

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND TEACHERS COURSE

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION PACKET



Your connection to Alaska's parks, forests, and refuges

Exploring the Prince William Sound

June 6-12, 2022

Course Overview

The main purpose of the course is to inspire teachers to connect their students to nature. The human relationship to nature will be a central theme, with an emphasis on America's public lands and our idea of wilderness. Topics will include the area's Alaska Native history, early Euro-American activities, evolution of the Chugach National Forest, 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 camping, kayaking, and other outdoor skills. As a group you will base camp at the same beach for the duration of the program. There will be a maximum of 8 teachers, 2 instructors, and one course instructor.

Activities

This Alaska Geographic course is active and field-based. Participants should be in good physical condition. Kayaking will be moderately strenuous, in two-person expedition-style boats, covering distances of approximately 5-12 miles per day and stretches of 2-3 hours at a time between breaks out of the boat. No previous kayaking experience necessary. 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. Seating for meals and lessons is on the ground. Participants will participate in loading and unloading kayaks as well as carrying boats and group gear short distances on uneven terrain.



Course Itinerary

Day 1 - June 6

4:00-6:00p - Group orientation at location TBD in Anchorage. Review packing list, issue borrowed gear, review course goals and itinerary. Participants are responsible for their own food and lodging in Anchorage for this night.

Day 2 - June 7

8:00a - Group meets at our office, 421 W 1st Ave Anchorage, AK 99501 for 8:30a departure to Whittier. 11:30a water taxi to Derickson Bay. These times are subject to change based on weather and Seward highway construction schedule.

Day 3-7 - June 8-11

Flexible, go with the flow schedule that will include class time, kayaking, meal time, and personal time. Daily schedules will be dependent on weather conditions, tides, and learning opportunities. Class time is planned for 2 90-minute sessions. All time will be spent outdoors, there are no permanent structures. We plan to remain at one camp for the duration of the course.

Day 8 - June 12

2:30p- Water taxi pick-up back to Whittier. 4:00 or 5:00p tunnel back to Anchorage, de-issue gear at our office, 421 W 1st Ave. Note: there are many factors on this day out of our control that could cause delay, we cannot guarantee Anchorage arrival in time to meet further transit. We recommend booking transit for your return home on June 13.



Additional Information

Course Expectations

We expect all teachers to be engaged and participate in class activities each day. We will be adhering to a group "expedition mindset", in which we will be helpful, supportive, and encouraging of each other. The entire course takes place outdoors and activities will continue rain or shine. Weather conditions are unpredictable in Prince William Sound 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).

Camping Accommodations

Camping in Prince William Sound is primitive wilderness camping. There will be no amenities, including no outhouse. Backcountry toilet protocols will be taught, and all materials provided. Camping will be in tents for two people in order to fit the group in small camping areas; please plan to share a tent with a course participant. Participants are welcome to bring their own backpacking-style tent, sleeping bag, and sleeping pad, or Alaska Geographic has gear to borrow for a minimal maintenance fee. Please review carefully the Clothing & Equipment List provided.

Meals

Meals will be prepared family-style in camp with duties to assist the staff rotating throughout the group. Pre-trip paperwork will include a dietary request form to discuss their preferences, allergies, and restrictions. Plentiful snacks and hot drinks will be provided.

Covid-19

We require all participants and AK Geo staff to be fully vaccinated. In addition, we recommend testing prior to our orientation. We have refund options available for those who test positive prior to the trip. The group will be wearing masks in enclosed indoor spaces, such as our orientation area, the van, and water taxi. Masks will not be required outside or in outdoor shelters, including tents. The safety of our staff is crucial to the success of this trip and our future summer programs for students - please do not attend the trip if you are presenting symptoms of a respiratory illness.

Professional Development Credits

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.

PACKING LIST

Wearing the proper clothing on your trip is essential to having a positive experience. We have carefully created a packing list based on the various weather conditions your group may experience. Having multiple light layers instead of one heavy layers allows more flexibility. Wool and synthetic materials ("polypropylene", "fleece", etc) are preferred over cotton, as they dry much faster and retain warmth when wet. Please do not bring cotton on the trip.

Clothing designed by outdoor brands is expensive and can often be intimidating to purchase. You are by no means required to have branded outdoor clothing. Old team jerseys, thrift store fleeces, and synthetic leggings are all more than adequate.

Technical Camping Gear (sleeping bags, tents, etc) - AK Geo will provide all technical gear needed for camping and kayaking. We can provide clothing and sleeping bags for a nominal cleaning fee.

*Please let us know as soon as possible if you need assistance obtaining any of this gear - we are here to help!
An asterisk (*) means you can rent the item free of charge from AK Geo.*

WHAT TO BRING *no cotton clothing

- 2 long-sleeve base layer shirts*
- 2 athletic shirts - one short sleeve, one long sleeve*
- 1 fleece jacket or warm sweater (not cotton sweats)*
- 1 winter jacket (puffy style) insulation layer*
- 1 pair long underwear bottoms or running tights*
- 1 pair athletic style or hiking pants*
- 1 pair loose fitting warm pants for camp (not cotton sweats)
- 4 pairs of wool or synthetic socks
- 5-8 pairs of underwear, 2-3 sports bras
- 1 pair of tennis shoes or water shoes for kayaking
- 1 pair of camp shoes (crocs, extra tennis shoes, etc)
- 1 pair of calf-knee height rain boots*
- 1 rain jacket - rubberized/fishing style with hood*
- 1 rain jacket - regular, packable rain jacket with hood*
- 1 pair rain pants - rubberized/fishing style*
- 1 pair of non-cotton warm gloves*
- 1 warm hat*
- 1 baseball cap
- 1 thin neck gaiter (ex; Buff)
- 2 cotton face masks or 5-10 disposable masks
- 1 bandana
- 1 bug headnet*
- Sunglasses with strap (strap can be handmade with AK Geo)
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Small flashlight or headlamp
- 2 1-liter wide mouth Nalgene water bottles*
- 1-2 trash bags for dirty & wet clothing + 5-10 extra ziplocks
- Menstrual products - whatever you use at home
- Journal & pen (optional, one will be provided)
- Personal camera (optional, group camera will be provided)
- Small book (optional)

Medications

- Please inform us of any medications you will need to take while on course. Due to our remote location, please bring double the essential medication needed in durable, non-breakable container
- We will have over-the-counter medications in our extensive expedition style first aid kit. If you often need a specific over-the-counter medication, please bring it and list it on your med form.
- If applicable, YOU MUST BRING YOUR PRESCRIBED INHALER OR EPI-PEN**, even if you have not ever used it.

Glasses and/or contacts

- If glasses or contacts are essential for you, please bring a spare set. If your only pair of glasses/contacts gets broken or lost, it could result in an evacuation.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Alcohol, drugs, or tobacco
- Soap, shampoo, perfume, unessential toiletries (all toiletries must get stored in bear canisters, extra toiletries will not fit)



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please register at the link below:

<https://www.akgeo.org/field-courses/teacher-opportunities>

Educators from Exxon-Valdez Oil Spill affected communities are highly encouraged to apply

Trip Cost: \$750 for Alaska Geographic Members, \$825 for non-members

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MARCH 30, 2022**

Payment Deadline:
April 8, 2022

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.

QUESTIONS?

education@akgeo.org

(907) 771-8466



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