



Wildlife Tracking



Dates

June 5 - 7, 2026



Difficulty

Level 3



Elevation Gain

Up to 1000 feet



Hiking Distance

Up to 3 miles per day

Course Description

Learn how to read stories on the landscape using the science and art of wildlife tracking. With expert tracker Mike Taras, we will explore Denali to find the tracks and signs of all animals, large and small. We'll explore how to look for tracks and signs and investigate key factors in their identification. We'll study the gaits of different animals and the track patterns they leave on the ground. We'll also learn about aging tracks, animal behavior, observation skills, and more! As we sharpen our senses and observational skills, the landscape will come alive with the evidence of our wild neighbors. After learning about the natural history of Denali throughout the weekend, you'll take home knowledge and skills that will enhance your study of wildlife tracks and signs into the future.

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