



Off-Trail Hiking Fundamentals



Dates

August 7 - 9, 2026



Difficulty

Level 3



Elevation Gain

Up to 1000 feet



Hiking Distance

Up to 3 miles per day

Course Description

This course is a beginner-friendly introduction to navigating Denali's off-trail wilderness. Join Denali Education Ranger Rachel Reed to build skills and confidence in the backcountry. We will get hands-on experience using basic navigational tools while on day hikes that go off the beaten path. Exploring the Park's varied terrain, we will get insight into the importance of stewardship and safety in the backcountry. By the end of the course, you'll feel ready for future adventures in and around Denali!

Difficulty Level 3

You must be physically prepared to hike off-trail up to 3 miles each day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 1000 feet in undulating terrain. Expect uneven footing, wet boggy tundra, dense undergrowth, and minor stream crossings. 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