

DENALI FIELD CAMP

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION DOCUMENTS



Alaska Geographic

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

COURSE OVERVIEW

During this five day trip, 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 trip 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 15th

Group meets in Anchorage at 4pm to go over trip logistics and camping gear. Further details will be given prior to this date.

DAY 2 - JULY 16th

Meet at the AK Geo office downtown (421 W 1st Ave) at 8:00 am for the drive to Denali to the Teklanika Field Camp.

DAY 3 - JULY 17th

Exploring the wonders of Denali with National Park Service staff.

DAY 4 - JULY 18th

Continue exploring the wonders of Denali with National Park Service staff.

DAY 5 - JULY 19th

Participate in reflection activities, pack up camp, and drive back to Anchorage for an afternoon pickup around 5pm at the AK Geo office in downtown Anchorage (421 W 1st Ave)



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 comfort.

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

Camping will be at the Teklanika Field Camp in wall tents with cots and mattresses. Basic amenities are offered. 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, and students will be returning home after orientation (unless discussed otherwise).

On the day of our orientation, please bring all of your packing list items along with you. Your items do not have to be packed, as we will spread everything out and repack into backpacks (bring your things in shopping bags, trash bags, etc is fine). You will also be issued all the gear you need to borrow. Once our bags are packed, we will load them up into our van and you will not have access to them again until we arrive at the trailhead the next day. The only items you will bring home after orientation are items you decided you did not need to bring on the trip, and hiking clothes for beginning the trail.

Please refer to the itinerary above for date/time details. If you are coming from out of town, please contact education@akgeo.org or 907-771-8466 as soon as possible.

CLOTHING & GEAR

All essential clothing and gear will be provided at no cost.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Please see our updated Covid policies and procedures on the Safety & Risk Management page on akgeo.org. We strongly encourage participants to be fully vaccinated. All participants will take an at-home rapid test at orientation. Masks may be required in indoor spaces at time. The safety of our staff is crucial to the success of this trip and our future summer programs for students - please do not attend the trip if you are presenting symptoms of a respiratory illness.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Due to a high volume of applicants and our time sensitive logistics for each trip, we request that students inform us no later than **10 days** before the beginning of a trip if they will not be able to attend the expedition. Failure to do so can jeopardize eligibility for future trip opportunities.