**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, interest and abilities.
- WOW is a great family outing with educational components.
- 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, call Wonders of Wildlife at 417-225-1118 or 417-225-1131; or e-mail Wonders of Wildlife at registration@wondersofwildlife.org. Registration materials are available online at http://www.wondersofwildlife.org/Page/Conservation-Education-WOW-School.aspx

**Registration Deadline is March 31st, 2014.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR**

**LOCAL PARTNERS**

Springfield Greene-County Park Board
National Parks Service
Sac River Stables, LLC.
Missouri Department of Conservation
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
Missouri State University- Outdoor Recreation Department
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ozark Mountain Wood Carvers
U.S. Forest Service
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Springfield Plateau Grotto
Tandy Leather
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Midwest Flies
Bass Pro Shops
Wonders of Wildlife

**Check out our other W.O.W. schools!**

St. Louis / September 13th & 14th
Kansas City / September 19th & 20th
Roaring River State Park / October 10-12th

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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 an outdoor skill, conservation, safety and ethics component.

Location-WOW National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School will be held April 11th & 12th, 2014 at Ritter Springs Park. Ritter Springs Park is located just north of Springfield, Missouri at 3683 W. Farm Rd. 92.

Registration

1. Complete a registration form (one per person please, unless you are taking the same classes) Indicate first, second, and third choice of classes – this is very important!

2. Enclose payment in full; make check payable to WOW School.

3. Sign and enclose the WOW liability/photo release form.

If any of the above is not received, your registration will not be processed.

Mail registration materials and payments to Wonders of Wildlife
Attn: WOW School Springfield
500 W. Sunshine
Springfield, MO 65807
Or Fax to: (417) 225-1169

For more information please email: gregistration@wondersofwildlife.org Or call: (417) 225-1118

Cancellation Policy-Cancellation and refund requests must be submitted in writing to WOW School, prior to Monday, March 31st, 2014. All refunds are subject to a $10 nonrefundable service fee. Absolutely no refunds will be given after Monday March 31st, 2014. When, if applicable, refunds will be processed after a three-week (minimum) waiting period.

Age Requirements-Participants must be nine (9) years of age or older to attend WOW School classes. Children four (4) to (8) eight years old can attend the Kid’s Camp program, see below. An adult must accompany children age nine (9) to twelve (12) to all classes and program activities. (This means 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, age thirteen (13) or older, is capable of attending classes unsupervised. All individuals who attend any W.O.W. class must be registered.

Kids’ Camp-Designed for children four (4) to eight (8) years of age, the kids’ camp offers exciting outdoor activities. Located in Ritter Springs Park, the kids’ camp is fun-filled and full of educational activities designed to teach and inspire a child’s natural curiosity about nature and the great outdoors.
**Confirmation Letter**-Participants will receive a confirmation letter after registration has been completed (please allow several weeks for processing). The letter will provide a list of classes in which the participant has successfully been enrolled, any special instructions for the course (including clothing or equipment needs), a detailed map of the W.O.W. campus and special event information. The confirmation letter is meant to ensure participants are aware of their responsibilities and expectations before arriving at the W.O.W. School.

**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 could be cancelled. Organizers also reserve the right to substitute instructors if necessary.

**Transportation**-Individuals are responsible for their own transportation to classes and program activities. All classes are within walking distance of the camping area, except for horseback riding. Horseback riding is held off park property and requires 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.

**Physical Activity Guide**-To help participants anticipate each course and know what physical requirements to expect of each course, a physical activity rating system has been created. Listed in the course catalog, you will find a physical level rating for each course.

- **Low** – Requires minimal physical skills/endurance
- **Moderate** – Requires moderate physical skills/endurance
- **High** – Requires high levels of physical skills/endurance

**Special Needs**-In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, W.O.W. will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with special needs. Please enclose a letter with your registration form stating any special needs you may have.

**Meals**-The registration fee covers all meals served during the event. Dinner will be provided on Friday, April 11th, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday, April 12th. Please enclose a letter with your registration form stating any special dietary restrictions you or members of your party may have. We will do our best to accommodate you and make alternative arrangements.

**Camping**-Sites will be available to participants for tent and small camper camping only. Camping will be primitive as there are no electrical or water hook-ups. We ask that you bring your own tents and bedding. However, both tents and sleeping bags are available on a limited basis, and will be provided based on need and the date registration was received. Staff will be on hand to help anyone who needs assistance setting up their campsite. Camping is not required you can just come for the evening and day activities.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE**-Financial assistance for registration will be available for Missouri residents who are in need. To apply, submit a one-page request letter along with a completed registration form and liability release waiver for each person in your party on or before March 31st, 2014. In your letter include the following: why you want to attend, reason for hardship, the ages of your family members and a phone number.
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Friday Evening  7:00pm-8:00pm

(Please note as you register that children 4-8 years old are required to take classes with their guardian on Friday evening)

Flint Knapping
Enrollment Limit: 12  (Moderate)
Minimum Age Limit: 12
This “hands-on” course will not only introduce the art of primitive point making (arrowheads, knives, etc.) but will give participants a chance to work on their own flint knapping project along with the knowledge of how to make their own flint knapping kit. Travel back in time to learn about the history of ancient weaponry.
Instructor: Bryan Simmons; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Animal Signs and Tracking
Enrollment Limit: 30  (Low)
Animals leave behind many calling cards that we will learn to identify in this class. We will examine scat and tracks of many common animals here in Missouri and even make tracks to take home. So that next time you are out in the woods, you can identify the animals in the area without ever seeing them.
Instructor: Misty Mitchell; Wonders of Wildlife

Evening with Nathaniel Boone
Enrollment Limit: 40  (Low)
Nathaniel Boone, son of the famous Daniel Boone, was among the first white men to explore western Missouri. In this interactive history program, get Boone’s insights of rare glimpse of the land, wildlife, and people of Missouri before statehood. After the program, there will be a brief presentation on the impact market hunting had on the state, and pioneering conservation efforts that brought it back from the brink of destruction.
Instructor: Dakota Russell; Nathan Boone State Historic Site

Friday Evening  7:00pm-9:00pm

Twilight Nature Walk
Enrollment Limit: 35  (Moderate)
On this short, easy walk you will learn about some of Ritter Springs Park’s ecosystems and habitats, i.e.: bats, glades & native species, ponds & streams, and other wildlife. With enough daylight left it is hoped that you will observe a Federal Endangered Gray Bat Flight up close and personal, and see what is killing our bats. You will also learn where to watch for an alligator snapper, deer, an eagle, owls, and turkeys.
Instructor: Kara Warren; Springfield-Greene County Parks and Recreation: Outdoor Initiatives
Friday Evening  8:00pm-9:00pm

Stargazing
Enrollment Limit: 30  (Low)
Get away from the city lights and come explore the universe on a guided tour of the night sky. Learn the stars names, see the constellations, and hear folklore and mythological stories of the night sky.
Instructor: Matthew Kantola, Missouri State Parks

Saturday  Session 1  8:30am - 10:30am

Backpack Cooking
Enrollment Limit: 12  (Low)
Ever want to go to that off-road spot that is just breathtaking, but you feel that everything you need for your trip is packed in the car? This class will go over the essentials of packing light and still eating well. You and your family will learn the proper way to cook delicious meals that don’t require a lot of materials and some ideas for your next trip!
Instructor: Kara Warren; Springfield-Greene County Parks and Recreation: Outdoor Initiatives

Frisbee Golf
Enrollment Limit: 20  (Moderate)
Disc Golf is an incredibly addictive game that can be played by anyone who can throw a disc. The Sport provides a fun and challenging outdoor activity that tests a player’s mental skills of concentration, focus, and patience. All skill levels are welcome. This sport is a great way to participate in low impact exercise.
Instructor: Phillip Taggart; U.S. Forest Service

Leatherworking 101
Enrollment Limit: 15  (Low)
This course is designed to give you an introduction to leatherworking. Participants will receive hands-on instruction in this ancient art form. By the end of this course you will have a better understanding of what it takes to work a piece of leather into a wearable art piece. You will be creating your own personal leatherwork that you can enjoy for years to come.
Instructor: Freda; Tandy Leather Factory

Basic Caving
Enrollment Limit: 16  (Moderate)
A family oriented “wild” caving experience at Ritter Springs Park’s Junction Cave. This is a hands-on learning experience about cave groups / grottos, cave habitat, caving, cave life, and cave restoration. Dress for the outdoors and the potential of getting dirty and wet. Optional crawling.
Instructor: Springfield Plateau Grotto
Critters in the Creek
Enrollment Limit: 20 (Moderate)
Come on down to the river as we explore the types of organisms living just beyond our eyesight. Depending on what and how many critters we find, we can tell us how healthy our waters really are. Every one of all ages will walk away knowing something they did not know before so bring the whole family!
Instructor: Rob Hunt; Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

Slingshots 101
Enrollment Limit: 16 (Moderate)
Did you realize that slingshots have been around for over 4000 years? The design was relatively unchanged until the 1850’s. In this class you will learn about the history of the slingshot for early models up to the present day models. You will also craft your own slingshot out of wood and then have the opportunity to try your luck at hitting different sized targets.
Instructor: Tim Smith; Roaring River State Park

Fly Tying
Enrollment Limit: 15 (Low)
This course is an introduction to the art and science of fly tying. Participants will receive hands-on instruction and should bring a fly box along to put their creations in. You will be able to look at some of the insects and other creatures that fly tiers try to imitate.
Instructor: Charlie Stock, Midwest Flies

Saturday Session 2- 11:00am - 1:00pm

Critters in the Creek
Enrollment Limit: 20 (Moderate)
Come on down to the river as we explore the types of organisms living just beyond our eyesight. Depending on what and how many critters we find, we can tell us how healthy our waters really are. Every one of all ages will walk away knowing something they did not know before so bring the whole family!
Instructor: Rob Hunt; Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

Geocaching/Intro to GPS
Enrollment Limit: 15 (Moderate)
This is an exciting new outlook on walking through nature! Go off the beaten path as you follow clues with the help of a map and maybe the satellites. You’ll start off by determining a latitude and longitude point, and then you’re off to find what awaits you! You’ll develop your map reading and direction honing skills on this high-tech treasure hunt!
Instructor: Trisha Tannehill; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fire Starting and Control
Enrollment Limit: 30 (Low)
Here is your chance to learn how to start a fire with objects in and around the forest and maybe in the rain. Develop skills to start a fire with one match, and other methods such as flint and steel, and bow drill. Learn about the fire triangle and fire structure and how they are important in building and sustaining a fire. Participants use and start fires with several methods, as time allows.
**Instructor:** Phillip Taggart; U.S. Forest Service

Leatherworking 101
Enrollment Limit: 15 (Low)
This course is designed to give you an introduction to leatherworking. Participants will receive hands-on instruction in this ancient art form. By the end of this course you will have a better understanding of what it takes to work a piece of leather into a wearable art piece. You will be creating your own personal leatherwork that you can enjoy for years to come.
**Instructor:** Freda Womack; Tandy Leather Factory

Beginning Kayaking
Enrollment Limit: 8 (Moderate)
Kayaking is similar to canoeing in that it is an enjoyable and peaceful activity on the water, but has a different technique to it. Become an instant fan as you learn the basics of this family friendly activity enjoyed by all. Come dressed in weather appropriate clothes and expect to get wet! (Toe-covered shoes required.)
**Instructor:** Dave Lako; Missouri State Parks

Basic Caving
Enrollment Limit: 16 (Moderate)
A family oriented “wild” caving experience at Ritter Springs Park’s Junction Cave. This is a hands-on learning experience about cave groups / grottos, cave habitat, caving, cave life, and cave restoration. Dress for the outdoors and the potential of getting dirty and wet. Optional crawling.
**Instructor:** Springfield Plateau Grotto

Soap Carving
Enrollment Limit: 15 (Low)
This beautiful art form is now at the tips of your fingers! Learn the basic techniques and how to use tools of woodcarving but with easily carved soap bars. Let your imagination run wild and create a masterpiece! Children are welcome to participate as well as they make their own soap molds. A new souvenir and hobby to take home with you!
**Instructor:** John Hodges; Ozark Mountain Woodcarvers
Beginning Archery
Enrollment Limit: 16 (Moderate)
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 technique, and equipment selection. Participants will receive individualized instruction and ample time to practice what they learn.
Instructor: Wink Mitchell; Wonders of Wildlife

Horseback Riding
Enrollment Limit: 20 (Moderate)
Trot on over to Sac River Stables, LLC. Riders will learn safety while working around horses, grooming, saddling a horse and horsemanship while riding. All events will occur in an indoor riding arena regardless of weather. Students must wear boots or sturdy shoes and long pants. Riding helmets will be supplied by the Sac River Stables. Children under the age of 13 require adult supervision. This course requires an additional $20 fee.
Instructor: Dawn O’Connor; Sac River Stables

Geocaching/Intro to GPS
Enrollment Limit: 15 (Moderate)
This is an exciting new outlook on walking through nature! Go off the beaten path as you follow clues with the help of a map and maybe the satellites. You’ll start off by determining a latitude and longitude point, and then you’re off to find what awaits you! You’ll develop your map reading and direction honing skills on this high-tech treasure hunt!
Instructor: Trisha Tannehill; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Team Building/Family Challenge
Enrollment Limit: 20 (Low)
Families have an opportunity to participate in Confidence – Team Building. From tinker toys to physical challenge, with good communication and team skills your family will creatively solve each initiative challenge. Challenges will be both physically and mentally challenging. Is your family up to the challenge?
Instructor: Kara Warren, Outdoor Initiatives

Beginning Kayaking
Enrollment Limit: 8 (Moderate)
Kayaking is similar to canoeing in that it is an enjoyable and peaceful activity on the water, but has a different technique to it. Become an instant fan as you learn the basics of this family friendly activity enjoyed by all.
Come dressed in weather appropriate clothes and expect to get wet! (Toe-covered shoes required.)
Instructor: Dave Lako; Missouri State Parks
Fly Casting 101
Enrollment Limit: 30 (Low)
This course is designed for the beginning fly fisher. Learn the basics of different fish habitats, fly selection, knot tying and equipment selection. You will receive individualized fly-casting instruction and learn different methods and skills needed to catch fish. Participants will benefit from using their own equipment; however, a limited number of rod outfits will be available for those without. Sunglasses and a hat are required for your safety. Waders are not needed.

_Instructor:_ Rob Dickerson; Bass Pro Shops

Kids’ Camp
_Saturday: 8:15 a.m.—4:45 p.m._
Enrollment Limit: 30 (Low)
The program is designed for children four (4) to eight (8) years of age, the kids’ camp, located in Ritter Springs Park, offers lots of exciting outdoor educational activities that will help inspire a child's natural curiosity about nature and the great outdoors. The entire day will be fun-filled and include an outing to a cave, the archery range, or to the woods for a nature walk, nature crafts, and some fun games.

_Please Note:_ Participants should wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Parental attendance is not necessary for children to attend assigned courses, but parents/guardians must be on location participating in other classes.

_Instructors:_ Wonders of Wildlife Staff

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