

Kenai Fjords Floating Teacher Workshop

Course Overview

June 13 – 20, 2019

*NOTE: as of 1/7/2019, these dates are not final and may change slightly. Finalized dates will be shared as soon as confirmed with park researchers.

Please read the entire information packet carefully. This information will help you plan and prepare for your course. If you have any further questions after you have read this packet, please call (907) 771- 8482 or email Eileen Kazura at ekazura@alaskageographic.org .

Short Synopsis

The main purpose of the course is to inspire teachers to connect their students to nature and field-based, scientific research. Direct interaction with researchers and their long-term monitoring projects will guide much of our discussions, with other emphases on stewardship and resource management. Topics will include research methods for long-term monitoring of species, the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, and the local effects of global climate change. The group will also learn about the area's flora, fauna and glaciers. Participants will practice field research, kayaking, and other outdoor skills.

Special thanks to Prince William Sound Regional Citizen's Advisory Council and the National Park Service for generously supporting this course, which allows Alaska Geographic to offer this course at a low, subsidized fee for all participants.

Activities

This Alaska Geographic course is active and field-based. Participants should be in good physical condition. Accommodations while in the fjords are on a charter boat, and participants should be comfortable in small spaces and able to maneuver around the vessel. Physical activities may include hiking, kayaking and research activities such as intertidal zone surveys. Hiking mostly includes exploratory walks along very uneven beach terrain and creek beds as there is thick underbrush and no trails above high tide line. Kayaking includes day paddles in which participants are sitting for long periods and getting into and out of kayaks. Participants will participate in loading and unloading kayaks as well as carrying boats and group gear short distances on uneven terrain.

Tentative Schedule

Schedules may be modified according to weather and sea conditions and to fit the needs and interests of the participants and instructor, such as viewing unique wildlife sightings and/or spectacular scenery.

Day 1:

Group convenes in Seward, orientation to course goals, expectations and OASLC. Hotel accommodations provided.

Day 2:

Orientation to Kenai Fjords, research aims of the Southwest Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Program, and the impacts of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Gear checks and kayaking introduction may be provided. Hotel accommodations provided.

Day 3 – 7:

Depart Seward via charter boat for Aialik Bay. Over the next 5 days, activities will include meeting with researchers and participating in long-term monitoring projects in Aialik Bay and Northwestern Fjord and group discussions about long-term monitoring efforts after the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and how to bring this research into classrooms. In addition, time will be spent exploring the amazing scenery of Kenai Fjords by foot and/or kayak, and engaging in naturalist-led activities such as intertidal explorations, observing harbor seals from kayaks, learning about glacial geology while floating in a fjord, or journaling on the beach while listening to the thunder of calving glaciers.

On Day 7, the group will return to Seward, de-gear, and depart.

Weather

The entire course takes place outdoors and activities will continue rain or shine. Weather conditions are unpredictable in Kenai Fjords and generally include precipitation. You must be prepared for a wide range of conditions. Temperatures can vary from near freezing to 80 degrees F. Mosquitoes and other biting insects can be numerous anytime during the summer. Be prepared with adequate warm clothing, a hooded rain jacket, and rain pants (rubberized fisherman style is highly recommended). Dress in layers. Please review carefully the Clothing & Equipment List provided.

Meeting Location, Parking, and Departure

Meeting location is TBD in Seward, AK. Participants must provide their own transportation to and from Seward, AK for this program. A secure place to park will be provided in Seward for the field-based portion of this course.

Accommodations & Meals

The first two days of this course will take place in Seward, AK. During this time, hotel accommodations will be provided at no additional charge. During these two days, participants will provide their own meals.

This remainder of the workshop will take place aboard a charter boat anchored in Aialik Bay and Northwestern Fjords. Participants should plan to share a berth with another teacher, and share restrooms with the entire group. Meals will be family-style and included in the cost of

the course. Please notify us several weeks before the course of any specific dietary needs or restrictions.

Please review carefully the Clothing & Equipment List provided.

Payment

Payment deadline is February 17th. We prefer checks but credit card is also accepted. Please send check to:

Alaska Geographic
241 North C. Street
Anchorage, Alaska
99501

Or call our front desk at 907-274-8440 to pay by credit card.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations that occur 60 days in advance of the course start date will be refunded the course fee, less a processing fee of \$25 per space. For cancellations and/or substitutions within 60 days of the start date, the entire fee will be retained unless we can fill your space. Registration fees are not transferable to future years. If we have to cancel a course, your entire fee will be refunded. Refunds will be credited to the credit card used during the original transaction if less than 100 days since the original transaction. All other refunds will be made through a mailed check. Please contact our staff to process a refund. All membership purchases are nonrefundable and non-transferable.

Insurance and Liability

Participants should have their own health and accident insurance. Also please consider travel insurance in case you have to cancel your trip due to illness or injury. All participants will be asked to read and sign Alaska Geographic's risk form and complete the emergency contact and medical form. Please bring these forms with you to the check-in on the first day of the course. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Important Phone Numbers

General Course Information: 907-771-8482

Emergency Contact: Program Director 907-223-
8204

Note: During the course participants will not have access to a phone or cell phone coverage.

Professional Development Credit

Three professional development credits are awarded for completion of this course, including post-field assignments. By enrolling in this course, you are officially pre-registered and pre-paid with the University of Alaska – Anchorage. A registration form will be made available prior to the start of the course on the Alaska Geographic website. Please fill it out and bring it with you to the course check-in.

Suggested Course Reading List

The Spill, Personal Stories from the Exxon Valdez Disaster, PWS Regional Citizens Advisory Council (2009)

Exploring Alaska's Kenai Fjords, David William Miller (2017)

The Complete Guide to Kenai Fjords National Park, Jim Pfeiffenberger (1995) Greatland Graphics

A Stern and Rockbound Coast, Kenai Fjords National Park Historic Resource Study, Linda Cook and Frank Norris (1998)

https://www.nps.gov/kefj/learn/historyculture/upload/Cook1998_HRSSternRockBoundCoast.pdf

Southeast Alaska's Rocky Shores, Animals, Rita O'Clair, Charles O'Clair (1998) Plant Press

Between Pacific Tides, Edward F. Ricketts, Jack Calvin, Joel Hedgpeth (1992) Stanford University Press

Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific Coast, Eugene N. Kozloff (1983) University of Washington Press

Living Ice: Understanding Glaciers and Glaciation, Robert P. Sharp, (1988) Cambridge University Press

Glaciers and Glaciation, Douglas Benn, David Evans (2nd Edition) Hodder Arnold Publications

Looking Both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People, Aron L. Crowell, Amy Steffian, and Gordon Pullar (2001) University of Alaska Press

Last Child in the Woods, Richard Louv (2008) Algonquin Books

Sea Kayaking Skills, Leave No Trace Inc. (2002) Skills & Ethics Series, Boulder, CO

Wilderness: A Journal of Quiet Adventure in Alaska, Rockwell Kent (1996 edition)

Travels in Alaska, John Muir, Mariner Books.

