

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

Denali National Park and Preserve

July 24 - 27, 2023

Course Description

While gaining a sense of place, we'll explore Denali National Park's boreal forest and tundra and the role wildfire plays in these ecosystems. Joined by fire professionals, we'll examine an older burn site within the park to understand fire ecology including the effects of climate change on interior Alaska's fire regime and what current data trends are telling us. Throughout the workshop, we'll be immersed in outdoor teaching and learning techniques as you become familiar with activities from PLT's multi-disciplinary *Explore Your Environment K-8 Activity Guide*. 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 Fire in Alaska curricula. You'll go home with the PLT activity guide, the Fire in Alaska curricula, and new inspiration that comes from spending a few nights immersed in nature with a community of educators!

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 Monday and the course will begin at 6:30. The group will leave the field camp at 9:00am on Thursday 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.

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 & Learning Center by email courses@akgeo.org or phone (907) 683-6432.