



National Outdoor Recreation  
and Conservation School



**Exploring, Discovery, Learning**

# Kansas City WOW School

## Sept. 6-7, 2024

### **What Is WOW?**

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

For more information regarding registration, contact  
Wonder of Wildlife at 417-225-1162.

For more information about activities, contact the Missouri Department of  
Natural Resources at 816-534-4054 or toll free at 800-334-6946. Forms  
are also available online at [mostateparks.com/wow](http://mostateparks.com/wow)

**REGISTRATION OPENS July 22, 2024 and closes Aug. 26, 2024. To ensure that the registration process is fair to everyone, registration will only be accepted online. No registrations will be accepted by phone, fax, or email. No late registrations will be accepted. If you cannot register online, please make an appointment with the Kansas City Area Office at 816-534-4054 to register at the office.**

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# 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 outdoor skill, conservation, and safety and ethics components.

## General Information

WOW School KC is an annual event that offers a chance for families to experience recreational activities with a professional. WOW 2024 will offer an overnight camping experience in addition to a day of recreational activities. Overnight camping spots will be limited to 40 people. Overnight participants will check in on Friday evening at Camp Lake of the Woods in Swope Park. Saturday participants will check in on Saturday morning at Camp Lake of the Woods in Swope Park and then proceed to various areas in and around Camp Lake of the Woods to attend their pre-registered classes. Overnight participants will have dinner provided to them. Saturday class participants will be able to enjoy a provided morning snack and lunch in the afternoon. All equipment is provided for programs. Participants should dress for the weather and bring anything necessary to enjoy a day and/or overnight spent outdoors. Suggested items include a water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, lip balm, a hat and sunglasses, a jacket (if chilly), and closed-toed shoes. Participants are also encouraged to bring a camp chair to use during the lunch hour. If you are planning to camp out with us, you will receive a packing list in your confirmation packet.

## Location, Schedule and Parking

WOW KC will be held at Camp Lake of the Woods in Swope Park. Parking will be available within Camp Lake of the Woods.

Overnight registration/ check-in will be from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm in front of the Lodge. Saturday class participant registration/check-in will be from 7:30-8:30 am in front of the Lodge. Participants will receive a paper copy of their schedules, a map of the camp and surrounding area, and KC WOW School swag.

Friday evening schedule:

4:30 – 6:30 pm: Registration/check-in and tent sent up.

6 – 7 pm: Dinner

7 – 8 pm: Bird of Prey Program by Naturalists from Lakeside Nature Center

7 – 9 pm: Crafts in Lodge at Camp Lake of the Woods

8:30 – 9:30 pm: Campfire & s'mores

10 pm: Lights out

Saturday schedule:

7 – 8 am: Breakfast served for overnight campers, break down tents and pack up.

7:45 – 8:45 am: Registration/ check-in

9 – 10 am: Session 1

10:10 – 11:10 am: Session 2

11:15 am – 12:15 pm: Lunch

12:15 – 1:15 pm: Session 3

1:25 pm – 2:25 pm: Session 4

Little's WOW for ages 5-9 will run from 8:45 am to 2:30 pm. See course description for more details.

## Registration

WOW School is now done online! To register, please visit

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

WOW KC registration opens July 22, 2024 and closes Aug. 26, 2024. Each individual must pre-register to participate but will have the opportunity to participate in all of the classes being offered. The registration fee is \$10 per individual which covers instruction, use of equipment, snacks, lunch & dinner.

To ensure that the registration process is fair to everyone, registration will only be accepted online. No registrations will be accepted by phone, fax, or email. No late registrations will be accepted. If you cannot register online, please make an appointment with the Kansas City Area Office at 816-534-4054 to register at the office.

To register for WOW, you must:

- Complete a registration form for each participant age 18 and older.
- Participants ages 17 and younger must be registered with a parent or guardian.
- A parent or guardian must attend classes with children between the ages of 10 and 17 years old.
- At least one adult for every two children is required.
- Children ages 5 – 9 must register for Little's WOW and have a registered parent participating in the day's activities. Payments can be made online during your registration.
- **Financial assistance is available; see page five.**
- Please make sure to fill out your registration form and the liability/photo release in full.

**Please note: If any of the above (registration information, payment, liability/photo release) is not received, your registration will not be processed.**

## **Confirmation Letter**

Participants will receive a confirmation email after registration has been completed. The email will provide the schedule of classes that you have enrolled in, any special instructions for the course. The confirmation email is meant to ensure that participants are aware of their responsibilities and expectations before arriving at WOW.

## **Program Changes**

Organizers reserve the right to cancel, reschedule or relocate any proposed offering without prior notice. Examples of why a program offering could be canceled include insufficient enrollment or emergency cancellations by the instructors. Organizers also reserve the right to substitute instructors if necessary.

## **Cancellation Policy**

Fees for Kansas City WOW School are nonrefundable. If you cannot attend, any notifications should be sent to [Kaylee.Holt@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:Kaylee.Holt@dnr.mo.gov) or [Edu@wondersofwildlife.org](mailto:Edu@wondersofwildlife.org).

## **Age Requirements**

Children ages 5 – 9 must register for Littles WOW and have a registered parent participating in the day's activities.

For children ages 10-17, an adult must register for and attend all classes and program activities as their children. For every two children that are registered, there must be at least one adult to accompany them. Parents/guardians must be registered for and attend the same classes as the child.

## **Physical Activity Guide**

To help participants anticipate what physical levels to expect for each course, a physical activity rating system has been created with ratings listed in the description of each course. Please note that all of these activities, including lunch, take place outdoors and on uneven surfaces.

**Low** – Requires minimal physical movement or endurance, no bending or twisting, a mix of standing and sitting.

**Medium** - Requires moderate physical movement or endurance, optional bending or twisting, standing or walking at steady pace on uneven surfaces and slopes.

**High** – Requires high levels of physical movement or endurance, bending and/or twisting, walking or quick movements on uneven surfaces and slopes.

## **Special Needs**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, WOW staff will make every effort to accommodate people with special needs. Please include any relevant information regarding needs and accommodations on the event registration form.

## Transportation

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Camp Lake of the Woods in Swope Park. For those utilizing public transportation, there are two bus stops conveniently located near Swope Park. The first is located on Swope Pkwy at Meyer Northbound and the second is located on 63rd at Jackson Eastbound. All of the day's sessions will take place in Swope Park so participants will be able to leisurely walk or travel a short distance, to each session location except for fishing, which will require transportation.

## Financial Assistance

Financial assistance for registration will be available for participants who are in need. To obtain a financial assistance form, call 417-225-1162 or email us at [edu@wondersofwildlife.org](mailto:edu@wondersofwildlife.org). Or download the form here: <https://wowaquarium.formstack.com/forms/scholarshipapplication>

## SATURDAY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*You must be pre-registered for WOW to participate.*

*On-site registration is not available.*

*Four, 60-minute course sessions will run from 9 am to 2:30 pm.*

*The following WOW courses will be offered during the day on Saturday.*

*There are 5 different course options per session. Participants must meet the enrollment requirements and attend the specific course in which they have been enrolled for each session.*

*Enrollment is limited to 20 participants per course.*

### INTRO TO CAMPING & FIRE STARTING

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

*Physical Activity: Moderate*

*Age Requirement: 10 & up*

Be ready to conquer your first time setting up camp. Feel more confident and avoid unneeded stress and anxiety when camping. Participants will learn packing tips, important safety tips, State Parks campground etiquette, and the Leave No Trace principles. Participants will also get the chance to practice setting up a tent and campsite. After you have set up camp, discover the basics of fire starting. Learn how to make a spark using flint and steel, what types of tinder and kindling work best, how to build an effective log structure, and more! Participants will leave with the knowledge and confidence to safely build, control and put out campfires, and to camp more in our beautiful state parks!

## **BEGINNING ARCHERY**

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

*Physical Activity: Moderate/High*

*Age Requirement: 10 & up*

Find your inner Hawkeye and join staff to learn all the basics of archery! Archers will learn archery safety and ethics, shooting techniques, archery vocabulary, and practice with targets. This activity is a great way to spend time outside with your loved ones, and it's a great workout too! Participants must wear closed-toed shoes to this activity.

## **OUTDOOR COOKING**

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

*Physical Activity: Low/Moderate*

*Age Requirement: 10 & up*

Are you tired of only cooking hot dogs and s'mores over your campfire? In this session, participants will learn all about the various tools available to make a hot and delicious campfire meal! Missouri State Park staff will discuss cooking with dutch ovens, pie irons and more. You will also return home and WOW your family with some recipe ideas for your next outdoor adventure.

## **BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS**

MISSOURI RIVER BIRD OBSERVATORY

*Physical Activity: Low/Moderate*

MISSOURI DEPT OF CONSERVATION

*Age Requirement: 10 & up*

Want to learn about birdwatching but don't know where to start? Join a Naturalist to explore an urban oasis for birds in the middle of Kansas City. Participants will learn how to use binoculars, the basics of bird identification, and tips and tricks for observing birds. We'll travel the trail at a leisurely pace alongside forest, prairie and aquatic habitats to enjoy a variety of birds. Binoculars will be provided for program use, but feel free to bring your own if you have them! All participants should wear closed-toed shoes and bring bug spray/or sunscreen.

## **INTRO TO FISHING**

MISSOURI DEPT OF CONSERVATION

*Physical Activity: Low/Moderate*

*Age Requirement: 10 & up*

Fishing is a great way for kids and families to have fun outdoors, learn about conservation, and make happy memories. Join Missouri Department of Conservation Staff for a hands-on introduction to fishing course. Participants will learn basic fishing techniques and skills. All fishing gear will be provided by the instructors. Please wear clothing and close-toed shoes suitable for outdoor and water activities.

*\*Participants are responsible for providing their own transportation to this class.*



## **LITTLES WOW**

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

*Physical Activity: Low/Moderate*

*Age Requirement: 5-9*

This year we are offering a WOW school for your young campers. Participants will experience activities such as nature art, hiking, birding, games and crafts with Missouri State Parks staff experienced in young childcare. The Missouri State Parks Rangers will offer a Hug A Tree program to teach participants about hiking safety. Little WOW campers will join their families for lunch. This program requires registration. Children of all abilities are welcome.

### **This program:**

- Runs from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Is designed for children 5-9 years old.
- Requires weather-appropriate clothes and closed-toed shoes that can get dirty.
- Requires parents/guardians to apply any necessary insect repellent or sunblock to children before the program begins and throughout the day. Staff are not allowed to apply these products to participants.
- Parents must be registered and must attend 2024 Kansas City WOW School. Parents can attend their own sessions and are not required to stay with their kids at Littles WOW but, can if they wish.

For more information contact [kaylee.holt@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:kaylee.holt@dnr.mo.gov) or call 816-534-4054

Kansas City **WOW** is Proudly Sponsored by

Missouri State Parks



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USDA Forest Service



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Missouri Department of Conservation



Wonders of Wildlife



National Park Service



Conservation Federation of Missouri

