



Ecology of Denali



Dates

July 24-26, 2026



Difficulty

Level 4



Elevation Gain

Up to 1500 feet



Hiking Distance

Up to 5 miles per day

Course Description

Born of a young mountain range, complex geologic origins, placement in the subarctic, weather patterns and a biological history without significant alteration by humans, Denali is an ideal place to study the ecology of an intact ecosystem. Join local naturalist Anne Beaulaurier as we learn to look at the landscape, from the mega to the micro, as a series of interactions and responses. We'll explore different types of tundra, look for birds and animal signs, seek out patterns on the landscape, and develop a better understanding of Denali's ecosystem.

Difficulty Level 4

You must be physically prepared to hike off-trail up to 5 miles each day, at a comfortable pace, with climbs up to 1500 feet. Expect uneven footing, wet boggy tundra, dense undergrowth, loose rocks, and stream crossings less than knee height. Good coordination is recommended.

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 Friday. The course begins at 6:30pm and will return to the park entrance area around 4pm on Sunday.

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 cabins and outhouses. Meals are simple and healthy.

Professional Development Credit

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. Please see our website for registration directions.

Questions? Email courses@akgeo.org or call 907-771-8485