

Denali's Micro Wilderness: Insects and Spiders

Denali National Park and Preserve
July 28 - 30, 2017

Course Description

Denali is well known for its large mammals and big mountain, but a closer look reveals a vast microwilderness waiting to be discovered. Denali's insects, spiders, and other arthropods play a critical role in Denali's ecosystems and have only recently been the subject of more in depth research. Join entomologists Jessica Rykken from the National Park Service and Derek Sikes from the University of Alaska Fairbanks for a behind the scenes look at their 5 year arthropod study and an exploration of this fascinating world. We'll visit several research sites to learn about the different insects found there and the important roles they play in Denali. As a group, we will help collect some of these species to add to the current study and learn more about what this research has revealed so far.

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.