

The Stewardship of Public Lands: “Politics and the Yellowstone Ecosystem”



In partnership with the Yellowstone
Association Institute



Faculty Seminar in Yellowstone National Park
Monday, July 30 - Saturday, August 4, 2012

How do universities design courses and programs to help undergraduates develop the understandings and skills necessary to become thoughtful, engaged citizens? The American Democracy Project (ADP) is seeking new strategies to answer that question.

To develop and design new approaches, the American Democracy Project began a series entitled Civic Engagement in Action, creating new programs that would engage undergraduate students in civic issues.

One of the programs we have developed is **The Stewardship of Public Lands**. The key question of this initiative is: How are competing but equally legitimate interests about public lands resolved in a democracy? For the past seven summers, faculty and administrators from AASCU campuses have spent a week studying political disputes in Yellowstone National Park. The first year, 2005, we studied wolf re-introduction. Twenty-six (26) faculty members from 19 campuses spent a week in the Park, first studying the biology and the politics of wolf re-introduction. But the most innovative part of the program is when we traveled outside the Park to talk to citizens and activists on both sides of the issue, to understand the controversy from their point of view. At the end of the week-long program, we considered ways that faculty might develop programs on their own campus that focused on (1) national public resource issues such as wolf re-introduction and (2) local public resource issues such as oil drilling on national seashores, wind turbines in state parks, and restoration efforts in wetlands.

For the last six summers, we expanded the focus of the program to examine the entire Yellowstone region in a program entitled **Politics and the Yellowstone Ecosystem**. In this program, we spend six (6) days in Yellowstone National Park in a combination of classroom and field activities, examining four key political controversies: bison, wolves, snowmobiles, and grizzly bears. We begin the week examining the

science and history of the controversies, listening to scientists and Park rangers. Then at the end of the week, we interview local citizens on both sides of the issues, including political activists, business people, ranchers, and other citizens.

The goal of this project is to develop new strategies and new approaches that colleges and universities can use to help undergraduates become thoughtful, informed, and engaged citizens. In a world too often filled with bitter partisan politics, this non-partisan project seeks to move beyond rhetoric and confrontation, providing students with new models that promote understanding and resolution. In a political environment where special interest groups tend to push people to polarized positions, we seek common ground.

The program begins late afternoon on Monday, July 30th and ends at noon on Saturday, August 4th. The program will be held at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel in the northern part of Yellowstone National Park, just below Gardiner, Montana. The cost of the program is \$1,295, which includes five (5) nights individual room lodging at Mammoth Hotel (single occupancy hotel room or cabin); all instruction and instructional materials, AV rental, classroom rental; in-park transportation; and a number of meals, including reception and dinner the first night, lunch Tuesday, and breakfast Wednesday. Family members or guests are welcome to come to Yellowstone with the faculty participant. However, space does not allow for guest participation in the program except for some classroom lectures, a few field trips, and evening films and presentations.

Instructor: Brad Bulin, a long-time Yellowstone Association staff member and wildlife biologist with more than 10 years experience teaching science and conducting extensive field research on carnivores, raptors, amphibians, and plants in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

For more information on this program or registration materials, please contact George Mehaffy, 202 478-4672 (mehaffyg@aascu.org) or Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, 202 478-7833 (domagalj@aascu.org)

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY PROJECT
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION: STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS

POLITICS AND THE YELLOWSTONE ECO-SYSTEM
REGISTRATION FORM

Monday, July 30 – Saturday, August 4, 2012

(please type or print)

Name: First Name for Name Badge:

Title:

Institution:

Mailing Address:

City/State/Zip:

Office Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Emergency Contact (please provide name and day/evening phone numbers of designated individual)

Name:

Day Phone:

Evening Phone:

Cost per participant: \$1,295

The cost for the seminar will be \$1,295 per person. Conference fee includes:

1. Five (5) nights lodging at Mammoth Hotel (single occupancy hotel room or cabin). Family members or guests are welcome to come to Yellowstone with the participant but space does not allow for guest participation in the program except for a few special occasions.
2. All instruction and instructional materials, AV rental, classroom rental for 6 days.
3. In-park transportation for 5 days.
4. Meals, including reception and dinner the first night, lunch Tuesday, and breakfast Wednesday.

Special Diet Request: (For all meal functions, attempts will be made to accommodate all special dietary requests with advance notice.)

Diabetic Vegetarian Low Fat

Special Services Request: (if you have any special needs, please communicate them to AASCU): _____

Fax or mail completed application to:

Felicia Durham, Administrative Assistant
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
1307 New York Avenue, NW, Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20005-4701
Phone: 202-478-4673 • Fax: 202-296-5819 • E-mail: durhamf@aascu.org

Important Notes

- Registration fee is non-refundable. However, substitutions are allowed if the original registrant is not able to participate
- AASCU Vendor ID #520-74-7578
- Texas ID #1-520-74-7578-9000

For Office Use Only

Batch:

Check #:

Date:

Amount \$:

Invoice:

Date: