

Denali's Large Mammals: Past, Present, and Future

Denali National Park and Preserve

June 30 – July 2, 2017

Course Description

100 years ago Alaska's first national park, what is now Denali National Park and Preserve, was set aside as a game refuge to protect wildlife populations. Join us in celebrating Denali's centennial and the conservation of wildlife habitat by learning about and observing Denali's iconic large mammals. With Alaska Geographic educator NJ Gates, we'll explore the natural history and habitat of Denali's "Big Five": bears, wolves, sheep, caribou, and moose. We'll take a look at large mammal research, populations and changes to the ecosystem over the last 100 years and contemplate what the next 100 years may hold for these species.

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 approximately 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.**

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.