



National Outdoor Recreation
& Conservation School



MISSOURI
STATE PARKS

ST. LOUIS WOW SCHOOL PROGRAM INFORMATION AND COURSE GUIDE 2026



FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND ENROLLMENT, VISIT:
[WONDERSOFWILDLIFE.ORG/WOW-SCHOOL](https://wondersofwildlife.org/wow-school)



ST. LOUIS WOW School

April 11-12, 2026

Beaumont Scout Reservation

6480 Beaumont Reservation Dr, High Ridge, MO 63049

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 314-340-5792. Information is also available online at mostateparks.com/wow.

REGISTRATION OPENS at 9am on March 1, 2026 and closes at 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. To ensure that the registration process is fair to everyone, registration will only be accepted online. No registrations will be accepted by phone, fax, or email. No late registrations will be accepted. If you cannot register online, please make an appointment with the St. Louis Area Office at 314-340-5792 to register at the office.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program Information

Mission Statement	4
General Information	4
Location & Parking.....	4
Schedule	5
Registration	5
Confirmation Letter	6
Program Changes	7
Cancellation Policy	7
Age Requirements	7
Physical Activity Guide	7
Accommodations & Special Needs.....	8
Transportation	8
Scholarships	9

Course Descriptions

Birding 101.....	10
Dutch Oven Cooking	10
Basic Fishing & Stream Exploration	11
Beginner Archery.....	11
Camping 101.....	12
Geocaching	12
Intro to Nature Photography	13
Beginner Paddling	13
Intro to Caving	14
Intro to Rock Climbing	14
Magical Minis	15
Overnight Camping	16

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. WOW 2026 will offer an overnight camping experience in addition to a day of recreational activities. Overnight camping spots will be limited to 100 people. Participants will check in on Saturday morning at Cub World in Beaumont Scout Reservation and then proceed to various areas in and around Beaumont Scout Reservation to attend their pre-registered classes. Saturday class participants will be able to enjoy a provided morning snack and lunch in the afternoon. Overnight participants will have dinner provided to them and a light breakfast Sunday morning. Menus will be sent along with your final confirmation email. All equipment is provided for programs. Participants should dress for the weather and bring anything necessary to enjoy a day and/or overnight spent outdoors. Suggested items include a water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, lip balm, a hat and sunglasses, a jacket (if chilly), and closed-toe shoes. Participants are also encouraged to bring a camp chair. If you are planning to camp out with us, you will receive a packing list in your confirmation email. Tents, tarps, sleeping bags and sleeping pads will be provided for anyone who needs one, but you are welcome to bring your own.

Location & Parking

WOW St. Louis will be held at Cub World in Beaumont Scout Reservation, 6480 Beaumont Reservation Dr, High Ridge, MO 63049.

Free on-site parking will be available at Cub World in the first large parking area past the entrance to Beaumont Scout Reservation.

Check-in will be Saturday morning from 8:00-9:00 am in front of the Cub World Building. Participants will receive a paper copy of their schedules, a map of the camp and surrounding area, and St. Louis WOW School swag.

Schedule

Saturday Schedule:

8:00am – 9:00am: Participant check-in

9:15am – 9:45am: Participant Welcome

10:00am – 10:50am: Session 1A*

10:00am – 11:50am: Session 1B**

10:00am – 11:50am: Magical Minis morning

11:00am – 11:50am: Session 2A*

12:00pm – 1:00pm: Lunch

1:10pm – 2:00pm: Session 3A*

1:10pm – 3:00pm: Session 2B**

1:10pm – 3:00pm: Magical Minis afternoon

2:10pm – 3:00pm: Session 4A*

3:00pm – 3:15pm: Snack and pick up kids from Magical Minis

3:15pm: Non-overnight participants depart Beaumont Scout Reservation

3:20pm – 4:00pm: World Bird Sanctuary- Live Raptor Program

4:30pm – 6:00pm: Tent set-up and distribute gear; Crafts and yard games

6:00pm – 7:00pm: Dinner

7:30pm – 9:30pm: S'mores & Evening programs: Owl prowl, Stargazing Party, Crafts

10:00pm: Lights out

Sunday Schedule:

8:00am: Breakfast

8:00am – 10:00am: Pack up, take down tents and depart

CLASS SESSION OPTIONS

*Session A activities: Archery, Fishing/Stream Exploration, Nature Photography, Birdwatching, Camping 101, Dutch Oven Cooking, Geocaching

**Session B activities: Rock Climbing, Caving, Paddling

Registration

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

WOW St. Louis registration opens at 9:00am on March 1, 2026 and closes at 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Each individual must pre-register to participate. Overnight camping is limited to the first 100 people to sign up.

The registration fee is \$15 per individual for day activities only, or \$25 per individual for day activities and overnight camping. Registration fee covers instruction, use of equipment, WOW t-shirt, snacks, and meals. **Scholarships are available to help cover registration fees! See page 9 for more details.**

To ensure that the registration process is fair to everyone, registration will only be accepted online. No registrations will be accepted by phone, fax, or email. No late registrations will be accepted. If you cannot register online, please make an appointment with the St. Louis Area Office at 314-340-5792 to register at the office.

To register for WOW, you must:

- Complete online registration for each participant.
- A parent or guardian must attend classes with children between the ages of 10 and 17 years old.
- Children ages 5 – 9 must register for Magical Minis and have a registered parent participating in the day's activities. The parent does not have to attend Magical Minis with their child.
- Payments can be made online during your registration.
- Complete the liability/photo release using the link in your registration confirmation email.
- Participants under the age of 5 will not be allowed at the event.
- Pets are not allowed.

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

Scholarships are available; see page 9!

Confirmation Letter

Participants will receive a confirmation email after registration has been completed. Participants will receive another detailed confirmation email the week before the event.

The email will provide the schedule of classes that you have enrolled in, any special instructions for the course, a list of what to bring, the final event schedule, the menus for all meals and any other important information to prepare you for the event. The confirmation email is meant to ensure that participants are aware of their responsibilities and expectations before arriving at WOW.

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

Cancellation Policy

Fees for St. Louis WOW School are nonrefundable. If you cannot attend, any notifications should be sent to Anna.Skalicky@dnr.mo.gov or Edu@wondersofwildlife.org.

Age Requirements

- Children ages 5 – 9 must register for Magical Minis and have a registered parent participating in the day's activities.
- For children ages 10-17, an adult must register for and attend all classes and program activities as their children. Parents/guardians must be registered for and attend the same classes as the child.
- No children under 5 years old are allowed to attend St. Louis WOW School.

Physical Activity Guide

To help participants anticipate what physical levels to expect for each course, a physical activity rating system has been created with ratings listed in the description of each course. 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.

Accommodations & Special Needs

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, WOW staff will make every effort to accommodate people with special needs. **Please include any relevant information regarding needs and accommodations on the event registration form.**

Transportation

Transportation to Beaumont Scout Reservation will be available for participants who need it on a first-come first-served basis. Pick-up will be at the O’Fallon Park Rec Complex YMCA parking lot located at 4343 West Florissant, St. Louis MO 63115. Participants requiring transportation should arrive at the O’Fallon Park YMCA parking lot by 7:30am, as the bus will be departing no later than 7:45am.

If utilizing St. Louis Metro to get to O’Fallon Park YMCA, the nearest bus stop is at Pope & West Florissant, serviced by routes 18 Taylor and 42 Sarah, about a 7 minute walk from the facility.

Participants utilizing provided transportation may leave their cars overnight at the O’Fallon Park Rec Complex *at their own risk*.

Free on-site parking is available for all participants at Beaumont Scout Reservation.

All of the day’s sessions will take place in Beaumont Scout Reservation so participants will be able to leisurely walk or travel a short distance to each session location, except for paddling. Participants will take a 15 minute provided shuttle from Beaumont to the paddling location.

Scholarships

Scholarships for up to 75% off of registration will be available for participants who are in need. For questions about the scholarship process, call 417-225-1162.

Submit online form here:

<https://wowaquarium.formstack.com/forms/scholarshipapplication>

A separate scholarship application will need to be submitted for each member of your household seeking to apply. **The online form takes about 3 minutes to fill out, and no proof of income level or hardship is required.**

All participants applying for scholarships must contribute at least 25% of their registration fee.

If you elect to contribute 25% of the fee:

- **\$3.75** per person for daytime activities only.
- **\$6.25** per person for daytime activities plus overnight camping.

If you elect to contribute 50% of the fee:

- **\$7.50** per person for daytime activities only.
- **\$12.50** per person for daytime activities plus overnight camping.

If you elect to contribute 75% of the fee:

- **\$11.25** per person for daytime activities only.
- **\$18.75** per person for daytime activities plus overnight camping.

Please wait to hear back from Wonders of Wildlife staff about the status of your scholarship before registering online.

Someone will call you within approximately 2 weeks of submitting your application to help you register for the program and take whatever payment you elected to contribute over the phone.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- You must be pre-registered for WOW to participate.
- On-site registration is not available.
- The following WOW courses will be offered during the day on Saturday from 10:00am – 3:00pm.
- There are ten different course options per session. Participants must meet the enrollment requirements and attend the specific course in which they have been enrolled for each session.
- Enrollment is limited for each course.
- **Closed toe shoes are required to participate in all classes.**

Birding 101

Missouri State Parks

Physical Activity: **Low**

Ages: 10+

50 Minutes

Class size limited to 20 participants

Grab a pair of binoculars and get ready for a birding adventure! Birding is an excellent way to exercise your observational skills while building a connection to nature. Birding can be done anywhere in the world and by anyone! In this class, you will get a crash course on basic bird ID and learn how to effectively use field guides and binoculars. All equipment will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own as well.

Dutch Oven Cooking

Missouri State Parks

Physical Activity: **Low**

Age: 10+

50 Minutes

Class sizes limited to 20 participants

Are you ready to level up your camp cooking? Join Missouri State Parks staff for this hands-on class to get you started cooking outside. You will leave this class with basic knowledge of cooking in a Dutch oven and recipe ideas. Come hungry! We will be making an apple crisp. Instructors will do their best to accommodate participants' dietary restrictions.

Basic Fishing & Stream Exploration

Physical Activity: **Moderate**

Ages: 10+

50 Minutes

Class sizes limited to 20 participants

MO Dept of Conservation

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 practice fishing, you will also get to learn about the various game fish of Missouri and have a chance to explore the nearby stream and discover the small macroinvertebrates that call it home. Bait and equipment are provided. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes to this activity.

Beginner Archery

Physical Activity: **Moderate**

Age: 10+

50 Minutes

Class sizes limited to 15 participants

**National Park Service &
US Army Corps of Engineers**

Shoot your shot and dive into the foundations of archery! In this class, you will learn archery safety and ethics, shooting techniques, and archery vocabulary. Then, you'll put your new skills to the test by practicing shooting at targets. Archery is a great way to spend time outside with your loved ones, and it's a great workout too! Participants must wear closed-toe shoes to this class. All equipment will be provided.



Camping 101

Missouri State Parks

Physical activity: **Moderate**

Ages: 10+

50 Minutes

Class sizes limited to 20 participants

Dive into the exciting world of camping! In this class, you will learn the skills and information you need to feel confident heading out on your own camping trip. You will explore different types of gear and learn what it takes to set up a tent in the outdoors. After this class, you'll be ready to make your next camping reservation!

Geocaching

Missouri State Parks

Physical activity: **Moderate**

Ages: 10+

50 Minutes

Class sizes limited to 20 participants

Are you ready for a treasure hunt? Learn to navigate yourself and find some goodies along the way using a handheld GPS. Geocaching is a fun way to get outside and explore your community. You will also learn about the Geocaching program and app accessible from a smartphone. All equipment will be provided.



Intro to Nature Photography

Missouri State Parks

Physical activity: **Moderate**

Ages: 10+

50 Minutes

Class sizes limited to 20 participants

Do you ever see or experience things outdoors and wish you could capture the moment forever? This class aims to give you the knowledge to do so with the fundamentals and ethics of nature photography.

In this class you will learn:

- The controls available to you while taking photographs (e.g. ISO, aperture, and shutter speed)
- The general principles followed by photographers
- The tips, tricks, and ethics of wildlife photography
- An introduction to photo editing

Bring your camera phone, tablet, or camera to get some hands-on practice with in-person feedback. A limited supply of cameras will be available to use.

Beginner Paddling

Missouri State Parks

Physical Activity: **High**

Age: 10+

1 hour 50 minutes (This course covers two class sessions.)

Class sizes limited to 10 participants

Get out on the open water and be the captain of your own boat! Learn the vocabulary of paddling 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 wear clothes that can get wet and bring a change of clothes just in case. All participants will be required to wear a life jacket while the activity takes place on the water, no exceptions.

Intro to Caving

Missouri State Parks

Physical Activity: **High**

Age: 10+

1 hour 50 minutes (This course covers two class sessions.)

Class sizes limited to 10 participants

Explore Beaumont's Mud Cave with experienced cavers! Learn about caves and caving safety before climbing in to explore. This cave lives up to its name, and participants will get muddy during this class. Please wear pants, long sleeves, and closed-toe shoes you don't mind getting dirty, and bring a change of shoes and clothing. Safety gear and headlamps will be provided.

Intro to Rock Climbing

Missouri State Parks
& BETA Fund

Physical Activity: **High**

Age: 10+

1 hour 50 minutes (This course covers two class sessions.)

Class sizes limited to 10 participants

This beginner-oriented course will allow you to enjoy nature from new heights! Learn the basics of rock climbing safety and technique from certified instructors, then test your skills on the Beaumont Climbing Tower. This climbing tower offers a variety of climbing routes that will help you learn or sharpen skills. Harnesses and helmets will be provided. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring or wear tennis shoes for climbing.



Magical Minis

Physical Activity: **Low**

**Maramec Spring Park,
Missouri State Parks,
& Sophia M Sachs Butterfly House**

Ages 5-9

10:00am – 11:50am, 1:10pm – 3:00pm

Class size limited to 25 participants

Experience the magic of nature in this special camp for our little explorers! Your minis will participate in activities such as nature crafts, open play at Lost Beaumont Mine and Pirate Ship playscapes, a special bug program with staff from The Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, and so much more! Magical Minis will join their families for lunch. Children of all abilities are welcome.

This program:

- Runs from 10:00am to 3:00pm with a lunch break.
- Is designed for children 5-9 years old.
- Requires weather-appropriate clothes and closed-toe shoes that can get dirty.
- Is led by a group of trained staff who will remain with the group throughout the entire program.
- Requires parents/guardians to apply any necessary insect repellent or sunblock to children before the program begins and throughout the day. Staff are not allowed to apply these products to participants.
- Parents/guardians must be registered and must attend 2026 St. Louis WOW School. Parents/guardians can attend their own sessions and are not required to stay with their kids at Magical Minis but can if they wish.
- At check-in, parents/guardians will be guided to Magical Minis Basecamp in the heart of the Cub World Area for drop-off.



Overnight Campout

Missouri State Parks

Physical Activity: **Low** to **Moderate**

Ages: 5+

Class size limited to 100 participants

Put your new skills to the test and camp out with us at Beaumont for the night! Learn how to put up a tent, make a fire, and make a campfire meal, and enjoy some delicious s'mores with the help of WOW staff! Register for this campout experience when you register for your WOW class schedule. Dinner, s'mores, and breakfast on Sunday morning will be provided. Evening activities will include a Stargazing Party with the St. Louis Astronomical Society, campfire, and other nighttime fun.

Some camping gear is available to borrow upon request, such as tents, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads. **Please list any gear you are requesting to use in your registration.**



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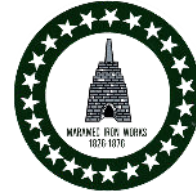
Missouri State Parks



Wonders of Wildlife



**The James Foundation:
Marmec Spring Park**



Gateway Region YMCA



World Bird Sanctuary



**Missouri Department of
Conservation**



US Army Corp of Engineers



National Park Service



**Missouri Botanical Gardens:
Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly
House**



River City Outdoors



BETA Fund

