

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

October 2018 Programs

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



Guided Hike for Families with Preschoolers

LITTLE EXPLORERS: Join us on 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 the walk. *Note: The last Little Explorer walk will be held October 27th. We will resume next March.*

Tuesday, October 2, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)

BIRD STUDIES Examine our collection of nests, wings and feathers, and explore the mechanics of flight. We'll practice using binoculars and explore why some birds migrate and others don't. Finally, learn how researchers study beak deformities in our local winter bird population.

About ERNC's Homeschool program: Open to any homeschooler in K-6th accompanied by an adult. Members of ERNC receive a significant discount by signing up for the Homeschool Series – there are several options. Registration and details at www.ernc.org.

Starting Thursday, October 4, 6:30-9:30pm

Workshop (\$100 or \$75 Early Bird Registration)

OUTDOOR WRITING WORKSHOP

Learn to write about the meaning of wild places with **Shawn Lyons**, author and avid outdoorsman. Topics include the importance of concrete language, correct terminology, and organization based on a specific thesis or theme. To guide and inspire our work we will also discuss the definition of Nature Writing and read examples--some going back as far as 3,000 BCE. *Workshop is held on four Thursday evenings during October (10/4 through 10/25), and is part of the Alaska Certified Master Naturalist program. It is open to all interested in the subject. Details & Registration at www.ernc.org.*

Friday, October 5, 7pm

Astronomy Series NEUTRINOS

Dr. Katherine Rawlins, Professor of Physics at the University of Alaska Anchorage, presenting. *The Astronomy series meets on the first Friday evening of each month October through March.*

Saturday, October 6

Building closes at 2pm today. Trails are always open.

Saturday, October 6, 5:30-9pm

OCTOBER NIGHTS AUCTION

The Board of Directors of the Eagle River Nature Center invite our members and supporters to attend our annual live and silent auction at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. This fun evening features our famous Bear Bells Game for a chance to win Alaska Airlines tickets. Invite your friends and have a fun evening that includes dinner by the Anchorage Convention Center Caterers, auctioneer Dan Newman, and a Growler Pull featuring our local craft breweries.

\$60/seat or tables of 8 available. For a list of auction donors, details and to purchase tickets visit www.ernc.org.

Sunday, October 7, 2pm

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL TO CUBA

From Havana to Trinidad, take a visual journey of Cuba through the eyes of photographer **Colin Tyler Bogucki** and explore the culture, classic cars, waterfalls, beaches, and much more. *Interested in visiting Cuba? Colin will share travel tips and will also be leading a photographic tour to Cuba next February; for details see www.colintyler.com.*

Tuesday, October 9, 1-3pm

Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)

FUNGUS AMONG US

Fungi are neither plants nor animals but comprise their own kingdom. We'll go on a "Detritus Safari" to discover how saprophytic fungi help break down forest garbage, and develop some simple tools to start identifying the diverse fungi that are essential to our boreal ecosystem. Finish this session with some ideas about how to cultivate your own fungi and how fungus just might save the world!

Open to any homeschooler in K-6th accompanied by an adult. Registration and details at www.ernc.org.



Saturday, October 13, 2pm

Jr. Naturalist: DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS

Who are nature's garbage collectors? Get down and dirty on the forest floor during a detritus safari.

Sunday, October 14, 2pm

All Ages Program

FOREST MYSTERIES: LICHENS & POLYPORES

What are those strange things growing on trees? Join our naturalist on a walk to explore lichens and polypore fungi of the boreal forest.

Monday, October 15-17, 10am-4pm

Teen Workshop (\$225, Registration required)

YOUTH WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Accidents happen. People get hurt or lost. Know the principles of preventing and treating wilderness injuries. Youths ages 12-18 can earn their WFA and CPR certification in this 3-day intensive workshop. *Class covers Response and Assessment, Musculoskeletal Injuries, Environmental Emergencies, Survival Skills, Soft Tissue Injuries, Medical Emergencies, plus Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. For details, see www.ernc.org.*

Friday, October 19, 12:30-4:30 pm

Teen Workshop (\$15; Registration required)

SURVIVAL: Putting the Fort into Fortnite

Gather your squad not into the *Shifty Shaft* or *Moisty Mire*, but into the Nature Center. Spend an afternoon developing your off-screen survival skills by navigating across the Island of ERNC, making actual forts and building fires, learning how to *camp-out* better, and improving your victory dance. Register at www.ernc.org.

Saturday, October 20, 2pm

All Ages Program

THE CROW, A REMARKABLY SMART BIRD

Join *Bird Treatment and Learning Center's* volunteer **Lisa Pajot** and a pair of northwestern crows. Learn about the crow family or corvids, their intelligence, how to tell a raven from a crow, as well as *Bird TLC's* work rescuing birds.

Sunday, October 21, 2pm

All Ages Program

PARASITES: ZOMBIES AMONG US

Host manipulation is a strategy many parasites use to survive and thrive. Some parasites even infiltrate the minds of their hosts to change their behavior. Could you be controlled by a parasite? Naturalist **Samantha Russell** can help you find out!

Wednesday, October 24, 1-3pm

Homeschool Class (\$15; Registration required)

ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL CYCLES

How is a wetland like a sponge? We'll explore biotic and abiotic natural cycles such as the water cycle, the carbon cycle and forest succession, as well as trace salmon and their nutrients through our forest. Open to any homeschooler in 3rd-6th accompanied by an adult. Registration and details at www.ernc.org.

Friday, October 26, 1-3pm Open House

Children's Craft Program (K-6th)

FALL CRAFTS FOR KIDS

There's no school today; join us for a fall themed "craftafternoon". We'll have some fun make-and-take crafts lined up for you – choose between several different stations (hint: wear your painting clothes!).

Saturday, October 27, 2-4pm "Open House"

Jr. Naturalist Program (K-6th)

HALLOWEEN NATURE WALK

Families with children are invited to visit a series of fun (perhaps even creepy & gross) and educational Halloween themed stations set up along the Rodak Nature Trail (3/4 mile round-trip). Come anytime between 2-4pm, and allow enough time to visit all the stations at your own pace. Costumes are welcome, but be sure to dress warmly for the outdoors. *No registration needed.*

Sunday, October 28, 2pm

All Ages Program

THE WITCH AND HER OWL

Why are owls associated with Halloween? Find out all about owls from volunteer **Ginamaria Smith**, who will bring her education bird, a great-horned owl.