

# DENALI FIELD CAMP I

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION PACKET



Alaska Geographic

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

## COURSE OVERVIEW

During this six day Field Camp, you will explore the ecosystems and learn about park science and the cultural heritage of Denali National Park, and develop and practice your wilderness travel skills. You will enjoy the quiet of nature while camping in Denali National Park and Preserve and get to know other youth from around Alaska, serving as an ambassador for your community. Most importantly, we want you to have fun and be a part of a team – working, learning, and living together for a week.

The Field Camp will start and end in Anchorage. A van will transport the group from Anchorage to the Denali National Park and back to Anchorage. If you live closer to Denali than Anchorage, please contact us to arrange alternative logistics. If you will be traveling from outside of the Anchorage or Denali area, please get in touch so we can help arrange travel logistics.



# TRIP ITINERARY

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

## **DAY 1 - JULY 24**

Orientation in Anchorage. Please see the "Orientation Day Details" email that will be sent out via email prior to trip start date for further details. If you live outside of the Anchorage area we will provide meals and camping with AK Geo staff this night.

## **DAY 2 - 4 - JULY 25 - 27**

Explore Denali National Park with National Park Service (NPS) staff and AK Geo guides. Participate in field work with NPS researchers, learn about and help care for Denali's sled dogs, explore the visitor center, and more.

## **DAY 5 - JULY 28**

Drive into the park to experience the Teklanika Field Camp. Venture out with your group for an off-trail backcountry hike in Denali's wilderness and spend the night in the wall tents, fully immersed in Denali National Park.

## **DAY 6 - JULY 29**

Participate in reflection activities, pack up camp, and drive back to Anchorage for a late-afternoon pickup at the AK Geo Anchorage office.



# EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUTH

This Field Camp is an active learning experience operating along the Denali National Park road. Activities will vary, from off-trail hiking on rough and uneven terrain to formal trail hiking, with extended periods of both standing and sitting. Participants will hike up to 6 miles per day with up to a 20lb backpack. Participants should be able to self-regulate emotions in various weather conditions such as wind, rain, hot, and cold temperatures, along with mosquitos and other insects. Participants will be sleeping in tents with other group members and will spend one or two nights in a wall tent with up to three others. No prior hiking or camping experience is necessary. **Participants should be in good physical condition and prepared for all weather conditions.**

The group will be continuously supervised and guided, although each individual is responsible for regulating their own physical and mental wellbeing. Participants will be expected to actively and positively contribute to the expedition by showing respect to themselves, each other, NPS staff, and AK Geo guides. We expect all participants to participate in group discussions, be present during projects, and practice a group-focused expedition mentality. Participants will be expected to 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). Please reach out to discuss these expectations further if you have any questions.



## **WEATHER**

The weather in Denali National Park is unpredictable. Please come prepared for a wide range of conditions from hot to cold, and very wet to dry and dusty. Temperatures can dip well below 32 degrees F or as high as 80+ degrees F. Snow is possible any month of the year. Mosquitoes can be abundant at times, especially in mid-summer. Our course activities will continue rain or shine, although the itinerary may change based on weather. Please see packing list for more information on what to bring so you can ensure your comfortable.

## **FOOD**

All food will be provided, including hot drinks and snacks. Menus are extensively planned and portions calculated to ensure adequate 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.

## **CAMPING**

The group will spend the first part of the trip camping in tents at a front-country campground in Denali National Park. Tents, sleeping bags, and pads are provided. The last night or two will be spent at the Teklanika Field Camp in wall tents with cots and mattresses. Basic amenities are offered at all camps. Participants will sleep in tents with 1-2 other participants, to be determined by trip leaders the first day. Wall tents will have up to 4 students. 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 on July 24th. On the day of our orientation, please bring all of your packing list items along with you in soft-sided luggage, like a duffel bag or a large backpack. You will also be issued all the gear you need to borrow.

**Please see the "Orientation Day Details" email that will be sent out via email prior to trip start date for further details.**

# COVID-19 INFORMATION

All students and staff are required to be up to date with their Covid-19 vaccination, as defined by the CDC by the start of our Field Camp. All participants must show proof of a negative Covid-19 test taken within 24 hours of the Field Camp start date.

Masks may be required in some indoor spaces, such as vehicles, contingent upon current CDC recommendations and federal requirements.



# INFORMATION FOR GUARDIANS & PARENTS

## INSURANCE & LIABILITY

Participants should have their own health and accident insurance. Alaska Geographic and its coordinating partners act only in the capacity of agents and instructors in all matters relating to transportation and other related travel services. We assume no responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property in connection with any service or program. All participants must read and sign the enclosed Acknowledgment of Risk Form and complete the Health Form. Liability Insurance for the program is provided by Alaska Geographic.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

If circumstances leave you unable to join the expedition and you must cancel, please let us know immediately so another teen can take your coveted slot—we have a long waiting list!

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

If you need to convey a message to someone on the expedition, you may text or call Alaska Geographic on-call person (below). The on-call person can relay short messages to the group if necessary.

AK Geo instructors carry multiple two-way communication devices at all times.

**24-hour on-call phone:**

TBD

**Education Coordinator:**

Caitlyn Tetterton (907) 771 - 8466