

Dear Homeschooling Family,

Thank you for your interest in the **Eagle River Nature Center's 2018-19 Series**

Nature Studies for Homeschooled Students K-6th

We cover a range of topics connected to the natural world while emphasizing science as a way of knowing. We are excited to compliment your science programming and provide extension opportunities.

If you've worked with us in the past, you will notice that we have revamped our format, hoping to offer more flexibility and a wider range in topics.

HOW IT WORKS:

An individual class costs \$15/student and includes a day parking pass (membership is not required). Members of ERNC receive a discount when they register for the Nature Studies series and get to choose 5 classes per semester. The cost is \$50 per student for one semester, or \$90 per student for the 2018-19 school year.

- 1) Each class is 2 hours long. Morning classes are from 10:30am-12:30pm, and afternoon classes from 1-3pm, and will be held on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
- 2) Those registered in the series get first pick: Sign up for up to 5 classes per semester one month before registration opens to the public.
- 3) We need a minimum of 5 students to hold a class. If a class is cancelled due to low enrollment or bad weather, you will be able to select another class.

WHAT WE OFFER:

Fall Semester Classes:

Outdoor Skills, Botany, Birds, Fungi, Natural Cycles, Geology, Weather & snow studies.

Just for younger kids: Fantastic Beasts (tracks, adaptations, storytelling)

Just for older kids: Food for Thought (food systems, carbon cycles, and changing climates)

Spring Semester Classes:

Internal Systems, Geology, Seasonal Cycles, Winter Survival (adaptations, tracking and winter survival skills), Reusable Resources & Waste Disposal, Aquatic Insects, Terrestrial Insects.

Just for younger kids: Celestial Bodies (sun, moon, planets and constellations)

Just for older kids: Citizen Science and Natural Resource Careers

WHAT TO EXPECT: Prepare to be outside for at least part of the class! All classes start promptly in the main building. It is a good idea to arrive early and look over class materials, or investigate the close-up corner and displays. As students arrive, there will be a warm-up activity followed by a formal introduction, then activities both indoors and outdoors. All programs will end with a debrief and opportunities to continue learning at home.

We also use the heated classroom yurt along the Rodak Trail. During the cold season, we recommend warm boots, snowpants/suit, hat, mittens and scarf (remember to wear layers!).

BEHAVIOR: We ask that when the naturalist is teaching (indoors and outdoors), disturbances be kept to a minimum – this means students need to pay attention and raise their hand rather than interrupt with questions or comments. We believe learning is a family activity. It is our expectation that adults are present and actively participating in the learning process.

SAFETY POLICY: A parent or adult chaperone must accompany the child(ren). For safety reasons, each adult may only have 1 independently-walking pre-school child in their care while accompanying school-age children on fieldtrip. For example, if you have a 7 year old student as well as a 4 year old and 2 year old and the 4-year old is walking, you'd need to have the 2-year old in a backpack or stroller so you're not in a situation of chasing after two preschoolers running in different directions. All children need to be accompanied by a designated adult. On the trails, all participants are asked to walk behind the guide and stay together. Should a contingency arise while outdoors, such as the need for a bathroom, please inform the naturalist: a chaperone needs to accompany the child(ren), and all remaining children need to be assigned to another chaperone. If you have any other questions regarding our policies, please contact naturalist before registering. Please remember you are responsible for the safety and supervision of all your children at all times. Additionally, while we all love dogs at Eagle River Nature Center, our policy is that dogs are not allowed on guided walks or along with during Nature Studies programs.

WHAT IF WEATHER IS BAD? Weather conditions and temperatures can sometimes be different from town, so come prepared. If road conditions are hazardous, or the temperature at the Eagle River Nature Center is below 0 degrees Fahrenheit, the class may be cancelled or postponed. **In the event we need to cancel, we need to have a good phone number and an email address which you regularly check.**

Helpful website to check current temperature at ERNC and around Anchorage
<http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/mesonet.php>

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND: If you have registered for an individual class and cannot attend, there will be no refunds. If you're a member and part of the series, please let us know if a child is sick. Depending on circumstances, you may select a different class if there is still room is available. If you fail to attend a class without letting us know, you lose your chance of selecting a make-up class.

If you have any further questions, please contact us! We look forward to working with your family.

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