



National Outdoor Recreation
& Conservation School

**PROGRAM INFORMATION &
COURSE GUIDE 2025**
ST. LOUIS – FOREST PARK

FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND ENROLLMENT, VISIT:
WONDERSOFWILDLIFE.ORG/WOW-SCHOOL

St. Louis WOW School
Saturday, April 26th 2025
9am to 2:30pm
Hatchery in Forest Park

What is WOW?

- WOW is a National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School that introduces families, friends, 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-friendly outing with an educational component.
- WOW teaches basic skills necessary for anyone curious about outdoor recreation to enjoy activities in a safe and responsible manner.
- WOW is a leisure-time recreational activity with health benefits that promote quality of life while enjoying the outdoors.
- WOW is taught by knowledgeable instructors.

For more information regarding registration, contact Wonders of Wildlife at **Edu@wondersofwildlife.org**

For more information about activities, contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at 314-340-5933 or toll free at 800-334-6946. Information is also available online at mostateparks.com/wow.

REGISTRATION OPENS March 7, 2025, and closes Apr. 18th, 2025. To ensure that the registration process is fair to everyone, registration will only be available online.

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

- **Closed toe shoes are required for this event.**
- A morning snack and lunch will be provided for participants.
- All equipment is provided for programs.
- Participants should dress for the weather and bring anything necessary to enjoy a day spent outdoors. Suggested items include a water bottle, bug spray, sunscreen, lip balm, a hat and/sunglasses, and a jacket (if chilly).
- Restrooms are available.
- Events go on rain or shine within established safety standards.

Location, Schedule, and Parking

WOW STL will be held at Forest Park at the Hatchery off of Lindell.

Parking is available along Forest Park Parkway or Grand Blvd (inside of Forest Park)

Check-in will be from 8am to 9am at the hatchery. You must check in before attending your classes, regardless of whether you have picked up your packet or not.

Fees

WOW St. Louis 2025 is \$10 for all participants. Each participant will receive a boxed lunch, snack, a T-shirt, and access to the equipment and instructors throughout the day. This fee is non-refundable.

A financial assistance scholarship for registration is available for any participants who are in need. To obtain a financial assistance form, please visit

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

Registration

WOW School registration is now **online!**

To register, please visit <https://wondersofwildlife.org/education/wow-school/>.

- WOW STL registration opens March 7th, 2025 at 8am and closes April 18th, 2025 11:59pm. Registrations received after April 18, 2025 will be accepted only if space is available and will not be guaranteed a lunch.
- Each participant must pre-register for all classes that they want to participate in. The registration fee is \$10 per individual. These fees cover instruction, use of equipment, lunch, snack, and t-shirt. A financial assistance scholarship for registration is available for any participants who are in need. To obtain a financial assistance form, please visit <https://wondersofwildlife.org/education/scholarship/>.
- Registration will **ONLY** be accepted online. No registrations will be accepted by phone, fax, or email. If you cannot register online at home, please make an appointment with the Saint Louis Area Office at 314-340-5933 to register at the office.

When participants register for WOW, you will build your schedule **and** the schedule of any minors in your care based on the following class times:

(Session 1) 9 am-10am

(Session 2) 10:15am-11:15am

Lunch at 11:30am -Noon

(Session 3) 12:15 pm-1:15

(Session 4) 1:30pm -2:30pm

Please note that minors **must have the same schedule as their guardian.

Classes fill up quickly and are available first come, first serve. If your first choice is not available, please select your second choice.

Payments will need to be made online during your registration. Financial assistance with registration is available for any participants that need it. To obtain a financial assistance form, visit <https://wondersofwildlife.org/education/wow-school/>

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

Age Requirements

Participants must be 5 years of age or older to attend WOW.

If you have any minors (anyone ages 5 to 17 years of age) attending WOW:

- Minors must be registered with an adult for each class in their schedule.
- Please note that some activities have safety age restrictions for children under the age of 11. It is important that adults verify that activities are within the safety standards for the minors they are bringing to the event.
- All adults attending with a minor, or minors are responsible for that minor or minors' welfare during WOW activities.
- One adult for every two minors is required for every class session.

Confirmation Email

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 enrolled. Please check the course descriptions for any class instruction including required attire, driving requirements, etc. The email confirmation will also include a link to complete your liability/photo waiver which is required by ALL participants. 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.

Pre-Event Packet Pick Up

It is recommended that participants pick up their packet ahead of time to ease check in on Saturday morning. Packet pickup will be on April 23rd from 5pm to 7pm at the Carondelet YMCA lobby and April 24th from 5pm to 7pm at the O'Fallon Park YMCA.

Post-Event Overnight Campout

Put your new skills to the test at the WOW campout at Washington State Park! Learn how to put up a tent, make a fire, and make a campfire meal with the help of WOW staff! Register for this camp out experience when you register for your WOW class schedule. Tents and dinner will be provided. Lunch will not be provided either day. **This experience is included in your WOW fee.**

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

Fees for St. Louis WOW are non-refundable. If you cannot attend, any notifications should be sent to Ryan.Dunwoody@dnr.mo.gov or edu@wondersofwildlife.org.

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 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, the WOW St. Louis staff will make every reasonable effort to accommodate people with special needs. Please send an email to Ryan.Dunwoody@dnr.mo.gov or call 314-340-5792 for any special needs or accommodations you or minors under your care might require for your visit. Please send your letter **at least 4 weeks** before April 26th so that we may satisfactorily meet your needs.

Transportation

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Forest Park. Classes will take place within walking distance of the Hatchery.

Course Descriptions

You must pre-register for WOW to participate.

On-site registration is not available.

Courses will run from 9am to 2:30pm.

Closed toe shoes are required to participate in all classes.

Note: Archery will not be available this year. We are sorry for any disappointment.

Basic Camp Cooking

Missouri State Parks

Physical Activity: Low/Working over fire

Age: All

Class size limited to 20 participants

Are you tired of cooking hot dogs over a fire and are looking for new recipes? Did you know it's possible to make things like cake and pizza over a campfire? Join us to learn all about the various tools, recipes, and techniques available to make a hot and delicious campfire meal. Bring your appetites to try some samples! For any persons with food allergies, please make sure to make note of that in your registration.

Basic Fishing and Macros

Missouri Department of Conservation

Physical Activity: Medium

Missouri State Parks

Ages: All

Class size limited to 20 participants

Fishing is a time-honored tradition and a great way to appreciate the outdoors with your loved ones. While this class is intended for fishing beginners, all are welcome to cast a line. Learn how to bait your own hook, how to cast, and how to reel in your 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 natural communities of Missouri. Bait and equipment are provided.

Beginners Paddling

Missouri State Parks &

Physical Activity: Moderate to High

Missouri Department of Conservation

Age: 11 and up

Class sizes limited to 20 participants

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, safety guidelines, 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 from a totally new perspective! 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.

There's an App for That!

Missouri State Parks

Physical Activity: Low to Moderate

Ages: All

Class size limited to 20 participants

Calling all gentle nature explorers to the table! Come and discover the different tools available to explore nature anytime, at any level, and at any age. Participants will learn about various nature exploration apps and citizen science initiatives, try nature journaling, and more. No equipment is required, but if participants have smartphone or a device with app and internet capabilities, they are encouraged to bring it.

Birding 101

Missouri State Parks/Audubon

Physical Activity: Low to Moderate

Ages: All

Class size limited to 20 participants

Birding is an excellent way for all outdoor enthusiasts to exercise their observational skills while building a connection to nature. Birding can be done anywhere in the world and by anyone! During this program, participants will be given a crash course on basic bird ID and learn how to use field guides and binoculars from a naturalist.

Nature Art

Missouri State Parks

Physical Activity: Low to Moderate

Ages: All

Class size limited to 30 participants

For centuries artists have attributed nature as an inspiration. Now it is your turn. Join us to learn how to bring out the artist in you. Family friendly art projects that use nature to inspire and embrace the world around you. Participants can choose from two (or three) projects your family can create together.

Overnight Campout at Washington State Park

1 pm Saturday, May 3rd, 2025 to 12 pm Sunday, May 4th, 2025

Physical Activity: Low to Moderate

Ages: All

Class size limited to 40 participants

Put your new skills to the test at the WOW campout at Washington State Park! Learn how to put up a tent, make a fire, and make a campfire meal with the help of WOW staff! Register for this camp out experience when you register for your WOW class schedule. Tents and dinner will be provided. Lunch will not be provided either day. **This experience is included in your WOW fee.**

Special Thanks to Our Local Sponsors



City of St. Louis

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