

Naturalist Skills

Denali National Park and Preserve
July 28 - 30, 2023

Course Description

Join the Alaska Geographic Education Team in Denali National Park to learn naturalist skills! Over the course of the weekend, you will learn how to grow your skills as a naturalist through observation, questioning, and field journaling. We'll hike to different habitats to learn about the local flora and fauna and look at techniques used by famous naturalists such as Olaus and Mardy Murie. Not only will these skills help you better understand the natural world, but you will be able to teach friends, family, or students how to greater observe the outdoors. At the end of the course, you will be awarded a certificate of completion for our naturalist training.

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 (UAA) offers one professional development credit (level 500) for an additional \$79 fee. You must register for the credit directly with UAA.

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@akgeo.org or by calling (907) 683-6432.