



National Outdoor Recreation
and Conservation School



Exploring, Discovery, Learning

St. Louis WOW School

May 4, 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 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 314-340-5993 or toll free at 800-334-6946. Forms are also available online at mostateparks.com/wow.

REGISTRATION OPENS March 15, 2024 and closes April 26, 2024.

To ensure that the registration process is fair to everyone, registration will only be available online.

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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 STL is an annual event that offers a chance for participants and communities to experience recreational activities with a professional. Participants will check in at the start of the day and then proceed to various locations around Forest Park to attend their pre-registered classes. 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 spent outdoors. Suggested items include a water bottle, bug spray, sunscreen, lip balm, a hat and/sunglasses, and a jacket (if chilly). Port-a-potties will be provided. **Closed toe shoes are required for this event.**

Location, Schedule and Parking

WOW STL will be held at the Forest Park Steinberg Ice Rink.

Parking is available in the Steinberg Ice Rink lot. It is recommended that drivers enter the park via the Kingshighway entrance due to other events going on in other areas of the park. This is the closest entrance to the ice rink.

Check in will be from 8 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. at the Steinberg Ice Rink. For participants who did not go to pre-packet pickup, you must pickup your packet at check-in. You must check in before attending your classes, regardless if you have picked up your packet or not.

Fees

WOW St. Louis 2024 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 nonrefundable.

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/>.

Pre-Packet Pick Up

It is **highly recommended** that participants pick up their packet ahead of time to ease checkin on Saturday morning. You will have the option to pick up your swag and your information folders at designated pickup locations and times. That information will be made available to you after registration closes.

Registration

To register, please visit <https://wondersofwildlife.org/education/wow-school/>. Please make sure to fill out your registration form and the liability/photo release in full.

- WOW STL registration opens March 15, 2024 at 8 a.m. and closes April 26, 2024 11:59 p.m. Registrations received after April 26, 2024 will be accepted only if space is available.
- Each participant must preregister 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 St. Louis Area Office at 314-340-5933 to register at the office.



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

- (Class 1) 8:30 a.m.
- (Class 2) 10:15 a.m.
- Lunch
- (Class 3) 12:30 p.m.
- (Class 4) 2:15 p.m. **Please note, paddling will not be available in the 2:15 class.**

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

Payments will need to be made online during your registration. Financial assistance for 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 at least 5 years old to attend WOW.

If you have any minors (anyone ages 5 to 17) 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 responsible for.
- All adults attending with a minor or minors are responsible for minor's or minors' welfare during WOW activities.
- One adult for every two minors is required for every class session.

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

Fees for St. Louis WOW are nonrefundable. If you cannot attend, any notifications should be send to Tegan.cooper@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 Tegan.cooper@dnr.mo.gov or call 314-340-5933 stating any special needs or accommodations you or minors under your care might require. Please send your letter at least 4 weeks before May 4 so that we may satisfactorily meet your needs.

Transportation

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Forest Park. Shuttles will be made available to participants for archery and atlatl, paddling, and fishing. Shuttles will depart and return to and from the Steinberg Ice Rink.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

You must pre-register for WOW to participate.

On-site registration is not available.

Courses will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Closed toe shoes are required to participate in all classes.

INTRO TO CAMP COOKING

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

Physical activity level: low

Ages: all

Maximum number of participants: 20

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
MISSOURI STATE PARKS**

Physical activity level: medium

Ages: all

Maximum number of participants: 20

Fishing is a time-honored tradition and a great way to appreciate the outdoors with your loved ones. While this classes 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 invertebrates of Missouri's waters and why they are important to the natural communities of Missouri. Bait and equipment are provided.

BASIC ARCHERY AND ATLATL

**MISSOURI STATE PARKS
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Physical activity level: moderate to high

Ages: 11 and up

Maximum number of participants: 20

Find your inner warrior and join the staff to learn the basics of archery and atlatl! Participants will learn archery and atlatl safety and ethics, shooting techniques, archery and atlatl vocabulary, and practice with targets in an open

field. This activity is a great way to spend time outside with your loved ones and friends, and it's a great workout to boot!

BEGINNERS PADDLING

**MISSOURI STATE PARKS
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

Physical activity level: 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 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 served.

All participants will be required to wear a life jacket while the activity takes place on the water, no exceptions.

NATURE EXPLORER

MISSOURI STATE PARKS

Physical activity level: low to moderate

Ages: all

Maximum number of participants: 20

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

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 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.

THRIVE OUTSIDE

DOGWOOD CANYON NATURE PARK

Physical activity level: low to moderate

Ages: all

Maximum number of participants: 20

Learn the skills you need to be confident in the outdoors! In this class we will cover basic camping skills, what and how to pack it, how to face the hazards of the outdoors, and some basic survival skills! As we build our skills, we will also introduce the Leave No Trace Principles, giving you the knowledge to be good stewards of the environment. By the end of this class, you'll feel more confident in your abilities to really thrive outside!



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