

The Rhythm of Denali's Mammals

Denali National Park and Preserve

July 29 - 31, 2022

Course Description

The myriad of mammal species in Denali are intricately tied together through cyclic fluctuations, patterns of reproduction, and the climate and ecological extremes of this northern ecosystem. Join long time resident and naturalist Nan Eagleson to examine the landscape for animal life in Denali's treeless tundra, boreal forest and river bars. From the charismatic megafauna to the voles, lemmings and shrews, the predator-prey relationships play out in a natural state here. On outings we will look for tracks and scats that suggest their food habits while keeping a sharp eye out for wildlife of all sorts. Climate change and its impact on the lives of northern animals, in the backdrop of this fragile ecosystem, will be part of a discussion for our vision of their future.

Hiking Distances and Physical Fitness

Field courses are active learning experiences and take 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 Friday. The course begins at 6:30pm and will return to the park entrance area around 4pm on Sunday.

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.

Accreditation

The University of Alaska Anchorage offers one professional development credit (level 500) for an additional \$79 fee. The 10% membership discount does not apply to the credit 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 and Learning Center by email courses@alaskageographic.org or by calling (907) 683-6432.