

ERNC Field Trip FAQ

Every person is welcome at the Eagle River Nature Center. We believe that every person regardless of ability can and should have an informative and positive experience.

naturalist@ernc.org 907-694-2108

What to Expect During Your Visit

Naturalist-Guided Visits

Allow two hours for a **standard naturalist-guided field trip** (minimum 1.5 hours)

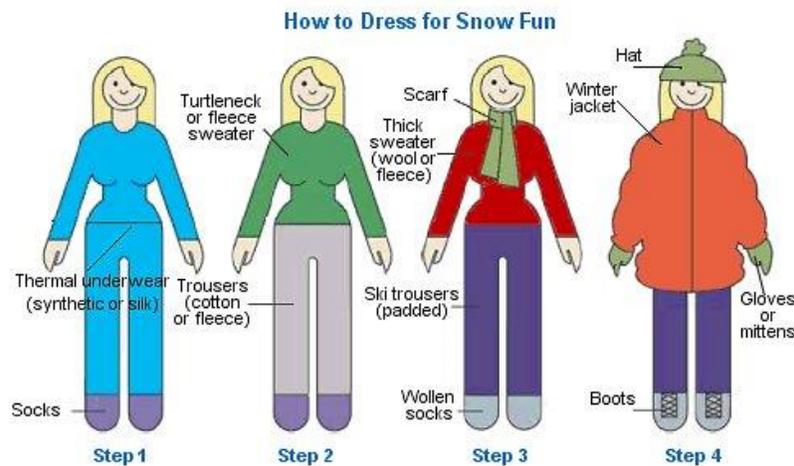
- Standard programs begin inside the Nature center. After settling in, students typically have a 20-30 minute orientation and introduction to the day's topic. Students will then have an opportunity to put clothing on, use restrooms and prepare for a short hike with frequent stops. Sometimes, the Educational Yurt is used. As time allows at the end, students will have time to explore the nature center. **Come prepared to be outdoors regardless of weather. There is no bad weather, only bad clothing.**
- Trails are not paved. Standard programs involve hiking $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. A variety of mobility aides have been successful on our trails. If you have questions about the success of one of your participants, give us a shout!
- Rustic Latrines are located in the parking lot and near the Educational Yurt. The only running water available, including flush toilets, are in the Nature Center.
- Parking is included as part of your *organized* trip. Parking space is limited though, please encourage carpooling to get to and from Eagle River Nature Center.
- The Nature Center Store is not available to students during field trips.
- Contact the naturalists if your group is planning to eat lunch at the nature center. *Self-guided groups* may eat on the riverbank or other destinations at least 1 mile from the nature center but not on viewing decks, walkways, or bridges. If arrangements are made, *Naturalist-guided groups* may eat at the picnic tables outside of the nature center immediately before/after the scheduled program. Naturalist guided groups may eat indoors October-April, **but only if arrangements have been made ahead of time.**

Self-Guided Visits

- Meet up with your group leaders at your predetermined location.
- Be aware that there may be another group inside the nature center and that the nature center may not be open and available.
- Trails are not paved. A variety of mobility aides have been successful on our trails.
- Rustic Latrines are located in the parking lot and near the Educational Yurt. The only running water available, including flush toilets, are inside the main Nature Center building which may not be open during your visit.
- Parking fees are not included as part of your *Self-Guided* trip.
- The Nature Center Store is not available during field trips.
- *Self-guided groups* may eat on the riverbank or other destinations at least 1 mile from the nature center but not on viewing decks, walkways, or bridges. The picnic tables behind ERNC may be available if reserved ahead of time.

What to Wear in the Winter

While we believe there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad dress, K-8th grade students will not go outside on days when it is 0°F or less. We strive to include the outdoors as part of the Eagle River Nature Center experience and expect student visitors during winter months to wear sturdy boots, snow pants or winter underwear beneath pants, warm jacket, warm hats, and mittens or gloves. On rare occasions, we may have some extras available for student use.



Reservation and Cancellation Policy

To make reservations for an organized visit, use the “Calendar and Registration” button. Alternatively, contact the naturalists at naturalist@ernc.org or 694-2108. Please provide your name and contact information, date and time of the requested visit, estimated number of children and adults, and if your group plans to eat lunch at the nature center. After the nature center receives this information, a naturalist will contact you with a contract. Your trip is not guaranteed until the contract is signed and returned to Eagle River Nature Center.

Please contact us with cancellations at least 72 hours before your scheduled visit. Call or email the naturalists as soon as possible if conditions are such that you need to cancel or reschedule your visit the day of the program.

Eagle River Nature Center may choose to reschedule programs in cases of poor road conditions or significantly inclement weather.

Renting the Classroom Yurt Only

Our Class room yurt is used for our school classes. When we are not using the space for educational purposes, it is available for rent for medium sized groups for gatherings, training conferences and weddings. The yurt is located a short 5 minute walk down the trail. It is heated by a gas stove and has a generator for computers or projectors if needed. **The Class Room Yurt is NOT a drive-up facility.** . We suggest that you make arrangements to visit the facility before renting it. See the “Facility Rentals” tab for more information. To make arrangements, please contact our Operations Manager at 694-2108 or admin@ernc.org