

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

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



Special Hours for SPRING BREAK:

The Nature Center building will be open 10am-5pm from Wed, March 13 to Sun, March 17, 2019.

Friday, March 1, 6:45pm

All Ages Guided Walk (Registration required)

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENING OWL WALK

Join volunteer **Liza Sanden** on a 2-mile walk along the Albert Loop to listen for owls -- children need to be able to remain quiet. *Register at www.ernc.org.*

Friday, March 1, 7pm

Astronomy Series: SPACE EXPLORATION

Debbie Soltis will discuss 2018 highlights in space exploration: from jumping rovers to sun-plunging satellites and beyond the solar system. A lot has been happening in space this past year! *Students ages 10 & up can earn their Junior Astronomer certificate.*

Saturday, March 2, 2-4pm Open House

Jr. Naturalist Program: "GROSS" ANATOMY

Have you ever dissected an owl pellet? Here's your chance to reassemble the skeleton of a rodent or whatever the owl had for dinner – it's gross fun!

Sunday, March 3, 2pm

All Ages Program: NESTING BOXES

Have you ever had an interest in building a bird house or finding out what types of birds in your area may use a nesting box? Come learn about the fascinating fun it can be to house your own avian family. **Andrew Fisher** will present types of bird houses, some of the common and easy ways to construct them, and what types of birds might use them. Learn now so you can construct one in time for spring.

Friday, March 8, 7pm

OWL TALK AND WALK (Registration required)

Birder and owl enthusiast **Enric Fernandez** presents a slide show about Alaskan owls, followed by a 2-3 miles guided walk to look and listen for owls. *Registration needed for the walk portion only: register at www.ernc.org.*

Saturday, March 9, 2-4pm "Open House"

Jr. Naturalist Program: IDITAROD FOR KIDS

Do you enjoy following the Iditarod Race but can't make it to Nome? Stop by the classroom yurt anytime between 2-4pm for some hands-on activities related to gear, canine and human first aid, as well as food provisions for the trail.

Sunday, March 10, 2-4pm

All Ages Workshop (\$25; Registration required)

PAINTING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Paint the Northern Lights that illuminate our night sky! Homer artist **David Pettibone** will guide you through basic painting techniques. Follow along in an easy and fun step by step process. Acrylic paints and supplies included. *Open to adults and children ages 10 and up (accompanied by an adult). Register at www.ernc.org.*

Wednesday, March 13, 2-4pm

All Ages Workshop (\$10; Registration required)

MASTERING THE ART OF FIRE

It looks so easy on TV, but can you start a fire using flint and steel? Practice starting fires using different methods. Make DIY fire starters from woodchips and left-over candles, and successfully make an outdoor fire fit for cooking s'mores. Leave with practical knowledge and a fire-starting kit. *Open to ages 10 and up. \$10 fee; register at www.ernc.org.*

Thursday, March 14, 2-4pm “Open House”

Jr. Naturalist Program: SHELTER-BUILDING

We'll build a “quinzee” snow shelter if there's enough snow, as well as a simple lean-to shelter. Stop by anytime between 2-4pm in the wooded area below the Nature Center.

Friday, March 15, 2-4pm

Children's Workshop (\$10; Registration required)

MAKING A SURVIVAL KIT

What should be in your pack when you head into the backcountry? We'll discuss preparedness and put together a mini survival kit for you to take with you on your next outdoor adventure. *Open to ages 8 & up. \$10 fee; register at www.ernc.org.*

Saturday, March 16, 8pm-1am

Workshop (\$75; Registration required)

NIGHTTIME & AURORA PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographer **Colin Tyler Bogucki** will teach how to properly expose the night sky using a digital SLR camera, and how to stay informed on solar activity. *Details & registration at www.ernc.org.*

Sunday, March 17, 2-4pm “Open House”

OPEN HOUSE AT PARADISE HAVEN CABIN

Join volunteer **Stacy Flagg** departing at 1pm, or hike out on your own and stop by the cabin (1.25 miles from the Nature Center) between 2-4pm to visit and warm up with some hot drinks.

Tuesday, March 19, 10:30am-12:30pm

Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)

SEASONAL CHANGES AND BEYOND

What's the significance of a solstice or equinox? Investigate how seasonal changes affect life around the Nature Center. We will see evidence of the special relationship between the snowshoe hare and the lynx, and discover how disturbances like floods and wildfires maintain nature's checks and balances. *Registration at www.ernc.org.*

Friday, March 22, 11am

Guided Hike for Families with Preschoolers

LITTLE EXPLORERS: Join us for a short walk to explore nature at the pace of a preschooler. Bring a snack or lunch to eat with new friends afterwards.

Saturday, March 23, 8pm-1am

Workshop (\$75; Registration required)

NIGHTTIME & AURORA PHOTOGRAPHY

See description on March 16.

Sunday, March 24, 2pm

All Ages Program

NIKE SITE SUMMIT AT ARCTIC VALLEY

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 base. **Ivan Hodes**, Deputy Director of *Friends of Nike Site Summit*, presents information about the human and natural history of the site, along with information about how to access this highly-visible yet hidden treasure at Arctic Valley. See photos of how 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.

Friday, March 29, 11am

Guided Hike for Families with Preschoolers

LITTLE EXPLORERS *See description on 3/22.*

Saturday, March 30, 11:30am

Workshop (\$40, Registration required)

GROW YOUR OWN MUSHROOMS

Mycologist **Christin Anderson** guides you through inoculating a substrate and growing your own mushrooms. Take home an oyster mushroom kit to grow at home. All materials included. *Details and registration at www.ernc.org.*

Saturday, March 30, 2pm

All-Ages Program

MORELS: MUSHROOMS OF SPRING

Mycologist **Christin Anderson** talks about the choice mushroom of spring, how to tell real morels from false morels, and where to find them.

Sunday, March 31, 2pm

All Ages Program

THE LEGACY OF JOHN MUIR

John Muir, an immigrant from Scotland, became America's “magnificent tramp”, hiking to Florida, boating to Cuba, and eventually to California and Yosemite. He was nature's visionary, becoming the patron saint of the American conservation movement, and founder of the Sierra Club. Come and hear the story of his remarkable life presented by volunteer naturalist **Beth Baker**.

SAVE THE DATE:

May 18, 6-9pm MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

Special Event for members only (21 & up)

Thank you to TOTÉ Maritime Alaska, corporate sponsor of our Junior Naturalist Program