

Eagle River Nature Center
32750 Eagle River Road
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-2108 www.ernc.org

APRIL- MAY 2018 Programs

Building Hours:

April: Fridays-Sundays, 10am – 5pm

May: Wednesdays-Sundays, 10am – 5pm

Groups by appointment



Every Friday (March through October):

Guided Hike for Families with Preschoolers

LITTLE EXPLORERS: Join us Fridays at 11am for a short walk to explore nature at a preschooler's pace. Bring a snack or lunch to eat with new friends after.

Sunday, April 1 EASTER SUNDAY

Building is closed, but trails are always open.

Saturday, April 7, 2-4pm "Open House"

Jr. Naturalist: A YEAR IN A BEAR'S LIFE

What's it like to be a bear? Come to the classroom yurt and experience a bear's life through the four seasons of the year. Children and parents will take away a better awareness of bear safety by learning about what bears need, such as food and habitat, and why conflicts occur.

Sunday, April 8, 2pm

All Ages Program: THE NIKE SITE SUMMIT

High on the slopes of Mt. Gordon Lyon in the Chugach front range, above Anchorage's Holiday Star, stand the remnants of Nike Site Summit, a former Cold War missile site. A visit to the Site Summit combines spectacular alpine vistas and tundra ecology with the fascinating history of the Cold War and its deep legacy on the Alaskan landscape. ASD teacher **Ivan Hodes** presents the human and natural history of Site Summit along with information about how to access this highly-visible yet hidden treasure at Arctic Valley.

Saturday, April 14, 2pm

Jr. Naturalist Program: BINOCULARS FOR KIDS

Experience how sharp-eyed critters view the world and learn how to use binoculars and a spotting scope. Bring your own binoculars or borrow ours, and we'll go on walk to practice using binoculars.

Sunday, April 15, 1-5pm

Workshop (\$50, Registration required)

MEDICINAL PLANTS WORKSHOP

This workshop introduces you to Alaska's wild plants that have traditionally been used for medicine. Learn to identify, harvest, and process about a dozen plants that grow in Southcentral Alaska. You will take home new knowledge, recipes and samples of salves and other products. *This workshop is run by the UAF Cooperative Extension Service and is part of the Alaska Certified Master Naturalist (CMN) program. It is open to all interested. To register, go to www.ernc.org.*

Saturday, April 21, 2-4pm "Open House"

Jr. Naturalist: ECO-FRIENDLY CRAFTERNOON

Stop by the classroom yurt anytime between 2-4pm for some fun make-and-take upcycled crafts. Celebrate Earth Day this weekend by getting outside and enjoying the trails!

Sunday, April 22, 2pm

Armchair Travel/ All Ages Program: INDIA

Explore India through the experiences of teachers **Michelle O'Leary** and **Katelyn Barringer**, who toured historical and cultural landmarks, met with school children, and learned about Jainism and non-violence. Learn more about travelling in this fascinating country.

Adopt a Trail and go on SCAT PATROL

Register at www.ernc.org and adopt your favorite Nature Center trail. We'll provide bags and tools for clean-up on April 28 & 29 during open hours, and you can head out at your own leisure. Enter your name in a drawing for prizes (need not be present to win). Every participating child will receive a prize!

Saturday, April 28, 11am

Guided Walk (Registration required)

DOG & FRIENDS HIKE

Bring your (well-socialized) leashed dog on a 3-mile walk and meet fellow canine enthusiasts, and learn about dog-friendly destinations. www.ernc.org.

Saturday, April 28, 2pm

Jr. Naturalist Program: SCATOLOGY

Get the scoop on poop or “scat” – that’s the fancy word for the piles that animals leave behind! We’ll take a hike and make some “scat cookies”.

Sunday, April 29, 2pm

All Ages Program: TICKS IN ALASKA?

Learn about Alaska's only native tick species, as well as risks from exotic ticks. Naturalist **Samantha Russell** will also cover how to protect yourself and pets from these and other undesirable tag-a-longs.

Saturday, May 5, choose 11am or 1pm session

Jr. Naturalist Program (Registration required)

CREEKSIDE EXPLORATION

Let’s find out what critters lives in our creeks. We’ll catch macro-invertebrates such as caddisfly and mayfly larvae, water boatmen, and more. Learn which critters are indicators of healthy streams for salmon. Bring rubber boots and dress for messy exploration. Register at www.ernc.org.

Sunday, May 6, 8:30am

Guided Walk (Registration required)

MORNING BIRD WALK

Take an early morning walk with avid birder **Jamin Taylor** to look and listen for the birds of spring. Come prepared for a 1-3 mile walk around the Rodak and Albert Loop. Register at www.ernc.org.

Sunday, May 6, 2pm

All Ages Program: LIVING IN BEAR COUNTRY

Do you worry about hiking, running or camping in bear country? Naturalist **Beth Baker** will discuss ways to stay safe and how to avoid attracting bears, as well as how to use bear deterrents.

Saturday, May 12, 1-5pm

All Ages Workshop (\$25, Registration required)

WILDERNESS SAFETY CHALLENGE

Bring the whole family to learn about preparedness by practicing being confronted with challenges based on real case studies. Participants will work together in teams and respond to simulated emergencies. You will start by learning how to pack and plan, followed by fire starting, shelter building, wilderness medicine, orienteering, and more.

Register at www.ernc.org (scholarships available).

Sunday, May 13, 2-4pm “Open House”

All Ages: MOTHER’S DAY WITH THE BIRDS

Bring the whole family! The **Bird Treatment and Learning Center** is bringing a variety of live education birds, from raptors to songbirds, for you to meet close-up.

Saturday, May 19, 2pm

All Ages Program: CROW PASS 101

Thinking of hiking the Crow Pass trail but not sure what to expect? Join **Pete Panarese** and **Laura Kruger** to learn about typical trail conditions, fording Eagle River, what gear to bring along, and many other useful tips.

Sunday, May 20, 2pm

All Ages Program: LIVING WITH BEARS

Nature writer and author **Bill Sherwonit** discusses how humans can safely – and respectfully – coexist with black and brown bears, from the city to remote backcountry. Bill is the author of Alaska's Bears and many other writings about our ursine neighbors, Bill also explores some of the myths about the dangers bears present to humans, and will answer questions about the natural history and behavior of Alaska’s bears.

Saturday, May 26, 11am

Guided Walk (Registration required):

EDIBLE GREENS & EARLY WILDFLOWERS

Join naturalist **Ute Olsson** in a walk to discover what’s growing early in the season– we might even find some Calypso orchids.

Sunday, May 27

Building open, but no formal program today.

COMING SOON:

Daily Guided Walks: June through August when the Nature Center is open, Tuesday- Sunday. *No registration needed; check in 10 minutes prior.*

Alaska Master Naturalist Program has more workshops coming to ERNC, including **Insects** on June 3-4 and **Mushrooms** on Sep 8-9. *For more information and to register, go to www.ernc.org.*

June 5,6,7: Youth Wilderness First Aid/CPR Certification Workshop (Cost \$225)

This 3-day Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course is intensive and covers principles of preventing and treating wilderness injuries. The training culminates in earning a 2-year WFA Certification and a 2-year CPR Certification. This course is geared towards youth ages 12-18. *For more information, potential scholarships, and registration, go to www.ernc.org.*