

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

January 2019
Winter Building Hours:
Fridays-Sundays, 10am – 5pm
Groups by appointment



Friday, January 4, 7pm

Astronomy Series: CELESTIAL NAVIGATION

This is the story of how people learned to navigate the seas using nothing more than the North Star, the Southern Cross, a magnetic needle, a clock, and sighting the sun at high noon. It features Captain James Cook's 1778 search of the Alaska coastline, hoping to find the Northwest Passage. Presenter **Dean Knapp** (not an astronomer) is a search and rescue volunteer who still uses latitude and longitude to direct rescue helicopters to injured people in the Alaska wilderness.

If skies are clear, be ready to go outside and view the night sky. Students ages 10 and up can earn their Jr. Astronomer certificate and astronomy supplies by attending 4 astronomy programs and writing brief synopses of what they learned.

Saturday, January 5, 2-4pm "Open House"

Jr. Naturalist Program (K-6th)

CAMOUFLAGE AND ANIMAL MASKS

Investigate camouflage in the natural world by creating and decorating your very own animal mask! Dress to get sloppy during this crafternoon. *Stop by anytime between 2-4pm.*

Sunday, January 6, 2pm

All Ages Program: ALASKA DINOSAURS

It's true -- dinosaurs lived in Alaska! Paleontologist **Philip Bottrell** will give an overview of recent discoveries. Find out how these incredible beasts survived in Mesozoic Alaska.

Tuesday, January 8, 12-1pm
HOMESCHOOL ORIENTATION

Find out about ERNC's homeschool program for K-6th. Students can uncover the mysteries of microbial fermentation by making some sourdough pancakes for lunch! *Old and new homeschooling families invited; please register at www.ernc.org.*

Tuesday, January 8, 1-3pm

Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)

INTERNAL SYSTEMS

Extract DNA from fruit, figure out how organs and body parts work together, and get an idea of how bones hold our bodies up. Learn about different habitats inside of us and how parasites could live there.

Saturday, January 12, noon-5pm

IDITAROD ROADHOUSE DAY

The Nature Center is transformed into a roadhouse in the hay day of the Iditarod Trail. Presentations on the hour, plus various indoor and outdoor stations. We'll have a vintage dog sled, artifacts from the Crow Pass Roadhouse, and food until supplies run out: pancakes, fresh-baked goods, and hot soups.

Starting at Noon GOLD PANNING & MORE

Cure your gold fever: pan for gold and take home a fleck of the Alaska Gold Rush. Make maple sugar taffy in the snow. Tickets are \$3 per activity or 2 tickets for \$5.

1pm LIVING ON THE LAST FRONTIER TODAY

Hear stories about mushing and camping on the Iditarod Trail from author **Yukon Don Tanner**, who lives with his family on an old homestead in Talkeetna.

2pm THE CHILKOOT TRAIL

During the Klondike Gold Rush, the Chilkoot Trail was an important access route connecting coastal Alaska to the Yukon gold fields. **Stacy Flagg** and **Sandy Halstaed** will talk about the trail's history and hiking the trail today.

3pm THE STORY OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL

Learn about the gold rush history of the old Iditarod Trail, the stampeder trail over Crow Pass, and how it became America's only winter National Historic Trail, from **Kevin Keeler**, BLM National Trail Administrator.

4pm ROADHOUSE MUSIC

The **Allgood Family Band** and friends will be playing some old-time folk music. Clapping and foot stomping allowed!

Saturday, January 12, 7pm

ROADHOUSE AFTER DARK

Special Event (members only, 21 & over, \$30/person)

Fun evening featuring bluegrass music by the **Midnight Sun Zombies**, food, and locally brewed beer. Advance tickets are \$30 at www.ernc.org and \$35 on the day of the event.

Sunday, January 13, 2pm

Please note: main building opens at noon today.

All Ages: ARMCHAIR TRAVEL TO NEPAL

Come see indigenous mountain cultures and school projects in the remote Himalayan villages of the Dolpa region. Presenter **Catherine Inman** lived in Nepal for seven years, and founded the nonprofit organization **Friends of Dolpa**.

Wednesday, January 16, 1-3pm

Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)

WINTER SURVIVAL

Practice survival skills such as preventing hypothermia, building a snow shelter, and making a fire. Take a look at the various adaptations that Alaskan animals use to survive winters. Weather permitting, we'll get on snowshoes and look for tracks.

Saturday, January 19, 2pm

All Ages Program

TRAP SAFETY FOR PET OWNERS

If you're a dog owner, you'll want to know where you might encounter traps within Chugach State Park, as well as how to release a dog from a trap. Join **John Ferguson**, **Sandy Halstead** and CSP Ranger **Tom Crockett** for a presentation and chance to practice releasing traps and snares.

Sunday, January 20, 2pm

All Ages Program: AVALANCHE RESCUE

While volunteers were digging out a deeply buried avalanche victim from an earlier avalanche at Seattle Creek in 2008, a new avalanche buried a skier. Learn about avalanche response and this amazing rescue from **Dean Knapp** of the **Alaska Mountain Rescue Group** who served as operations group leader.

Tuesday, January 22, 5-7pm

Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)

CELESTIAL BODIES For younger kids (ages 5-9)

We'll start with some constellations storytelling inspired by the night sky. We'll study the phases of the moon, learn about the solar system, and look through a telescope at the night sky. We'll wrap up by making a night sky journal for recording your observations.

Saturday, January 26, 2pm

Jr. Naturalist Program (K-6th)

HABITATS INSIDE ME

Did you know that YOUR body hosts a whole bunch of critters, even when you're healthy? Discover a few of the habitats on and inside your body through indoor activities and games.

Saturday, January 26, 7pm

Special Event: WINTER WILDLANDS ALLIANCE BACKCOUNTRY FILM FESTIVAL

Join us for a celebration of the human-powered experience. Immerse yourself in an evening of films that capture the spirit of winter. Adventure, environment, youth outdoor, ski culture - you'll find it all in this award-winning lineup. Sponsored by the **Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition**. Advance tickets with pre-assigned seating are available for \$8/person at www.ernc.org. Tickets are \$10 on the day of the event.

Sunday, January 27, 2pm

Workshop (\$10; Registration required)

WINTER POETRY WORKSHOP

Bring nature poems/eco-poems—yours or your favorites, and especially those that evoke winter—and jumpstart that resolution to be more observant, more creative, more perceptive, more proactive... Poet **Mar Ka**, whose collection "Be-hooved" is being released by University of Alaska Press in February, will be offering quarterly workshops at ERNC through 2019. The initial winter workshop will be an overview seminar about poetic intention in nature/eco-poetry, followed by writer's-block-busting form-specific writing workshops: April / Spring - Haiku; July / Summer - Circling; October / Fall - Ekphrasis.

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, February 2, 11am

Special Event: ICY RIVER RAMPAGE

A 20/10-mile winter bike race starting and ending at the Center, with some riding on the frozen Eagle River. To volunteer, contact admin@ernc.org

Saturday, February 9, 7pm

Special Event: CANYONS AND ICE:

THE LAST RUN OF DICK GRIFFITH

Watch the PBS documentary about the wilderness adventures of Dick Griffith when he attempts to run the Grand Canyon's infamous Lava Falls at age 89. **Dick Griffith** and author **Kaylene Johnson** will be attending the event. Advance tickets with pre-assigned seating are available \$15 at www.ernc.org. Tickets are \$20 on the day of the event.