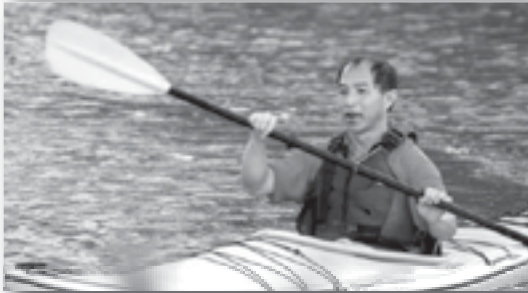




National Outdoor Recreation
and Conservation School



Exploring, Discovery, Learning

St. Louis WOW School

April 29, 2023



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 quality of life while participants enjoy the outdoors.
- WOW is taught by knowledgeable instructors.

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

For more information about activities, contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at 314-340-5792 or toll-free at 800-334-6946. Forms are also available online at mostateparks.com/wow.

**REGISTRATION OPENS March 1, 2023,
and closes April 21, 2023.**

Priority will be given to first-time participants. To ensure that the registration process is fair to everyone, registration will only be accepted by mail. Registrations postmarked after April 22, 2023 will be accepted only if space is available and are subject to a nonrefundable \$10 late fee.

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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 skills, conservation, and safety and ethics components.

General Information

WOW School St. Louis is an annual event that offers a chance for families to experience recreational activities with a professional. Participants will check in at the start of the day and then proceed to various areas around Forest Park to attend their preregistered classes. Participants will be able to enjoy a provided snack in the morning and lunch in the afternoon. All program equipment will be provided. Participants should dress for the weather and bring anything necessary to enjoy a day spent outdoors. Suggested items include a water bottle, lip balm, a hat and/or sunglasses, a jacket (if chilly), and closed-toe shoes. Port-a-potties will be available on-site at the archery range.

Location, Schedule and Parking

WOW STL will be held at the Forest Park archery range.

Street parking is available first come, first served along Clayton Avenue and Faulkner Drive. It is recommended that drivers enter the park via Kingshighway Boulevard or Hampton Avenue due to events going on in other areas of the park.

Check-in will be from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the archery range. Participants will receive a paper copy of their schedules, a map of the park, and swag. Participants must check in before attending classes.

- Class 1: 9-10:30 a.m.
- Class 2: 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Lunch: 12:30-1:30 p.m.*
- Class 3: 1:45-3:15 p.m.
- Class 4: 3:30-5 p.m.

*Participants may tour the police horse stables at the park during lunch.

Registration

WOW School registration is now done online! To register, please visit wondersofwildlife.org/education/wow-school.

Registration for the 2023 St. Louis WOW School opens March 1 and closes April 21. Participants must preregister for all classes in which they wish to participate. The registration fee is \$10 per individual. Registration fees cover instruction, use of equipment, and lunch.

Registration will only be accepted online. Registrations will not be accepted by phone, fax or email. Registrations received after April 22, 2023, will be accepted only if space is available and, if accepted, will be subject to a \$10 late fee.

If you cannot register online at home, please make an appointment with the St. Louis Area Office at 314-340-5933 to register at the office.

To register for WOW, you must complete a registration form for each participant, including adults.

A parent or guardian must register for and attend all classes with participants between the ages of 9 and 17. At least one adult for every two children is required during classes. Children ages 5-8 will be registered for Littles WOW Day Camp, during which adult supervision will be provided (see below for more details).

Please note that some activities have safety age restrictions for children under the ages of 11. It is important that parents verify that activities are within the safety standards for their children.

When you register for WOW, you will indicate your preferred course for each time slot: 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Classes fill up quickly and are available first come, first served.

Payments can be made online during registration. Financial assistance is available; see Page 5 for details.

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, or 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.

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 cancelled include insufficient enrollment or emergency cancellation by the instructors. Organizers also reserve the right to substitute instructors if necessary.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation and refund requests must be submitted in writing prior to April 21, 2023. All cancellation requests are subject to a nonrefundable \$10 service fee. When applicable, refunds will be processed after a minimum three-week waiting period. All requests should be sent to Tegan.Cooper@dnr.mo.gov or edu@wondersofwildlife.org, or to the St. Louis Area office at 2650 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63116.

Age Requirements

Individuals must be 5 years of age or older to attend WOW. Children ages 5-8 will be registered for Littles WOW Day Camp (see below for details).

An adult must accompany participants under 18 years old during WOW. Some classes have safety age restrictions for children under the age of 11. For every two children who are registered for classes, there must be at least one adult to accompany them. Parents/guardians must be registered for and attend the same classes as participants ages 9-17. Parents/guardians of children participating in Littles WOW do not have to attend the camp, but do need to remain at the park throughout the day.

Physical Activity Guide

Each activity will vary in what the physical expectation is for each participant. The activity descriptions have an activity rating system that has been created to help participants anticipate what is expected of them. 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.
- **Moderate:** 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 reasonable effort to accommodate people with special needs. Please send a letter stating any special needs you or minors under your care might have to the St. Louis Area Office at 2650 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63116, or email your letter to Tegan.Cooper@dnr.mo.gov.

Transportation

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Forest Park. Shuttles will be made available to participants for some courses. Shuttles will depart from and return to the parking lot in front of the archery range.

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 edu@wondersofwildlife.org.

Little WOW Day Camp

Ages: 5-8

Theme: Missouri State Symbols Games and Crafts

Campers will join staff for a daylong program on Missouri's state symbols. Hands-on activities will highlight state symbols through play, dance and exploration. Activities may include archery, square dancing, meeting toads and frogs, and so much more. The kids will have lunch with their families and may tour the police horse stables during lunch.

This program requires registration. Children of all abilities are welcome.

This program:

- Runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
- Designed for children 5-8 years old
- Requires weather-appropriate clothes and closed-toe shoes that can get dirty
- Requires parents/guardians to apply any necessary insect repellent or sunblock to children before the program begins. Staff are not allowed to apply these products to participants.

Call Tegan Cooper at 314-250-0649 (cell) or email her at Tegan.Cooper@dnr.mo.gov for more information on the day's activities.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

You must preregister for WOW to participate.

On-site registration is not available.

Courses will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each course is 90 minutes long.

INTRO TO CAMPING AND CAMP COOKING

Physical activity level: low

Ages: all

Maximum number of participants: 20

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a backpacking tent and a pop-up tent? Are you tired of cooking hot dogs over a fire? Join staff to learn all about the varieties of camping equipment from sleeping bags to coolers. Try your hand at putting up a tent and experiment with hammocks. After you have set up camp, learn about the various tools available to make a hot and delicious campfire meal, including Dutch ovens, pie irons and more!

BASIC FISHING

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Physical activity level: medium

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

Ages: all

Maximum number of participants: 20

Fishing is a time-honored tradition and a great way to appreciate the outdoors with loved ones. While this class is intended for beginner anglers, all are welcome. Participants will learn how to bait a hook, cast a line, and reel in their catch! As you learn to fish, you will also get to learn about the various game fish of Missouri and why they are important to the state's natural communities. Bait and equipment will be provided.

BASIC ARCHERY

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

Physical activity level: moderate to high

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ages: 11 and up

Maximum number of participants: 20

Find your inner Hawkeye and join staff to learn all the basics of archery! Participants will learn archery safety and ethics, shooting techniques, and terminology, and will practice with targets in an open field. This activity is a great way to spend time outside with your loved ones, and it's a great workout to boot! **Participants must wear closed-toe shoes during this activity.**

BEGINNING PADDLING

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

Physical activity level:

U.S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

moderate to high

Ages: 11 and up

Maximum number of participants: 15

Get out on the open water and be the captain of your own boat! Enjoy the scenic sights and sounds that aren't readily available on land as you glide smoothly through the water. Learn the vocabulary of canoes and kayaks, how to properly enter and exit the boat, learn paddle strokes, and then practice on the water. It's a great way to appreciate nature, spend time with family and friends, and get some movement in your day! All equipment will be provided. Please note that there is a limited number of kayaks and will be assigned first come first serve. **All participants will be required to wear a life jacket while the activity takes place on the water, no exceptions.**

PEDALING THE PARK

MISSOURI STATE PARKS RANGERS

Physical activity level: moderate to high

BIG MUDDY ADVENTURE

Ages: 11 and up

Maximum number of participants: 20

Connect with the natural world on two wheels with a fun and relaxing ride through Forest Park. Meet some of the Missouri State Parks rangers to discuss bicycle safety and ethics and properly fitted equipment before hitting the road! Participants will take a scenic tour of Forest Park on the paved bicycle path with a few stops along the way. The path may have changing slopes and elevation and uneven surfaces. **All riders are required to wear a helmet, no exceptions.** Riders must know how to ride a bike; training wheels will not be provided.

INTRO TO GEOCACHING

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

Physical activity level: low to moderate

Ages: all

Maximum number of participants: 20

With the warm weather, it is time to put away the electronic devices and get outside to enjoy nature – or is it? Geocaching, often called a high-tech treasure hunt, combines technology with outdoor adventure. Join us to learn all about this skill. We'll even teach you how to use a simple GPS device or your smartphone to locate hidden geocaches. The path may include uneven surfaces and changes in elevation. All participants should wear closed-toe shoes and bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

BIRDING 101

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Physical activity level: low to moderate

Ages: all

Maximum number of participants: 20

Birding is an excellent way for all outdoor enthusiasts to exercise their observational skills while building a connection with nature. Birding can be done by anyone, anywhere! During this program, participants will be given a crash course on basic bird identification and learn how to use field guides and binoculars from an Audubon naturalist. All participants should wear closed-toe shoes and bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

Special Thanks to Our Local Sponsors



City of St. Louis

Forest Park Forever



Gateway Region YMCA

National Audubon Society

Big Muddy Adventures

STLPSD Mounted Patrol

St. Louis is Proudly Sponsored by

Missouri State Parks



Bass Pro Shops



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



USDA Forest Service



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Missouri Department of Conservation



Wonders of Wildlife



National Park Service



Conservation Federation of Missouri

