

# ERNC Field Trip Policies

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. We are happy to adapt our program to meet the needs of students—please let us know how we can best help each student to have a great visit!

[naturalist@ernc.org](mailto:naturalist@ernc.org) 907-694-2108

## What do expect during your visit

- -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 *Naturalist Guided* trip. Parking space is limited though, please encourage carpooling to get to and from Eagle River Nature Center. *Self-guided groups* need to pay for parking unless you are using a bus.
- 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.**
- Please don't hesitate to contact Eagle River Nature Center staff if you have further questions and refer to the Frequently Asked Questions page.

## Headcount

The maximum number of students per trip is 60 or one school bus. A chaperone is recommended for every five minors up to third grade and one for every ten minors in grades 4-12. There is no charge for teachers or chaperones and they should not be included in overall headcount for payment. Please let us know if there are any drastic (+/-5) changes to the headcount.

## Safety and Behavior

- Participants are expected to obey all safety rules, stay together and stay behind the leader
- Naturalists are leading and facilitating learning, however teachers and chaperones are charged with student's safety and ensuring respectful behavior
- Leaders are responsible for dealing with any disciplinary concerns or medical emergencies
- Expectations of students are to: Stay behind line leader, move to one side for other groups, listen when naturalist is talking, act with self-preservation, and don't pet strange dogs

## Reservation and Payment

A reservation made at least 7 days in advance is required for all organized groups (naturalist or self-guided). A signed contract is required to secure your reservation. Full payment is due on the day of your visit in the form of cash, school check or credit card. Eagle River Nature Center does not accept individual student checks.

## Cancellation

Cancellations made with less than 7 working days notice are subject to a cancellation fee. **Exception if road conditions are hazardous or if the temperature at ERNC is below 0 degrees Fahrenheit.** Group leaders should contact [naturalist@ernc.org](mailto:naturalist@ernc.org) or call 907-694-2108 to discuss cancellation/re-scheduling.