

FAQ Frequently-Asked Questions about Field trips

(Revised Nov 2011)

Eagle River Nature Center (907) 694-2108

Do we have to pay for parking?

All vehicles parked at the Eagle River Nature Center must have a parking permit issued by ERNC (Alaska State Park day-use passes are not accepted). Naturalist-guided groups will be given complimentary parking passes as part of their reservation. All self-guided groups need to pay parking fees for private vehicle (except for school buses). **PLEASE DO NOT SHOW UP UNANNOUNCED WITH A LARGE GROUP** without a reservation and a permit from Chugach State Park (see [Self-guided Field Trip](#)).

Do siblings need to pay? Yes, siblings aged 3 and up pay the same as participants.

How many chaperones do we need? A chaperone is required for every 5 minors up to 3rd grade, or for every 10 in grades 4-12. There is no charge for teachers or chaperones.

Are there restrooms if center is closed?

Yes, there are latrines in the parking lot, but none along the trails.

Where can we eat lunch?

All groups over 20 need a reservation to eat their sack lunches at the picnic tables outside the Nature Center. Self-guided groups may eat on the riverbank or other destinations at least 1 mile from Center, but not on viewing decks, walkways or bridges. In the case of rain, school classes participating in a naturalist-guided program are allowed to eat their lunches inside the Nature Center or Yurt (space is limited – students will need to sit on the floor). Sorry, we cannot accommodate self-guided groups to eat lunch inside the center. The Yurt can be rented by the hour (see [classroom yurt rental page](#) for more information).

Can we cancel and get a refund?

Cancellations for guided field trips need to be made with at least 7 days notice to qualify for a full refund of deposit. No refunds on deposits paid for self-guided field trips.

What if the weather is bad?

Field trips will only be cancelled if the weather is exceptionally bad (not for rain or snow showers), roads are dangerous, or if the temperatures drop below **0 degrees F**. You must contact us, so we can reschedule or refund your deposit. No-shows forfeit their deposit.

Where can I get a trail map?

Download our [Trailmap](#) to print one out prior to your visit, or get a map at the Nature Center.

May we bring dogs?

Dogs are not allowed on guided programs. You may walk your dog on the trails on your own, but they need to be leashed on the Rodak and Albert Loop Trails and around all facilities. Dogs are not allowed inside the building (with the exception of trained guide dogs).

Can our group camp?

No car or RV camping is available at the Nature Center. The closest campground is the Eagle River Campground (at Hiland Exit off the Glenn Highway). The closest back-country tent-camping area is at Rapids Camp, which is a 2 mile hike from the Nature Center parking lot along the Crow Pass Trail. Contact the Chugach State Park Headquarters at (907)345-5014 for current back-country camping policies, or the Public Lands Information Center at (907)271-2737.

Are there bears?

Yes, this is bear country. For tips on staying safe in bear country, go to [Outdoor Safety](#).