

Through the Eyes of Scientists: Denali Cycles and Climate Change

Denali National Park and Preserve

July 3 - 5, 2017

Course Description

After a century of protection as a national park, Denali is well known as a living laboratory, an intact ecosystem where we can learn about naturally occurring cycles like plant succession, predator prey connections, glacial movements, and permafrost dynamics. Many studies have examined how all of Denali's components interact, and how these systems change over time. However, in recent years, scientists have witnessed significant changes in those systems due to a rapidly changing climate. What will the next century bring? Join Denali National Park Service scientists in the field for a close up look at Denali's ecosystem and hear the latest in climate change research. We'll visit hotspots in the park to learn about causes of change in Denali – what's "normal" and what isn't? Come find out!

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, covering distances of approximately 5 miles round trip and including as much as 1,500 feet of elevation gain. We will be hiking off trail on rough, uneven tundra, forest, and river bar terrains and 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.

Times and Location

Participants meet at the Murie Science and Learning Center, located at mile 1 of the Park Road. This course begins at 6:30 pm on the first day and ends at 4:00 pm on the last day.

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 a common dining tent. Family-style meals are simple and healthy.

Accreditation

The University of Alaska Anchorage offers one professional development credit (level 500) for an additional \$69 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.