

Frequently Asked Questions about OLLI

What is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)?

There are over 124 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute programs housed in higher education institutions across the US and Canada. OLLI at Yavapai College is a self-governed and peer-directed membership organization created to meet the needs and interests of local people of retirement age. We operate under Yavapai College's Division of Lifelong Learning.

How is OLLI structured?

We elect our governing council from among our members and have multiple volunteer-run committees to support OLLI operations. Our paid staff includes a director and multiple assistants.

You say that OLLI is more than a classroom. What does that mean?

Members often talk about how OLLI has given them a wonderful circle of friends and sense of community. Here are some of the many ways to get involved – and become part of the OLLI family!

- Stimulate your mind by enrolling in six-week classes, workshops or special one-time “Munch and Learns”.
- Pursue your passions by joining one of our many Special Interest Groups (or start your own!)
- Go on an OLLI Field Trip, explore the community and the world.
- Sign up for a social event. The Social Committee is always coming up with new fun ideas, from picnics and holiday parties to a “Day at the Races”!
- Become an OLLI volunteer and connect with new friends, help OLLI thrive and have fun! As a peer-directed organization, OLLI relies on its volunteers, and has opportunities to fit all interests, from facilitating classes, to helping with one-time events, or joining an on-going committee.
- Have some special interests? Become a Class Facilitator and share your knowledge or facilitate discussions about topics and learn from others.

Do I need to be a member to take a class?

- Yes, only members may enroll in classes and other activities. However, a one-time guest pass is available to sit in to see if our group suits your needs.

How do I find out about classes and activities?

- OLLI publishes a catalog listing classes and activities for each of its six-week “sessions” (two in fall, one in winter, one in spring, and one in summer). Catalogs are mailed to members and available on-line. Most people register on-line for classes (www.yc.edu/OLLI), you can also call the OLLI office at 928-717-7634.
- OLLI staff also send out a weekly e-newsletter with lots of great information, including activities that didn’t make it into the catalog, and activities for the “interludes” between the sessions. Sign up for the newsletter at www.yc.edu/OLLI and check it out.

What makes OLLI’s classes different from others?

- OLLI classes are conceived, created and facilitated by our own members who volunteer their time. Our members have diverse backgrounds and interests, and the classes often have lively discussions and new ideas to ponder.
- There are no tests, grades or college credit. Our members are excited about learning and sharing knowledge and thoughts.
- Classes and activities may be offered on Yavapai College campuses, in the community, or on Zoom, so you can choose those that work best for you.

What if I register for a class or activity but then can’t attend?

- Once you register for a class or activity, if you change your mind please let the office know. Sometimes we have waiting lists, so this may open up a space for others.
- Sometimes you may have to miss a class. Facilitators really appreciate it if you let them know you will be absent.

Is parking free on campus?

- Yes! You can park in any of the parking lots for free. No permit is required.

Are campus facilities open to OLLI Members?

- There is a cafeteria on the Prescott Campus and vending available on other campuses that OLLI members are welcome to take advantage of.
- Yavapai College has art galleries on the Prescott and Clarkdale campuses which are free to explore. YC also has fitness facilities in Prescott and Clarkdale that require passes or enrollment in credit classes. The Performing Arts Center on the Prescott Campus hosts amazing performances, OLLI membership does not qualify for student ticket rates. The Southwest Wine Center on the Clarkdale Campus hosts wonderful tastings and events featuring wine produced through the viticulture program at YC.