

The Nature of Fire: Project Learning Tree and Fire in Alaska

Denali National Park and Preserve

May 31 - June 3, 2022

Course Description

While gaining a sense of place, we'll explore Denali's boreal forest and tundra and the role wildfire plays on these ecosystems. Using hands-on activities from Project Learning Tree's new "Nature of Fire" activity collection, we'll dive into understanding fire ecology including the effects of climate change on interior Alaska's fire regime, fire management in Alaska, and how to protect our homes and communities. Throughout the workshop, we'll be immersed in outdoor teaching and learning techniques and you'll go home with PLT's multi-disciplinary *Explore Your Environment K-8 Activity Guide* as well as access to PLT's Alaska-specific online professional development which includes fire education modules. We'll also become familiar with the many resources available to teach fire education for K-12 in Alaska – including fire kits available for check out around the state, as well as an introduction to the online, Fire in Alaska curricula.

Hiking Distances and Physical Fitness

Field courses are active learning experiences with portions taking place off trail in Denali's wilderness. Hiking will be moderately strenuous over uneven tundra, forest, and river bar terrain, covering distances of up to 3 - 5 miles round trip with as much as 1,500 feet of elevation gain. We will likely encounter wet tundra / forest conditions and stream crossings with water levels that are above hiking boots. **Participants must be in good physical condition.** If you are uncertain about your physical ability for this course, please contact us for more information.

Times and Location

Participants meet at the Murie Science and Learning Center, located at mile 1 of the Denali Park Road. Check-in starts at 6:00pm on Tuesday and the course will begin at 6:30. The group will leave the field camp at 9:00am on Friday to return to the park entrance area.

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 \$79 fee.

Questions?

More detailed information about this course 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 & Learning Center by email courses@alaskageographic.org or phone (907) 683-6432.