



Ecosystem Explorers: Program Information

Welcome to Denali Discovery Camp! Thank you for participating in this program, sponsored by the Denali Education Center and the National Park Service through the Murie Science and Learning Center, and in cooperation with the Denali Borough community. We're looking forward to another great summer exploring Denali! The opportunity to develop awareness, knowledge, and skills that increase campers' understanding and enjoyment of Denali National Park and Preserve is a privilege.

Please read the Program Information, Equipment List, and Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics documents carefully with your child. The third page of this document is your child's schedule for the week of camp, including the times and locations to drop off and pick up your child. **Please post this page in a visible spot in your home during Camp and refer to it each day as locations may vary!**

We are excited to offer this educational opportunity for your child. Feel free to direct any questions to Julie at the Denali Education Center: (W) 683-2597; (E) youth@denali.org.

What to Expect:

Denali Discovery Camp aims to develop children's understanding of nature through hikes, group activities, and exploration of the area in and around Denali National Park and Preserve. Instructors encourage first-hand discovery through structured activities and informal exploration. Though the topics are driven by the ecosystem, each group draws on the creativity and interests of the campers to keep the experience engaging and dynamic.

Denali Discovery Camp groups are determined by grade level. A combination of small group size and the common age of the campers allow the program structure to be tailored to meet the age-appropriate needs of campers. Daily camp destinations and hikes are also customized by age – the youngest campers focus on the east end of the park and the oldest campers explore the remoteness of Wonder Lake Campground and Kantishna. Using the five content areas (Habitat, Wildlife, Plant Life, Natural Science, Landscape, and Wilderness) as a common thread, Denali Discovery Camp topics and activities are designed to grow with the campers to lend consistency and integrity to the program.

Denali Discovery Camp Goals:

- ★ Provide an opportunity for children to experience the outdoors in a fun and safe manner.
- ★ Develop a sense of inquiry and curiosity about the natural world.
- ★ Cultivate skills of observation, awareness, and reflection about our environment.
- ★ Promote understanding of the subarctic ecosystem.
- ★ Convey the significance of Denali National Park and Preserve as a protected ecosystem.
- ★ Foster stewardship of wilderness and wild places.

Orientation:

Denali Discovery Camp Orientation will take place at the Denali Education Center's Charles Sheldon Center on Monday morning, **June 22 at 9:00 am**. A parent or guardian should attend orientation with your child. Parents will be able to meet the instructors, learn the camp rules, and ensure their child has adequate gear for the day. The orientation on Monday will start at 9:00 a.m., and parents will be free to leave at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Drop off/Pick up:

It is very important that you are on time each day. Since much of the program depends upon bus schedules, the group usually cannot wait for late arrivals. Please check in with your child’s group leader when you drop off your child- multiple groups meet in the same location and this will help minimize confusion and maximize safety and supervision.

Early Drop Off/ Late Pick Up:

If you need to drop your child off earlier or pick her or him up later than the times on the schedule, please call the Denali Education Center at 683-2597 to make arrangements for pre-care or after-care. Please check your schedule and make these arrangements before the start of Camp. If something comes up during the week, please notify us as soon as possible.

Provided Meals:

The following meals and snacks will be provided during the campout on Thursday and Friday.

1. Wednesday dinner
2. Thursday breakfast, lunch, dinner
3. Friday breakfast, lunch
4. Snacks for hiking
5. BBQ Friday night

Friday Night Barbeque:

On Friday, the Ecosystem Explorers arrive back at the Denali Education Center at approximately 5 p.m. There will be a potluck style barbeque **at the Denali Education Center at 5:30 p.m. Friday evening.** A short ceremony for all camp participants will follow dinner. Please plan on attending this fun event which ends around 7 p.m. The Denali Education Center will provide the main course of the barbeque, but additional potluck items are needed. We ask the Ecosystem Explorers’ families to please contribute a **salad or side dish (enough for fifteen people) to the barbeque.** The barbeque will begin at 5:30; please plan to have your dish available at this time.

Cancellation Policy:

Denali Discovery Camp groups fill quickly and we typically have a waitlist. For this reason and others it is important that you and your child are committed to coming to camp when you sign up. However, should you need to withdraw from the program, please let us know as soon as possible so we can fill your child’s spot and refund your money. Our refund policy is as follows (extenuating circumstances, such as illness or injury, are understood and will be considered on a case-by-case basis):

One month before..... Full refund
3 weeks before.....75% refund

2 weeks before.....50% refund
1 week before.....No refund

Ecosystem Explorers: General Schedule & Information, 2015



Day	What to bring	Drop off	Pick up
Monday	Day Pack	9:00am Denali Education Center	5:00pm Murie Science and Learning Center
Tuesday	Day Pack, Overnight Gear for gear check	9:00am Murie Science and Learning Center	5:00pm Murie Science and Learning Center
Wednesday	Day Pack	9:00am Denali Education Center	**Camp Out**
Thursday	---	**Camp Out**	**Camp Out**
Friday	Salad/side dish for bbq (enough for 15)	**Camp Out**	5:30pm BBQ at Denali Education Center

Hike/Activity Locations:

- Mon:** Orientation, Triple Lakes Trail (Park)
- Tue:** Mile 10 Drainage Hike
- Wed:** Cathedral Hike
- Thu:** Polychrome Hike
- Fri:** Savage Rock Hike, BBQ at Denali Education Center

Directions:

Denali Education Center: Located behind McKinley Village at Milepost 231 on the Parks Highway. Please follow the road through the McKinley Village complex to the Sheldon Center, which is located at the end of the road on the far side of the parking lot.

Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC): The Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) is located at Mile 1.5 of the Park Road. Heading into the park on the Park Road, you encounter the traffic roundabout. Take the rightmost spoke of the roundabout, heading to the MSLC. Turn right at the first driveway after the traffic roundabout. You may park in the Denali Visitor Center parking lot if the MSLC parking lot is full. Please do not idle your vehicle in the bus stop area of the MSLC, as this is an active bus stop. Please bring your child into the MSLC. The MSLC front desk phone number is 683-1269 if you have questions or would like further directions.

Contact Information:

For questions or emergencies, please contact the following:

Julie Pearson(primary contact)
(W) 683-2597
(E) youth@denali.org

Jodi Rodwell (secondary contact)
(W) 683-2597
(E) jodi@denali.org