

# ROCKY CREEK STEWARDSHIP & CAMPING

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION PACKET



Alaska Geographic

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

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This expedition takes place in the Seward District of the Chugach National Forest. The group will construct a segment of a new trail at Mile 21 working north, continuing from the section completed in 2018 and 2019 by the AK Geo youth crews. This project will involve learning the anatomy of a trail and how to use hand tools such as pulaskis, shovels, picks, and loppers. On Saturday, June 4, the group will join Alaska Trails for their Stewards Volunteer Event to celebrate National Trails Day. Students will bring their newfound expertise in trail tools to the public volunteers. The group will be based camped at Ptarmigan Campground for the duration of the trip.

The expedition will start and end in Anchorage. A group van will drive from Anchorage to Ptarmigan campground and back. If you will be traveling from outside of the Anchorage area, please get in touch so we can help arrange travel logistics.



# COURSE ITINERARY

*This is an example itinerary that is subject to change based on weather conditions, availability of USFS staff, transportation delays, and for unplanned opportunities.*

## **PRE-TRIP - MAY 19**

Online Zoom orientation to review the packing list and discuss course logistics

## **DAY 1 - MAY 31**

Group meets at our downtown Anchorage office at 9:00 am to distribute gear and hit the road to Ptarmigan Campground

## **DAY 2 - JUNE 1**

Claire, a CNF ranger, meets the group to begin trail project

## **DAY 3 - JUNE 2**

Continue trail project, with time to explore and relax in the afternoon

## **DAY 4 - JUNE 3**

Continue trail project, with time to explore and relax in the afternoon

## **DAY 5 - JUNE 4**

National Trails Day! Meet with Alaska Trails for their Stewardship Volunteer Event

## **DAY 6 - JUNE 5**

Wrap up the trail project, enjoy the last night at camp

## **DAY 7 - JUNE 6**

Pack up camp and drive back to Anchorage for an early afternoon pick-up

# EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUTH

This field course is an active learning experience set in remote locations on the Kenai Peninsula. Students will be expected to actively and positively contribute to the expedition by participating in group discussions, being present during conservation work, and practicing a group-focused expedition mentality. They will be expected to positively participate in building a fun, effective, and inspiring team of peers. All participants will sign a student contract as a commitment to the expedition (found under "paperwork" link).

Activities will rotate through labor-based projects, relaxation time, moderate level exercise, and strenuous level exercise. Participants need to be able to hike up to 6 miles a day with a 30lb backpack on rocky, rough, and uneven terrain, sometimes off-trail. Participants should be able to self-regulate emotions in various weather conditions such as wind, rain, hot, and cold with mosquitos present. Participants will be sleeping in tents with another group member. No experience with trail work, hiking, backpacking, or camping is necessary to participate. **Participants should be in good physical condition and prepared for all weather conditions.**

The group will be constantly supervised and guided, but each individual is responsible for attending the trip physically and mentally prepared for variable conditions.

Please reach out to discuss these expectations further if you have any questions.



## WEATHER

Weather in Alaska is unpredictable. Please come prepared for a wide range of weather, especially cold and wet conditions. Temperatures can dip close to freezing in the evening and may warm up to the 80's during the day. Mosquitoes can be abundant at any time in the summer. Our course activities will continue rain or shine, but the itinerary may change based on weather conditions that call for safety concerns.

## FOOD

All food will be provided, including hot drinks and snacks. Menus are extensively planned and portions calculated to ensure enough calories and variety. If you have specific dietary needs to discuss, please provide as much information as possible on our dietary request form (included in paperwork). Unless specifically discussed prior to the program, students are not allowed to bring their own food as all food must fit in bear-secure food containers.

## CAMPING

The group will be based camped at Ptarmigan Campground, a National Forest campground with tent pads and outhouses. Participants will be in tents with 1-2 other participants, to be determined by trip leaders on the first day. We will closely follow wildlife-related safety precautions. All food and smell-ables (such as toiletries) will be stored outside tents in a bear proof container. Students will camp together with AK Geo instructor tents immediately nearby.



# ORIENTATION INFORMATION

Orientation will take place in Anchorage, and students will be returning home after orientation (unless discussed otherwise).

On the day of our orientation, please bring all of your packing list items along with you. Your items do not have to be packed, as we will spread everything out and repack into dry bags (bring your things in shopping bags, trash bags, etc is fine). You will also be issued all the gear you need to borrow. Once our bags are packed, we will load them up into our van and you will not have access to them again until we arrive at campsite the next day. The only items you will bring home after orientation are items you decided you did not need to bring on the trip, and whatever you would like to wear on day 1 for the drive and water taxi.

After we pack our bags, we will head to a community pool to practice kayaking. (availability permitting).

Student pick-up will be at our office in the afternoon. Please refer to the itinerary above for date/time details. If you are coming from out of town, please contact [education@akgeo.org](mailto:education@akgeo.org) or 907-771-8466 as soon as possible. We will provide food, camping, and transportation with AK Geo instructors for out-of-town students.

# COVID-19 INFORMATION

All students and staff are required to be fully vaccinated, including the appropriate boosters. Some trips may require entrance and/or usage of federal facilities which require a vaccination card, or a testing attestation form. Since we are not able to adhere to weekly testing while in the field, a Covid-19 vaccination card is a requirement.

Masks will be worn in small, indoor spaces such as our offices and vans. In addition, we will wear masks when interacting with others outside of our group, such as Forest Service staff. Masks will not be required when outside, at camp, or in a tent.