

Geology of Denali

Denali National Park and Preserve
July 14 - 16, 2021

Course Description

Denali's dramatic landscape has been sculpted and scoured by tectonics, glaciers, rivers, and landslides. Join National Park Service geologist Denny Capps for an introduction to Denali's geology. We will spend our days hiking mountains and valleys learning how geologists study the Earth and interpret the landscape's story. We'll learn basic mineral and rock identification, decipher evidence of past glaciations, examine dynamic braided rivers, and visit areas affected by permafrost and landslides.

Hiking Distances and Physical Fitness

Field courses are active learning experiences and take place in Denali's wilderness. Hiking will be strenuous, covering distances up to several miles round trip and including as much as 1,500 feet of elevation gain. We will be hiking off trail on steep, rough, uneven, and unstable rocks, tundra, and/or forested terrain. Depending on prevailing conditions we may encounter stream crossings with water levels that are above hiking boots. **Participants must be in good physical condition and have a sense of adventure.** If you are uncertain about your physical ability for this course, please contact us for more information.

Times and Location

Participants meet at the long term/RV parking lot near the Denali Visitor Center, located at mile 1 of the Park Road. Check-in starts at 6:30pm on Wednesday and the group will begin traveling to the field camp by 7:00pm. The group will return to the park entrance area around 4pm on Friday.

Lodging and Meals

This course is based out of the Murie Science and Learning Center Field Camp, located 29 miles inside Denali National Park along the Teklanika River. The Field Camp includes rustic tent cabins and outhouses. Meals are simple and healthy and will be served take-out style.

Accreditation

The University of Alaska Anchorage offers one professional development credit (level 500) for an additional \$74 fee. The 10% membership discount does not apply to the credit fee.

Questions?

More detailed information about this course, including Covid mitigation, can be found by opening the other documents in the "course details" tab on the website.

If you have other questions, please contact the Murie Science and Learning Center by email courses@alaskageographic.org or by calling (907) 683-6432.