

Project Learning Tree and the Nature of Fire in Alaska

Denali National Park and Preserve

June 27 - 29, 2025

Course Description

This course is designed to train educators to teach youth about fire ecology and wildland-urban interface fire protection in our changing climate. While gaining a sense of place, we'll explore Denali's boreal forest and tundra and the role wildfire plays on these ecosystems. We'll join NPS fire ecologists for a hands-on look at past fires in Denali National Park and Preserve to understand interior Alaska's fire regime, management strategies, and how the ecosystem responds to fire. Educators will receive PLT's The Nature of Fire Activity collection, and Wildfire and Change in Alaska, as well as be introduced to fire education resources including fire kits that are available to check out throughout the state. Open to K-12 educators, we'll look at how to adapt lessons to your grade level, and where to find age-appropriate lessons and resources to teach about fire in Alaska.

Hiking Distances and Physical Fitness

Field courses are active learning experiences with portions taking place off trail in Denali's wilderness. Hiking will be moderately strenuous over uneven tundra, forest, and river bar terrain, covering distances of up to 3 - 5 miles round trip with as much as 1,500 feet of elevation gain. We will likely encounter wet tundra / forest conditions and minor stream crossings. **Participants must be in good physical condition.** If you are uncertain about your physical ability for this course, please contact us for more information.

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 tent cabins and outhouses. Meals are simple and healthy.

Accreditation

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?

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 & Learning Center by email courses@akgeo.org or phone (907) 683-9632.