

Program Topics

School classes and youth groups may choose from the following topics. #1-12 are designed for a typical 2-hour fieldtrip. #13-20 are approximately 1-hour programs that can either be combined with a general hike or brought to your site (go to [Outreach](#) for details).

1. **DEFAULT: General Introduction** (flora, fauna, geology), all ages
2. **Geology of a Glacier Valley**, 4th grade and up
3. **Alaska Animals** (optional: animal tracks), all ages
4. **Cycles of Life** (focus on soils, salmon, insects, or plants), all ages
5. **Birds** (overview, or focus on particular species or migration), all ages
6. **Wetlands** (may include catch & release macro-invertebrates), 5th grade and up
7. **Ecosystems**, 5th grade and up
8. **Plant Identification** (focus on trees & berries, or wildflowers) 3rd grade and up
9. **Snow Studies**, 3rd grade and up
10. **Survival Skills** (optional: build a shelter, fire), 4th grade and up
11. **Winter Adaptations**, 4th grade and up
12. **Snowshoeing** (we provide snowshoes for up to 30 students), 2nd grade and up (*Note: meant to be combined with another topic*)
13. **Bear and Moose Safety** (*at Nature Center or Outreach*), 3rd grade and up
14. **Mammal Skulls & Teeth** (*at Nature Center or Outreach*), 3rd grade and up
15. **Owl pellet dissections** (*at Nature Center or Outreach*), 4th grade and up
16. **Uses of Native Plants/ Edible Plants and Mushrooms** (*at Nature Center or Outreach*), High School and adults only
17. **Animal Puppet Storytelling** (*at Nature Center or Outreach*), pre-K and up
18. **Crafts** (making casts of animal tracks, bird feeders, birch-bark canoes, fish-printing) *Note: groups of 10 or less; extra costs for supplies; at Nature Center or Outreach*
19. **Scout Badges**, such as the Forester badge, Conservation badge, etc.
20. **Full-day INTENSIVES (see list below)**

Looking for something longer than a 2-hr fieldtrip?

Our naturalists have designed several longer programs (intensives) involving outdoor education combined with rotating stations that allow for smaller group sizes. Call for cost and scheduling details. Intensives can only be held when the Nature Center is closed to the public (Mon-Thurs during Oct-April; Mon-Tues during May-September). Allow 4-5 hours for your visit, with a minimum of 3 hours. There may be options for possible modifications or different combinations from the programs listed here.

1. **OUTDOOR SKILLS** (3rd-6th) combines survival skills (orienteeing, fire-building), with animal clues (tracks, furs, skulls).
2. **WINTER INTENSIVE** (3rd-6th grades) combines survival skills (fire and shelter-building), with animal winter adaptations or snow studies and snowshoeing;
3. **WETLANDS ECOSYSTEMS** (5th-8th) combines ecology with collection of macro-invertebrates and a water quality lab demonstration;
4. **GEOLOGY INTENSIVE** (4th-8th) combines a hike looking for geologic features of a glaciated valley with stations on rock cycle, minerals lab, plate tectonics and/or glaciers;
5. **BONES AND STONES** (4th grade) combining geology and mammal anatomy lessons.

Contact our naturalist at (907) 694-9255 or email naturalist@ernc.org