wondersofwildlife.org/education/scholarship/>

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation and refund requests must be submitted via email to edu@wondersofwildlife.org prior to September 22, 2025. All refunds are subject to a \$10 non-refundable service fee. Absolutely no refunds will be given after September 22, 2025.

CONFIRMATION

Participants will receive a confirmation email after registration has been completed. If you do not receive an email confirmation after completing registration, be sure to check your spam/junk inboxes. The email will provide a list of classes in which the participant has successfully been enrolled. Please check the course booklet for any class instruction including required attire, driving requirements, etc. The confirmation letter is meant to ensure that participants are aware of their responsibilities and expectations before arriving at WOW School as well as any updated information for participants.

TRANSPORTATION

Individuals are responsible for their own transportation to classes and program activities. Most classes are within a short drive or walking distance of Roaring River State Park facilities with a few exceptions. Some classes will be held off park property and require you to provide your own transportation. Please keep this in mind as you schedule your classes. You will receive detailed information regarding off-site courses in the confirmation letter.

ACTIVITY LEVEL GUIDE

To help participants anticipate each course and know what physical levels to expect, an activity rating system has been created. Listed in the course booklet, you will find an activity 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, paddling, lifting and full body movement.

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

AUCTION

Silent auction items start at WOW School Headquarters (Emery Melton Inn) on Friday. These items will be moved to the Saturday dinner. Winners of **live** auction items will receive a numbered tag and may pay for and pick up their items after the auction or on Sunday at registration. Make sure you join us for the excitement! Credit cards are accepted! All money raised will go back to WOW School, so we can make next year even better.

MEALS

There will be a fish fry on Saturday night beginning at 6:00 p.m. that is included with the price of your registration. Additional meal tickets can be purchased at the registration desk for \$10. If you prefer a non-meat option for the Saturday night meal, please note this in your online registration. All other meals will be on your own unless otherwise stated in the course descriptions.

Roaring River Adventures is excited to offer convenient Grab & Go options for both breakfast and lunch during your stay. These meals will be available at two locations: the Park Store and a small tent located across from the amphitheater. Menus and pricing will be provided at registration and can also be found at the front desk or in the restaurant at the Emory Melton Inn.

LODGING/CAMPING

Lodging arrangements and expenses are the responsibility of the individual participant. Various options are available at Roaring River State Park including hotel rooms, cabins and camping. For hotel and cabin reservations at Roaring River State Park call 417-847-2330.

Reservations for camping can be made by calling 877-422-6766 or you can visit www.mostateparks.com. Due to the popularity of the WOW school, reserving your campsite as early as possible is highly advised. If you have any problems reserving a campsite, please call the park office at 417-847-2539. Roaring River State Park also offers other campsites that are available only on a first-come, first-served basis. These campsites can be difficult to obtain, so early arrival is advised.

For information on other lodging accommodations, please contact the Cassville Chamber of Commerce at 417-847-2814 or online at www.cassville.com.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance for registration will be available for participants based on need. To apply see link below:

<https://wondersofwildlife.org/education/scholarship/>

During WOW School classes:

A fishing license, hunting license and/or trout tags are not required while participating in a WOW School instructed class. Missouri law requirements for fishing license, hunting license, and trout tags apply all other times.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Wonders of Wildlife

Missouri State Parks

Roaring River State Park

Roaring River Adventures

Roaring River MDC Hatchery

Dogwood Canyon Nature Park

Bass Pro Shops – Springfield Store

Bass Pro Shops Conservation Department

Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri Conservation Federation

Department of Natural Resources
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
First Earth Wilderness School
Eagle Rock COE Campground
Paw Paw Patch Production
National Park Service
University of Missouri
USDA Forest Service

COURSE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 1:30PM – 5:00PM

BASIC KAYAKING

Capacity: 10 (High)

Learn the basics of flatwater kayaking, including equipment, entry and exit, strokes, safety, water, and wind. By the end of the class, you will feel more comfortable on the water, have a better understanding of the safety risks around you, and will have had some fun! Participants will have time to practice and explore. Dress appropriate for water sports.

***This class will be held off-site, you will need to provide your own transportation (about 15 minutes from the park, located at Eagle Rock Campground Access). ***

(Ages 10+)

Instructor: Lee Wilbeck, MO State Parks
Sara Karnes, Show-Me Women Paddlers

BEGINNING FISHING

Capacity: 20 (Moderate)

Are you new to fishing? No problem! This course offers participants basic information on fishing outfits including rods and reels, line and lures. You will also learn proper techniques for tying knots, and lure retrieval, as well as what lure/bait to use for which species of fish. Please wear comfortable clothing and be prepared for the outdoors and weather conditions.

***This class will be held off-site, you will need to provide your own transportation (about 15 minutes from the park, located at Eagle Rock Campground Access). ***

(All Ages)

Instructor: Tim Smith, Missouri Department of Conservation

FAMILY DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Capacity: 16 (Moderate)

This is a family-oriented Dutch oven cooking class, which will include the many different uses of Dutch ovens in preparing your meals. Each family member will have an opportunity to prepare part of a six-course meal! You will be required to sample your own cooking. You will also return home with newfound confidence and some recipe ideas for your next outdoor adventure.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Dr. Larry Quinalty, Dutch Oven Cooking Specialist

FISH PRINTING

Capacity: 12 (Low)

Gyotaku is the most traditional and oldest form of fish taxidermy in the world. This artistic technique was how fishermen would record their catches and show a true representation of the characteristics and size of their fish for years. The traditional technique still remains as the most economical form of taxidermy in the world because the ink used was natural cuttlefish ink, which

is edible and safe to harvest the meat of the fish after printing on rice paper. In the class each student will get the opportunity to learn, practice, and take home their own Gyotaku fish print! No previous skills or knowledge is required.

(All Ages)

Instructors: Jordan Kukal, Wonders of Wildlife staff

MAMMALS OF THE OZARKS

Capacity: 50 (Low)

The beauty of our ecosystem thrives through the intricate relationships between plants and animals. In this class, we'll explore some of the most common and unique mammals that call the Ozarks home. Participants will learn about each animal's lifestyle, habitat, and fascinating adaptations. We'll also share fun facts and showcase a real tanned hide to give a hands-on look at these incredible creatures. This course is perfect for nature lovers and curious minds of all ages.

(All Ages)

Instructor: Alan Bland, Retired - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Beaver Lake

NATIVE PLANT WALK

Capacity: 20 (Moderate)

Join Kelly McGowan, a field specialist in horticulture, on a leisurely walk to identify and learn more about our native plants in the area. During this informative walk, Kelly will share her extensive knowledge about the diverse flora that thrives in our region. Participants will have the opportunity to observe and learn about the unique identifying features of various native plants.

(All Ages)

Instructor: Kelly McGowan, University of Missouri Extension

SNORKELING

Capacity: 10 (High)

Learn about different snorkeling gear and techniques to use in the water. Once we are comfortable with the gear on land, we will put the gear to use underwater and experience a whole new world. This hands-on experience will not only enhance your snorkeling skills but also provide you with a deeper appreciation of the underwater ecosystems. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced snorkeler, this class offers valuable insights and practical tips for everyone.

***This class will be held off-site, you will need to provide your own transportation (about 15 minutes from the park, located at Eagle Rock Campground Access). ***

(Ages 10+)

Instructor: Carrie Bond, USDA Forest Service

TINDER BOX, CHARCLOTH, AND FIRE STARTERS

Capacity: 15 (Moderate)

Learn how to stock a basic tinder box for camping, hiking, hunting, or any outdoor adventure. Participants will also learn how to make charcloth at home and how to identify natural materials useful for starting a fire. This program will also discuss how to make fire starters useful for camping, grilling, or emergencies.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Jordan Poe, MDC Conservation Educator

WHAT ABOUT OUR TREES?

Capacity: 30 (Moderate)

This class will cover how trees function, why they grow, where they grow, and how they are important to us. Additionally, it will address how to keep our forests healthy and include a short tree identification demonstration, possibly with a brief walk. Participants will gain valuable insights into the ecological significance of trees and practical tips for forest conservation.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Steve Kick, Hobbs State Park

FRIDAY 7:00PM – 9:00PM

INTRO TO AMATEUR RADIO

Capacity: 20 (Low)

This will be an introductory course to Amateur Radio. We will cover how to get licensed, then dive into the fun stuff like how to talk to other state parks, participate in Parks on the Air, and how to talk with other individuals here on earth as well as in space. And that's just with a beginners' technician license! We will also cover partial uses in emergencies and what you need to get started like antennas, radios, and operating modes.

(All Ages)

Instructor: Colby Nunley, Amateur Radio Operator KF0FAH

MISSOURI ROCKS AND MINERALS - The Hands-on Adventure!

Capacity: 25 (Low)

Join us for an interactive session exploring Missouri's diverse geology through hands-on identification of rocks and minerals commonly found across the state. Participants will learn key characteristics-such as color, hardness, luster, streak, and texture-to distinguish between igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, as well as common Missouri minerals like calcite, galena, quartz, and feldspar. This engaging, tactile experience is perfect for students and enthusiasts eager to sharpen their observation skills and gain confidence in identifying specimens in the field or classroom.

(All Ages)

Instructors: Melanie Carden-Jessen, Missouri State University

OWL PROWL

Capacity: 20 (Moderate)

Have you ever thought about who's hooting in your backyard? Come join us for this night hike while we search and call for the owls that call Missouri home! Participants will have a chance to try out their own owl hoots and, if we're lucky, we will hear or see a few on our journey! Along the way, we will investigate and answer lots of questions that shroud these night fliers in mystery.

(All Ages)

Instructors: Nettie Sitting-up Perez, USDA Forest Service

OZARK HISTORY AND FOLKLORE

Capacity: 50 (Low)

Have you ever wondered how the Ozark's got its name and how it came to be settled? In this class, you will learn the answers to these questions, and more. We will also discuss some of the sayings and folklore that has been prevalent as long as people have lived in these hills; including what it means to be a "hillbilly."

(All Ages)

Instructor: Tim Smith, Missouri Department of Conservation

VENOM VISION: IDENTIFY SNAKES WITH CONFIDENCE

Capacity: 20 (Low)

Sharpen your skills and boost your confidence in identifying Missouri's venomous snakes—and telling them apart from their harmless look-alikes. Through games, photos, and real-life examples, you'll learn to recognize key features like body patterns, head shapes, and habitats. We'll cover fascinating facts about copperheads, cottonmouths, rattlesnakes, and more. Best of all, you'll get to see a live native Missouri snake in person (safely, of course!) Let's turn "yikes!" into "WOW!" with Venom Vision.

(All Ages)

Instructor: Ashley Exendine,
College of Ozarks, Biology & Conservation & Wildlife Management

WILDLIFE TRIVIA

Capacity: 50 (Low)

Join us for a night of nature trivia, featuring questions about our local Missouri wildlife and of critters from around the world. Teams will face off over three rounds of questions designed to test their knowledge of wildlife identification, tracks, sounds, and more while also having a blast with the whole family! Lots of learning, lots of fun, and of course, lots of prizes.

(All Ages)

Instructor: Nick Lacy, Dogwood Canyon Educator

WOOF 'EMS

Capacity: 20 (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, and you will create your own dessert to enjoy! This activity is perfect for all ages and provides a unique and interactive way to experience outdoor cooking. Plus, it's a great opportunity to bond with family and friends around the campfire.

(All Ages)

Instructors: Erik Cepeda & Emily Sappington, Wonders of Wildlife Educators

SATURDAY 8:00AM – 5:30PM

KIDS CAMP

Capacity: 20

The Kids Camp at Roaring River State Park offers a variety of exciting outdoor educational activities designed to inspire a child's natural curiosity about nature and the great outdoors. Children can participate in guided nature hikes, where they will learn about local flora and fauna, and engage in hands-on activities such as animal tracks, nature art, and animal identification. The camp also includes recreational activities like fishing and archery, which not only provide fun and adventure but also teach valuable outdoor skills. Overall, the Kids Camp aims to foster a love for nature and encourage children to become responsible stewards of the environment in a safe and supervised setting.

(Ages 5-8)

Instructor: Wonders of Wildlife Education Team
Saturday: 8 AM – 5:30 PM
Sunday: 8 AM – 5:30 PM

SATURDAY 8:30AM – 12:00PM

ARCHERY TAG

Capacity: 16 (High)

Are you ready for a new twist on a classic, with all the fun of paintball and the skills of archery? Come play Archery Tag! We'll discuss the rules and techniques needed to play then let you duel it out on our professional course. Fun for all ages!

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Jeremy & Justin Craig, Wonders of Wildlife Volunteer

BACKPACK COOKING

Capacity: 20 (High)

Join us to learn about basic backpack cooking skills. During this class, you will learn a variety of backpacking skills, but most importantly backpack cooking! We will be hiking up the Fire Tower

Trail, approximately 1.5 miles. Please wear closed-toed shoes. Be prepared for a steep incline and any type of weather. Come hungry!

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Anna Skalicky & Murphy Kindoll, Missouri State Parks

BASIC KAYAKING

Capacity: 10 (High)

Learn the basics of flatwater kayaking, including equipment, entry and exit, strokes, safety, water, and wind. By the end of the class, you will feel more comfortable on the water, have a better understanding of the safety risks around you, and will have had some fun! Participants will have time to practice and explore. Dress appropriate for water sports.

***This class will be held off-site, you will need to provide your own transportation (about 15 minutes from the park, located at Eagle Rock Campground Access). ***

(Ages 10+)

Instructor: Lee Wilbeck, Missouri State Parks
Sara Karnes, Show-Me Women Paddlers

BEGINNING FLY FISHING

Capacity: 15 (Moderate)

If you have ever thought fly fishing would be a thrilling way to spend time in a stream, but know nothing about it or the gear, this class was created for you. We will introduce participants to fly fishing rods and how to match them with reels and line. If time allows, participants can practice casting. A limited number of rods and reels will be available, but participants will benefit from using their own equipment. Sunglasses and a hat are recommended for your safety. Waders are not needed.

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: David Waugh, Certified Fly-Fishing Instructor

BUSHCRAFTING KNIFE AND SAW SAFETY SKILLS

Capacity: 12 (Moderate)

Practical training for bushcraft adventures is a key to success. This session will cover knife and saw safety. These cutting tools can help you be better prepared for hiking, hunting, camping, and unexpected outdoor adventures, but only if you know how to use them safely! We will talk about choosing and using a good field knife. How to use a saw safely and effectively. We will provide all the supplies you will need, but you are welcome to bring a knife or saw that is sharp and, in a sheath, or case to use during the class.

(Ages 11+)

Instructor: Andrew Rhodes, Missouri Department of Conservation

COAL BURN SPOON

Capacity: 12 (Moderate)

Gather around the campfire and learn how to make your own spoon and/or bowl out of a chunk of cedar wood! You will be learning the technique of coal burning – using coal from a fire to shape useful utensils. Then with a knife and locally sourced natural stone you will sand and shape your spoon and/or bowl for use at home! This is a great class to bond with the family in a peaceful outdoor setting while learning an age-old method of utensil making!

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Samuel & Ginnese Oglesby, Chic in the Woods @ Camp Hinneah

FIRE BY FRICTION: BOW DRILL & HAND DRILL

Capacity: 12 (High)

Making fire by “rubbing sticks” was one of mankind’s greatest discoveries. We’ll make friction fire with the bow-drill and hand-drill methods, demonstrate fire-making in extreme weather conditions, and discuss making a fire kit without modern tools, using stone tools and plant cordage. Some knife-work is involved, so bring a sharp lock-blade or hunting knife with a 3 ½ “to 4 ½” blade, non-serrated is preferable. Knives will be provided for anyone who does not bring their own. Each person will make their own fire kit.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Bo Brown, First Earth Wilderness School Director and author of Falcon Guides books *Foraging in the Ozarks* and *Foraging Central Grasslands*.

GOURMET DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Capacity: 16 (Moderate)

Participants can expect a "hands-on" approach and a full stomach with their gourmet cooking resulting in a 7-8 course meal! Participants will become familiar with the equipment used in outdoor cooking and will leave with a newfound sense of confidence. Proper techniques will be stressed along with safety and respect for fire.

(Ages 12+)

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

INTRO TO CAST IRON COOKWARE

Capacity: 20 (Low)

Are you new to cast iron cookware, wanting to learn, or wanting to know how to keep your cookware in tip top shape? We will answer most of the questions you have. This class is designed as a basic introduction on how to select, care, and clean cast iron cookware of all types. Information will be provided on the benefits of cast iron cookware as well as information to make informed decisions about what cast iron camp/household cookware would work best for you. We will also learn how to clean, season, and maintain that special coating, and how to refurbish a well-loved piece of cookware.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Tim Smith, Missouri Department of Conservation

LIFE IN A MISSOURI STREAM

Capacity: 20 (Moderate)

Be prepared to get muddy as we slosh around in the stream looking for cool bugs and fish. This course is an introduction to stream ecology where we will introduce you to the biological organization of the stream ecosystem. We will conduct this class in the stream, using an array of sampling gear to collect and observe fish and macroinvertebrates (aquatic bugs). Participants will learn how to identify these various organisms and how they relate to the importance of clean and healthy stream systems! Dress appropriate for exploring the stream.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Josh Jones, Dogwood Canyon Educator

PRESERVE YOUR ROARING RIVER MEMORIES

Capacity: 15 (Low)

Capture the magic of Roaring River by creating your own personalized framed artwork. In this hands-on experience, you'll be guided step-by-step through painting an acrylic scene that highlights iconic symbols of the park. You'll also craft a charming miniature frame from polymer clay, designed to resemble rustic logs. This unique combination of painting and sculpting allows you to express your creativity while preserving special memories of your time in the park. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned artist, this project offers a fun and meaningful way to take a piece of Roaring River home with you.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Cyndi Cogbill, PawPaw Patch Productions
Joyce Haynes, local artist, naturalist, and sculptor
Tiffani Martin, artist and naturalist

SNAKES OF THE OZARKS

Capacity: 50 (Low)

Snakes are one, if not the most, misunderstood critter we have here in the Ozarks. In this session we will learn how to identify different snakes including the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes, dis-spell myths, learn what to do if bitten by a snake, and look at snake skins. A live non-venomous snake will be part of this presentation.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Alan Bland, USDA Forest Service

WATERCOLOR EN PLEIN AIR

Capacity: 15 (Moderate)

Experiencing the outdoors can be as simple as sitting and admiring the view. *En Plein Air* is a French expression meaning “in the open air” and refers to the act of painting outdoors with the artist’s subject in full view. In this class, beginners and experts alike will capture the feel of the landscapes around us with plein air methods using watercolor. Materials will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own sketchbooks and paints. All participants will get to take home their own watercolor notebook.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Shay Messer, Dogwood Canyon Educator

SATURDAY 1:30PM – 5:00PM

ARCHERY TAG

Capacity: 16 (High)

Are you ready for a new twist on a classic, with all the fun of paintball and the skills of archery? Come play Archery Tag! We’ll discuss the rules and techniques needed to play then let you duel it out on our professional course. Fun for all ages!

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Jeremy & Justin Craig, Wonders of Wildlife Volunteer

BEGINNING ARCHERY

Capacity: 15 (Moderate)

Archery is a time-honored sport that becomes more popular each year. It is fun, challenging, good exercise, and a great family activity. This course will cover archery safety, ethics, shooting techniques, and equipment selection. Participants will receive individualized instruction and ample time to practice what they learn.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Chris Adams & Greg Rippee, Wonders of Wildlife Volunteer

BIRD TOPOGRAPHY

Capacity: 30 (Low)

Are you interested in learning how to identify birds by their feather patterns? This fascinating program introduces the feather tracts and groupings that help define a bird’s appearance. Using native Missouri birds as examples, we’ll explore how these feather groups aid in identification and

behavior. Understanding feather structure is a foundational skill for birders and can greatly enhance your birdwatching experience.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Ash Srinual, Missouri Master Naturalist

CREEK CRAWL

Capacity: 15 (Moderate)

Have you ever taken a close look at what lives in a stream and what a stream needs to be healthy? Come join Missouri Master Naturalist and underwater photographer Kevin Mouser as he opens a new world to you. We will see birds, plants, snails, crayfish, and fishes, among other things, that live in Roaring River. Participants will get up close with these creatures by catching them in nets or snorkeling in the chilly water. It's a hands-on, immersive experience that brings stream ecology to life!

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Kevin Mouser, Missouri Master Naturalist

FLY FISHING FOR TROUT

Capacity: 15 (Moderate)

This fly-fishing class explores how to give yourself the best chance at catching trout with a fly rod. You'll practice a variety of casts and retrieves, learn how to identify the best stream locations for trout, and discover why certain flies are more effective. The class also covers how to tie several useful knots, set up the correct leader and tippet, and includes a bit of Missouri trout history. Students should be comfortable with basic fly casting and are encouraged to bring their own gear if available. Hats and sunglasses are recommended—no waders needed.

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: David Waugh, Certified Fly-Fishing Instructor

GOURMET DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Capacity: 16 (Moderate)

Participants can expect a "hands-on" approach and a full stomach with their gourmet cooking resulting in a 7-8 course meal! Participants will become familiar with the equipment used in outdoor cooking and will leave with a newfound sense of confidence. Proper techniques will be stressed along with safety and respect for fire.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Dr. Larry Quinalty, Dutch Oven Cooking Specialist

INTRO TO BLACKSMITHING

Capacity: 6 (High)

Want to learn the basics of moving hot steel? If so, this is the course for you. We will talk about forges, anvils, hammers, and other equipment needed. You will also learn hammer control, material handling, and other forging techniques while working on a simple blacksmithing project. You will be exposed to high temperatures, hot metal, heavy hammers, and other equipment. Closed toe shoes, cotton or non-flammable clothing (long pants, long-sleeved shirt), leather

gloves to fit your hand, hearing, and eye protection are required. Some leather gloves, hearing, and eye protection will be available, but please feel free to bring your own.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Corey Block, WOW School Instructor
Tim Smith, Missouri Department of Conservation

INTRO TO FLY TYING

Capacity: 15 (Low)

This course is an introduction to the art and science of fly tying. Learn about the essential tools and materials used for tying flies. Participants will receive hands-on instruction and should bring a fly box along for their creations. You will be able to look at some of the insects and other creatures that fly tyers try to imitate.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Charlie Stock, Midwest Flies
Steve Werries, MAKO Fly Fishers

INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDING

Capacity: 14 (High)

Kayaking isn't the only way to make a splash with water sports! Come try out the up-and-coming trend called Stand-Up Paddle Boarding! You will experience the basic methods, learn how to properly transition on your board, and have some free time floating around. This is one leisure activity that you won't want to miss! Dress appropriate for water sports.

***This class will be held off-site, you will need to provide your own transportation (about 15 minutes from the park, located at Eagle Rock Campground Access). ***

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Emily Sappington & Bailey Meesey, Wonders of Wildlife Educators

MISSOURI ROCKS AND MINERALS - The Hands-on Adventure!

Capacity: 25 (Low)

Join us for an interactive session exploring Missouri's diverse geology through hands-on identification of rocks and minerals commonly found across the state. Participants will learn key characteristics-such as color, hardness, luster, streak, and texture-to distinguish between igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, as well as common Missouri minerals like calcite, galena, quartz, and feldspar. This engaging, tactile experience is perfect for students and enthusiasts eager to sharpen their observation skills and gain confidence in identifying specimens in the field or classroom.

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Melanie Carden-Jessen, Missouri State University

NATURE JOURNALING AND SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION

Capacity: 16 (Moderate)

Slow down and smell the roses. What pollinators are buzzing nearby? Do the plants look healthy? Is this a rare species that can only be found in certain places? By introducing a nature journal into your outdoor activities, you will learn the art of slowing down and noticing things you might have missed before. This class will begin with the basics of nature journaling and observation, then continue with a short hike to identify plants and animals, and finish with an introduction to scientific illustration. Artistic experience is not required for this course, and we will learn some different artistic methods for illustration.

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Shay Messer, Dogwood Canyon Educator

PRIMITIVE CANE POLE FISHING

Capacity: 12 (Moderate)

Learn how to build and fish a primitive cane pole, floats, weight/plumbs, and fish gouges/hooks in this fun hands-on class! We will start by selecting a native fishing rod and work up some primitive tackle and then go fishing with it.

(Ages 10+)

Instructor: Andrew Rhodes, Missouri Department of Conservation

STONE & STRING

Capacity: 12 (Moderate)

Early hominids were bashing siliceous stones with hammerstones around 3.3 million years ago to produce sharp cutting edges and tools; it is truly the mother of all technologies! A sharp cutting tool and the ability to make string are topmost wilderness survival skills, so we'll walk to the nearest gravel bar to identify local chert and learn to create flake tools. Afterwards, we'll learn to make 2-ply reverse-twist cordage with plant fibers from various plant species. (Please bring light gloves, safety glasses or eye protection, if possible. Some will be provided, but supplies are limited.)

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Bo Brown, First Earth Wilderness School Director and author of Falcon Guides books *Foraging in the Ozarks* and *Foraging Central Grasslands*.

WILDFLOWER LUMINARIES

Capacity: 15 (Moderate)

Missouri's wildflowers are a cherished treasure of our state! Easy to press, they retain their natural splendor and are a charming addition to a variety of crafts. In this class, we will be making

up-cycled luminaries from glass jars and fairy lights. Join us and illuminate your creative nature! We will be taking a wildflower appreciation walk, so wear comfortable shoes and bring your field guide, if you have one.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Gala Keller, MDC Volunteer-Shepherd of Hills Conservation & Rose Atchley

SUNDAY 8:00AM – 5:30PM

KIDS CAMP

Capacity: 20

The Kids Camp at Roaring River State Park offers a variety of exciting outdoor educational activities designed to inspire a child's natural curiosity about nature and the great outdoors. Children can participate in guided nature hikes, where they will learn about local flora and fauna, and engage in hands-on activities such as animal tracks, nature art, and animal identification. The camp also includes recreational activities like fishing and archery, which not only provide fun and adventure but also teach valuable outdoor skills. Overall, the Kids Camp aims to foster a love for nature and encourage children to become responsible stewards of the environment in a safe and supervised setting.

(Ages 5-8)

Instructor: Wonders of Wildlife Education Team

Saturday: 8 AM – 5:30 PM

Sunday: 8 AM – 5:30 PM

SUNDAY 8:30AM – 12:00PM

ADVANCED FLY TYING

Capacity: 10 (Low)

Take your fly-tying skills and techniques to the next level with this advanced fly-tying class. You will see and use different tools, materials, and techniques for tying flies. Bring along your fly box for your creations. **This class is not for beginners!**

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Charlie Stock, Midwest Flies
Steve Werries, MAKO Fly Fishers

BASIC KAYAKING

Capacity: 10 (High)

Learn the basics of flatwater kayaking, including equipment, entry and exit, strokes, safety, water, and wind. By the end of the class, you will feel more comfortable on the water, have a better understanding of the safety risks around you, and will have had some fun! Participants will have time to practice and explore. Dress appropriate for water sports.

***This class will be held off-site, you will need to provide your own transportation (about 15 minutes from the park, located at Eagle Rock Campground Access). ***

(Ages 10+)

Instructor: Lee Wilbeck, Missouri State Parks & Sara Karnes, Show-Me Women Paddlers

BIRDING BY EAR

Capacity: 12 (Moderate)

Birding is the fastest-growing outdoor hobby, with over 33% of Americans 16 years and older participating at various levels! In this course, we'll learn the tricks of the trade of identifying birds by sight and sound from veteran avian field biologist Bo Brown. Bo has 40 years' experience of collecting field data on songbirds for federal and state governments, universities, and private organizations, and still conducts ongoing songbird monitoring on several projects with our own Missouri Department of Conservation. Please bring binoculars, if possible, in case loaners aren't available.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Bo Brown, First Earth Wilderness School Director and author of Falcon Guides books *Foraging in the Ozarks* and *Foraging Central Grasslands*.

NATIVE AMERICAN DRUM MAKING

Capacity: 20 (Low)

Create your own hand drum and take it home as a unique keepsake. During the process, you'll delve into the rich history and cultural significance of drums in Native American life. Learn how these instruments are not only vital for musical expression but also play a crucial role in ceremonies, storytelling, and community gatherings. Discover the traditions and techniques that have been passed down through generations, deepening your understanding of their importance in connecting people to their heritage and the natural world.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Cory Badhorse, American Indian Center of Springfield

FISH CLEANING

Capacity: 20 (Moderate)

This course will instruct participants on the proper handling, transportation, and storage of freshly caught fish, which is essential to ensure a safe and tasty meal. Learn how to clean and keep your catch for the finest culinary delight! We will demonstrate how to scale, skin, fillet, and butterfly different species of fish found in Missouri.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Tim Smith, Missouri Department of Conservation

GOURMET DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Capacity: 16 (Moderate)

Participants can expect a "hands-on" approach and a full stomach with their gourmet cooking resulting in a 7-8 course meal! Participants will become familiar with the equipment used in outdoor cooking and will leave with a newfound sense of confidence. Proper techniques will be stressed along with safety and respect for fire.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Dr. Larry Quinalty, Dutch Oven Cooking Specialist

HIKING 101

Capacity: 20 (High)

Lace up your hiking boots and get ready to hit the trail! In this course, participants will learn how to safely and effectively plan, prepare for, and complete a long-distance day hike. This course will be split between classroom learning and an instructor-led hike. Be prepared for an approximately 2-mile strenuous hike on steep and rugged terrain. After the classroom presentation, participants will need to drive to Fire Tower Trailhead for the hiking portion of this class.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Anna Skalicky & Murphy Kindoll, Missouri State Parks

NATURE WREATH MAKING

Capacity: 20 (Moderate)

Celebrate the beauty of the forest by crafting your own nature-inspired grapevine wreath. Using foraged materials like moss, pinecones, acorns, and seed pods, you'll create a one-of-a-kind decorative piece. This hands-on class teaches simple techniques to highlight the textures and earthy tones of natural elements. No experience is needed—just a love for nature and creativity. Bring the peaceful charm of the outdoors into your home with this rustic, artful project.

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Janice Hawkins, Artist and Designer @ Janice Hawkins Studio

OBJECTIVE: ORIENTEERING

Capacity: 20 (High)

Do you think you could find your way back home without the use of modern technology? Join us to learn how to use a compass, read a map, and measure distance by counting your steps. We will use the knowledge we gained to complete an exercise by locating several points on a map without help from technology. The knowledge and experience gained in this course will help you find your way to safety in any situation.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Josh Jones, Dogwood Canyon Educator

PINECONE SUCCULANT GARDEN

Capacity: 20 (Low)

Unleash your creativity by crafting a faux succulent garden using natural elements. Discover how to transform pinecones into a stunning garden display that you can proudly showcase at home. During this program, you'll learn techniques to cut, paint, and reshape pinecones along with various other materials, all while arranging them into an eye-catching garden display. Join us for a fun experience using a variety of tools to get your hands dirty. No prior experience is necessary to enjoy this class; however, familiarity with basic tools, such as pliers and wire cutters, will help you!

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Emily Sappington, Wonders of Wildlife Educator

TRADITIONAL ARCHERY

Capacity: 16 (Moderate)

Learn the art of instinctive shooting in order to "hit the mark." In this course you will learn about craftsmanship and the history of traditional bows, traditional equipment, different shooting styles,

and techniques. Discover your own personal style of instinctive shooting with the help of the instructor and get ready for lots of fun.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Chris Adams & Greg Rippee, Wonders of Wildlife Volunteer

DISCOVERY HIKE

Capacity: 20 (Low)

Join your instructor for a guided 2.5-hour hike along the scenic Eagle's Nest Trail, where you'll explore the diverse habitats of an Ozarks forest. Along the way, we'll pause for short observation activities that help sharpen your nature awareness and appreciation. This experience blends light adventure with hands-on learning in a beautiful natural setting. Please wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, and bring a water bottle and any personal essentials. It's a great opportunity to connect with nature and deepen your understanding of the local ecosystem.

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Caden Prock, Ozarks Heritage Preserve at Top of the Rock

SUNDAY 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

BEADED KEYCHAIN

Capacity: 25 (Low)

This traditional craft showcases the artistry and cultural heritage of Native American communities. Learn about and create your own beaded keychain using traditional wrap beading techniques, featuring vibrant, colorful beads arranged in intricate patterns. Beadwork is not only an art form but also a way to preserve and pass down traditions, stories, and values. The designs often incorporate symbols with deep spiritual and cultural meanings, connecting the maker and wearer to their heritage and the natural world. This keychain is a beautiful reminder of the rich history and traditions of Native American culture.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Cory and Valerie Badhorse, American Indian Center of Springfield

BIRD TOPOGRAPHY

Capacity: 30 (Low)

Are you interested in learning how to identify birds by their feather patterns? This fascinating program introduces the feather tracts and groupings that help define a bird's appearance. Using native Missouri birds as examples, we'll explore how these feather groups aid in identification and behavior. Understanding feather structure is a foundational skill for birders and can greatly enhance your birdwatching experience.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Ash Srinual, Missouri Master Naturalist

CREEK CRAWL

Capacity: 15 (Moderate)

Have you ever taken a close look at what lives in a stream and what a stream needs to be healthy? Come join Missouri Master Naturalist and underwater photographer Kevin Mouser as he opens a new world to you. We will see birds, plants, snails, crayfish, and fishes, among other things, that live in Roaring River. Participants will get up close with these creatures by catching them in nets or snorkeling in the chilly water. It's a hands-on, immersive experience that brings stream ecology to life!

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Kevin Mouser, Missouri Master Naturalist

DISC GOLF

Capacity: 16 (High)

Do you like a good game of Frisbee? What about golf? Well in this fun outdoor sport, we blend the two together to create a game that's fun for all ages! Work your way through the course as a team for a bit of friendly competition that might help improve your throwing aim by the end! No prior experience is needed, as you will learn the rules and gameplay as we go!

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Nick Lacy, Dogwood Canyon Educator

GEOCACHING

Capacity: 15 (Moderate)

This is an introductory course to Geocaching with a smartphone. After we cover the basics, we will hit the trail to find a "treasure" with your smartphone. Users **MUST** bring their own smartphone with a data plan. Verizon is the only network that consistently works. (No Wi-Fi will be available on the trail.)

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Tricia Tannehill, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PUMPKIN TREE COOKIES

Capacity: 20 (Low)

Join us for a fun and creative workshop where you'll learn how to craft beautiful wooden pumpkins. Our expert instructor will guide you through each step of the process, from selecting the right wood to adding the finishing touches. You'll learn various techniques for decorating your pumpkins to create unique and charming decorations for your home. By the end of the class, you'll have your own set of handcrafted wooden pumpkins to take home and display proudly.

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Misty Mitchell, Wonders of Wildlife Educator

TALKIN' OZARK: A Journey Through the Dialect of the Hills

Capacity: 30 (Low)

In this lively and engaging session, we won't just be piddlefartin' around—we'll be diving deep into the rich linguistic heritage of the Ozarks. From the hills and hollers to the front porch and feed store, the Ozark dialect tells a story of history, culture, and community. We'll dig into quirky words and phrases—some still heard today, others long forgotten—and uncover what makes Ozark speech unique. Whether you're a native or just curious, you'll leave with a deeper appreciation for the language and culture of the region.

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Caden Prock, Ozarks Heritage Preserve at Top of the Rock

SUNDAY 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

COAL BURN SPOONS

Capacity: 12 (Moderate)

Gather around the campfire and learn how to make your own spoon and/or bowl out of a chunk of cedar wood! You will be learning the technique of coal burning – using coal from a fire to shape useful utensils. Then with a knife and locally sourced natural stone you will sand and shape your spoon and/or bowl for use at home! This is a great class to bond with the family in a peaceful outdoor setting while learning an age-old method of utensil making!

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Samuel & Ginnese Oglesby, Chic in the Woods @ Camp Hinneah

FISH COOKING

Capacity: 20 (Moderate)

Are you tired of hearing people say, "I don't like the taste of fish!" or are you tired of fixing fish the same way? This course will instruct participants on different ways to cook fish for a tasty meal. Learn a variety of ways to fry, grill, smoke, etc. your fish. Taste testing is a must!

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Tim Smith, Missouri Department of Conservation

FORAGING THE OZARKS: Edible Plants & Insects

Capacity: 16 (Moderate)

Bo is the author of the popular Falcon Guides books *Foraging the Ozarks* and *Foraging Central Grasslands* and has been teaching edible plant classes for over 30 years. Join him on this walkabout where we'll look for botanical bounty offered up in an Ozarks autumn, and maybe even find a few grasshoppers, crickets, spiders, cicadas, or wasp larvae to toast up and have a sample. They mostly taste nutty!

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Bo Brown, First Earth Wilderness School Director and author of Falcon Guides books *Foraging in the Ozarks* and *Foraging Central Grasslands*.

GOURMET DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Capacity: 16 (Moderate)

Participants can expect a "hands-on" approach and a full stomach with their gourmet cooking resulting in a 7-8 course meal! Participants will become familiar with the equipment used in

outdoor cooking and will leave with a newfound sense of confidence. Proper techniques will be stressed along with safety and respect for fire.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Dr. Larry Quinalty, Dutch Oven Cooking Specialist

INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDING

Capacity: 16 (High)

Kayaking isn't the only way to make a splash with water sports! Come try out the up-and-coming trend called Stand-Up Paddle Boarding! You will experience the basic methods, learn how to properly transition on your board, and have some free time floating around. This is one leisure activity that you won't want to miss! Dress appropriate for water sports.

***This class will be held off-site, you will need to provide your own transportation (about 15 minutes from the park, located at Eagle Rock Campground Access). ***

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Emily Sappington & Bailey Meesey, Wonders of Wildlife Educators