



National Outdoor Recreation
& Conservation School

COURSE GUIDE 2026

TO ENROLL VISIT:

[WWW.WONDERSOFWILDLIFE.ORG/WOW-
SCHOOL](http://WWW.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 9-11, 2026, 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 www.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 done **online**. Registration opens at 9:00am on August 11, 2026 and closes at 12:00am on September 21, 2026.

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.
- **Classes fill up quickly. When registering online, only the classes with availability can be seen for each time slot.**
- Registrations received after Sept. 21, 2026, 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 21, 2026. All refunds are subject to a \$10 non-refundable service fee. Absolutely no refunds will be given after September 21, 2026.

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.

GEAR SWAP

A Gear Swap is a FREE and fun way to exchange gently used outdoor gear, clothing, and accessories. It's a great opportunity to try new activities, meet fellow outdoor enthusiasts, and support sustainability—all while giving back to the community.

Bring your clean, gently used outdoor gear, clothing, or accessories and drop them off at the registration area (Riverview Room) beginning Friday afternoon through Saturday at 12:00 PM. For each item donated, you will receive one ticket to use during the swap. Browse and select new-to-you items using your tickets—1 ticket redeemed per turn, starting at 7:00 AM Saturday morning. This is a true swap event, so no buying, selling, or bartering is permitted. Be sure to bring your own bag to carry home your new finds!

Any items not redeemed will be offered for sale on Sunday for a minimum donation of \$5.00 per item. All items left at 5:00 PM will be donated to an organization that supports outdoor activities.

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 the Park Store. 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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Roaring River State Park
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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

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 10

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

DISC GOLF

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 25

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 5+)

Instructors: Nick Lacy, Dogwood Canyon Educator

FAMILY DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 16

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

FRESHWATER FISH DISSECTION

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 25

Take a closer look at what makes freshwater fish so well adapted to life underwater. In this hands-on class, participants will learn basic external and internal fish anatomy while carefully dissecting freshwater fish. We will explore how body shape, fins, gills, and organs help fish move, breathe, find food, and survive in their aquatic habitats. This class is a great fit for curious learners who do not mind a little mess!

(All Ages)

Instructor: Corey Thomas, Wonders of Wildlife Educator

GEOCACHING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 15

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.)

(All Ages)

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

INTRODUCTION FLY TYING

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 15

Join staff from Missouri State Parks, and the Missouri Arkansas Kansas Oklahoma (MAKO) Fly Fishing Club to learn the basics of fly tying. During this hands-on course, you will learn the basic tools, techniques, and fly patterns that will get you started in fly tying. We will focus on tying both the wooly bugger, variations of these flies, and cover how to successfully fish these flies.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Mike Busekrus, Roaring River State Park
David Crowley, Roaring River State Park
MAKO Fly Fishers

LAND, LIFE, AND LEGACY: READING THE OZARK LANDSCAPE

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 25

Every forest has a story if you know how to read it. Join us as we explore the Ozark landscape through observation, curiosity, and discovery. Instead of simply identifying trees and wildlife, we'll ask why. Why do certain plants grow here? How did the land take shape? What clues reveal the history of this place? Along the way, families will uncover the connections between geology, habitats, wildlife, and human history while learning to see the forest as a living, interconnected system.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Caitlin Kelly, WOW Education Staff

SNORKELING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 10

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.

(Ages 10+)

Instructor: Carrie Bond, USDA Forest Service

FRIDAY 7:00PM – 9:00PM

CAMPFIRE DESSERTS

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 20

Let's gather around the campfire to make some smores and more! We will mix and match ingredients to create the perfect personalized smore, banana boat treat, cinnamon roll up, and other goodies! We will discuss ingredients, heat, and exchange creative ideas. Enjoy some time around the campfire and indulge in cozy campfire treats!

(All Ages)

Instructors: Erik Cepeda, Wonders of Wildlife Educators

FISHING LURE ART

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 25

People can make keychains, bracelets, or earrings with hookless fishing lures. We will talk about the fun of fishing and how lures can be repurposed after the hooks fall off! We will be talking about how to safely handle hooked fishing lures.

(All Ages)

Instructor: Emma Pope, Dogwood Canyon Educator

MOTH LIGHT TRAPPING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 20

Ever wanted to learn more about our favorite nocturnal nighttime pollinators? Well then, this is the class for you! We will be discussing the differences between moths and butterflies so that you can identify them yourself, as well as learning the practice of light trapping. We will then journey outside to the park to practice some light trapping and see what we can discover.

(All Ages)

Instructors: Grace Rockers, WOW Education Staff

NIGHT SKIES

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 25

Join us for a dark sky meter reading session and discover how the simple act of measuring night sky brightness can help protect the wonders above us — and the wildlife and communities below. During this hands-on program, you'll learn about the important work of DarkSky International, explore how artificial light at night can disrupt wildlife behavior, migration, reproduction, sleep cycles, and human well-being, and find out how small changes in outdoor lighting can make a meaningful difference. Whether you're a stargazer, conservation enthusiast, or simply curious about the night, this session will show you how to get involved and help keep our skies darker, healthier, and full of stars.

(All Ages)

Instructor: Courtney Matthews, Wonders of Wildlife Staff Member

OWL PROWL

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 20

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

WHAT THE HERB IS THAT!

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 50

There are over 2,800 different species of plants found here in the Ozarks and many of them had significant uses by our forefathers. These uses include "Doctorin' Yarbs" and building materials. We will discuss the different types of plants and their historical uses including folk remedies; no medical advice will be provided.

(All Ages)

Instructor: Tim Smith, Diamond T Enterprises

WILDLIFE BINGO

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 50

Think you've got what it takes to be a nature expert? Join us for Nature Bingo and test your knowledge of wildlife, plants, and the outdoors! Match clues, facts, and fun nature-themed prompts as you work your way toward a winning bingo card. Perfect for all ages, this exciting game is a great way to learn something new while enjoying a little friendly competition. Will you be the first to shout **BINGO!**?

(All Ages)

Instructor: Nick Lacy, Dogwood Canyon Educator

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

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 16

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

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 20

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

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 10

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

ENHANCE YOUR FISHING EXPERIENCE

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 25

Learn what fish eat and where they hangout, how to read the water, how the weather and time of the day can affect fish. Including a trip to the stream (no fishing). If time allows, we will work on improving your casting while trying different spinning rods and fly rods.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Steve Kick, Hobbs State Park

FISHING MISSOURI'S TROUT PARKS (ALL DAY)

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 15

Have you ever wanted to trout fish but don't know where to begin? Do you want to gain confidence in fishing Missouri's trout parks? Join Missouri State Parks staff for a day of learning and fishing. Your morning will be spent learning the basics of trout fishing, rules and regulations, knots, spin fishing setups, and you will learn basic fly casting. The afternoon will be spent on the stream fishing, coached by seasoned mentors. **This class runs the entire day; you must select both sessions on the registration form.**

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Mike Busekrus, Roaring River State Park
David Crowley, Roaring River State Park
MAKO Fly Fishers

FIRE BY FRICTION: BOW DRILL & HAND DRILL

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 12

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

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 16

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

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 6

Wanting to learn the basics of moving hot steel? 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 toed 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.

* REGISTRATION NOTICE: NEW PARTICIPANTS ONLY. Due to the extremely limited capacity of this course, this class is reserved exclusively for individuals who have not previously attended. Participants who have attended this course previously are not eligible. This policy allows more WOW School attendees the opportunity to experience this unique class.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Corey Block, Blocksmith Shop
Tim Smith, Diamond T Enterprises

ROARING RIVER WILDFLOWER TOTES

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 15

In this class you will decorate a canvas tote bag by: painting three different wildflowers, creating polymer clay buttons for the center of the flowers, and embroidering the flower buttons in place while learning about these special wildflowers

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Cyndi Cogbill, PawPaw Patch Productions
Joyce Haynes
Tiffani Martin

STREAM WALK

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 30

Experience incredibly designed stream ecosystems through hands-on exploration and scientific investigation. Participants will spend time wading into the water to collect and identify aquatic macroinvertebrates, crayfish, and snails that serve as important indicators of water quality and ecosystem health. You will also participate in a short watershed hike to explore how the surrounding landscape influences the health of our rivers and streams.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Ashley Exendine, College of the Ozarks Professor

TOAD-ALLY TERRIFIC TOADS

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 14

Toads make great neighbors! Join us to explore the benefits of having a toad or two in your own backyard or garden. Then, get ready to be creative! We will design and decorate custom "Toad Abodes" from premade hand thrown pottery. These small habitat structures are like a "WELCOME" sign in your garden, inviting our beneficial amphibians to take up residency and stay for supper.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Gala Keller, Rose Atchley, Ada Williams

YOUNG ADVENTURERS (ALL DAY)

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 20

This Young Adventurers is designed for ages 9-12 and will offer a variety of exciting outdoor educational activities designed to inspire the young adventurer's natural curiosity about nature and the great outdoors. They will 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. This will also include recreational activities like fishing, which not only provide fun and adventure but also teach valuable outdoor skills. **This class runs the entire day, including lunch; you must select both sessions on the registration form.**

(Ages 9-12)

Instructor: Wonders of Wildlife Education Team

SATURDAY 1:30PM – 5:00PM

ARCHERY TAG

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 16

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

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 15

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

FISHING MISSOURI'S TROUT PARKS (ALL DAY)

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 15

Have you ever wanted to trout fish but don't know where to begin? Do you want to gain confidence in fishing Missouri's trout parks? Join Missouri State Parks staff for a day of learning and fishing. Your morning will be spent learning the basics of trout fishing, rules and regulations, knots, spin fishing setups, and you will learn basic fly casting. The afternoon will be spent on the stream fishing, coached by seasoned mentors. **This class runs the entire day; you must select both sessions on the registration form.**

(Ages 9+)

Instructors: Mike Busekrus, Roaring River State Park
David Crowley, Roaring River State Park
MAKO Fly Fishers

FLY FISHING – GETTING TO KNOW THE GEAR

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 15

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 gear, basic knots, 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+)

Instructor: Bryon Putman, Fly Fishing Expert

GOURMET DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 16

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

GUIDED GLADE HIKE**Location:** Outside**Activity Level:** Moderate**Capacity:** 20

Step into a landscape where stone, sun, and time have created a world unlike any other in the Ozarks. This guided hike explores the ecology, geology, and history of Ozark glades, revealing the rare plants, unusual wildlife, and natural processes that make these rocky openings hotspots of biodiversity. Whether you are a seasoned naturalist or simply curious about the outdoors, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for one of the Ozarks' hidden gems.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Caden Prock, Top of the Rock

INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDING**Location:** Outside**Activity Level:** High**Capacity:** 14

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: Corey Thomas, WOW Educator

NEEDLE FELTED TROUT**Location:** Inside**Activity Level:** Low**Capacity:** 20

Needle felting is the art of using special barbed needles to make wool sculptures. Whether it is through nature journaling, plein-air painting, or needle felting, art is a great way to study nature. In this session you will learn some basic needle felting techniques and create your own needle felted trout pin.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Allison Dubbert, MO State Parks

STONE & STRING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 12

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*.

STREAM WALK

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 30

Experience incredibly designed stream ecosystems through hands-on exploration and scientific investigation. Participants will spend time wading into the water to collect and identify aquatic macroinvertebrates, crayfish, and snails that serve as important indicators of water quality and ecosystem health. You will also participate in a short watershed hike to explore how the surrounding landscape influences the health of our rivers and streams.

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YOUNG ADVENTURERS (ALL DAY)

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(Ages 9-12)

Instructor: Wonders of Wildlife Education Team

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 FISHING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 12

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: Dogwood Canyon Fly Fishing Guides

ADVANCED FLY TYING

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 12

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: Steve Werries, MAKO Fly Fishers

ATLATL AND RIVERCANE DARTS

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 12

Over 15,000 years ago, the first paleo people to enter North America brought this powerful weapon to hunt woolly mammoth and other Pleistocene megafauna. It was the principal weapon here until the bow and arrow replaced it around 1300 years ago. The atlatl consists of a long, arrow-like dart and a launching stick. Its penetrating power can rival a .357 handgun, and it is legal for hunting deer in Missouri. Participants will construct an atlatl and use fire to straighten a rivercane dart, then we will practice on a target!

(Ages 9+)

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

BACKPACKING ESSENTIALS

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 20

Grab your gear, and get ready to hit the trail in this class. We will explore all the basics you will need to get ready for a backpacking adventure: planning, gear, food, and more. We will hike the 1.5-mile Devil's Kitchen Trail, so wear sturdy shoes and bring lots of water for this adventure. All backpacking experience levels are welcome.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Anna Skalicky & Murphy Kindoll, Missouri State Parks

BASIC KAYAKING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 10

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

GOURMET DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 16

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

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 6

Wanting to learn the basics of moving hot steel? 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 toed 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.

* REGISTRATION NOTICE: NEW PARTICIPANTS ONLY. Due to the extremely limited capacity of this course, this class is reserved exclusively for individuals who have not previously attended. Participants who have attended this course previously are not eligible. This policy allows more WOW School attendees the opportunity to experience this unique class.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Corey Block, Blocksmith Shop
Tim Smith, Diamond T Enterprises

NATIVE AMERICAN DRUM MAKING

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 25

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 10+)

Instructor: Cory Badhorse, American Indian Center of Springfield

NEEDLE FELTED TROUT

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 20

Needle felting is the art of using special barbed needles to make wool sculptures. Whether it is through nature journaling, plein-air painting, or needle felting, art is a great way to study nature. In this session you will learn some basic needle felting techniques and create your own needle felted trout pin.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Allison Dubbert, MO State Parks

ORIENTEERING**Location:** Outside**Activity Level:** Moderate**Capacity:** 20

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 on this course will help you find your way to safety in any situation.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Josh Jones, Dogwood Canyon Educator

RABBIT STICK AND TRADITIONAL HUNTING**Location:** Outside**Activity Level:** Moderate**Capacity:** 20

Step back in time and explore the innovative hunting technologies that helped sustain Indigenous communities throughout the Southeast. This program examines traditional small game hunting methods, featuring river cane dart guns and hickory rabbit sticks used by tribes such as the Cherokee and Choctaw. Participants will learn how hunting seasons shaped community life and how these tools were crafted from natural materials found close to home. The class includes a hands-on rabbit stick workshop, giving attendees the chance to make their own and try this time-honored hunting technique for themselves.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Caden Prock, Top of the Rock Educator

TRADITIONAL ARCHERY**Location:** Outside**Activity Level:** Moderate**Capacity:** 16

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

SUNDAY 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

ARCHEOLOGY IN THE OZARKS**Location:** Outside**Activity Level:** Moderate**Capacity:** 20

Have you ever wondered how archaeologists learn about people who lived long ago? Join us for a hands-on introduction to archaeology! Discover how archaeologists investigate the past, explore the history of archaeology in our local area, and learn what makes a site archaeologically significant. Participants will build model shelters, examine evidence from the past, and take part in a mock archaeological excavation to experience the excitement of discovery firsthand.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Caden Prock, Top of the Rock

BACKYARD ECOLOGY

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 25

Want to help wildlife without leaving home? Join us to learn how native plants and simple rewilding practices can turn your backyard into a thriving habitat for birds, pollinators, and other local species. We'll create native seed bombs to help spread beneficial plants and use citizen science apps such as iNaturalist and Seek, to record observations that contribute to real conservation research. Whether you have a large yard or a small patio, you'll discover easy ways to support nature right at home.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Caitlyn Kelly, Wonders of Wildlife Educator

GEOCACHING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 15

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

INSECT PINNING

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 20

Explore the structure, diversity, and ecological importance of insects through the practice of specimen preservation. In this hands-on class, participants will learn basic insect identification, proper pinning techniques, and how preserved specimens are used for scientific study, education, and display. We will discuss the important roles insects play in local ecosystems while carefully preparing specimens to take home. This class is a great fit for learners who enjoy science, nature, and detailed observation.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Anna Seymour, Dogwood Canyon Educator

MAKING A MEDICINE BAG

Location: Inside

Activity Level: Low

Capacity: 30

Create your own medicine bag while learning about the cultural meaning and personal significance these items can hold in some Native American traditions. Led by instructors from the American Indian Center of Springfield, this hands-on class will introduce participants to the materials, craftsmanship, and respectful context behind medicine bags. Participants will assemble a small bag to take home while gaining a deeper appreciation for the role of tradition, identity, and connection in Native American cultures.

(Ages 9+)

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

SUNDAY 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

FORAGING THE OZARKS: EDIBLE PLANTS & INSECTS

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 16

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*.

FROM IDEA TO REALITY

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 12

Now that you've completed your blacksmithing project, what's next? Maybe you have a different project in mind or a collection of items you'd love to display. In this creative, hands-on class, you'll explore ways to design, build, and showcase your projects using wood, metal, and other materials. Learn practical techniques and presentation ideas, including repurposing, that help you transform your craftsmanship into a finished piece ready to display with pride.

(Ages 12+)

Instructor: Corey Block, Blocksmith Shop
Tim Smith, Diamond T Enterprises

GOURMET DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 16

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

Location: Outside

Activity Level: High

Capacity: 14

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 appropriately 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: Corey Thomas, WOW Educator

NATURAL DYEING

Location: Outside

Activity Level: Moderate

Capacity: 20

Have you ever wondered how people in the past were able to color their clothes without synthetic dyes? This class will teach the history of dyeing fabrics and other items using natural materials. We will then explore the park to forage for materials and make our own dyes that we can use on bandanas to take home with us.

(Ages 9+)

Instructor: Grace Rockers, Dogwood Canyon Educator