

*Geology of the Nenana Canyon
Field Seminar Overview & Arrival Information
June 7 - 8, 2008*



Please read the entire information packet carefully. This important information will help you plan and prepare for your time with us. If you have any further questions after you have read this packet, please give us a call at (907) 683-1269. We are here to help.

Activities

This Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) course is active and field-based. We will spend the majority of our days outdoors admiring the spectacular Denali scenery, and having in-depth discussions. On day one of the course, hiking will be moderate, covering distances of approximately 1 - 3 miles round trip including as much as 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Some hiking will be off-trail on rough terrains and we may encounter wet conditions. On day two we will be river rafting on sections of the Nenana river that are rated class II through V, depending upon the water level. Participants will be provided dry suits and the appropriate gear. Efforts will be made to stop along the banks of the river for short hikes and examinations of the bedrock. **Participants should be in good physical condition.**

The Denali Fault line is responsible for some of the most powerful earthquakes in North America. The glacial-fed Nenana River slices a path across the fault line and carves one of the most beautiful canyons in the state. With Denali National Park geologist Phil Brease and the Denali Outdoor Center, we will be exploring the fault and the river, and learning how they determine the shape of this landscape. The first day we will explore the road corridor along the George Parks Highway by van, hiking and investigating outcroppings and land features. Day two, you will take to the river as a modern-day John Wesley Powell, floating 20 miles of glacial valley into the spectacular Nenana Canyon.

Tentative Daily Schedule

Schedules may be modified somewhat according to weather conditions and to fit the needs and interest of the participants and instructor, such as viewing unique wildlife sightings and/or spectacular scenery.

Saturday-	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Greeting and check in at MSLC
	8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Breakfast & Overview on geology of the area
	9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Exploration via van
Sunday-	8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast at MSLC
	8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Drive to the Denali Outdoor Center
	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Exploration via river raft
	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Course wrap-up

Weather

The entire course takes place outdoors and activities will continue rain or shine. Weather conditions are unpredictable year round in Denali therefore you must be prepared for a wide range of conditions. Temperatures can vary from freezing to 80 degrees F. Mosquitoes and other biting insects can be numerous anytime during the summer. Be prepared with adequate warm clothing, a hooded rain jacket, rain pants, hiking boots, and insect repellent. Dressing in layers is recommended. **Please review carefully the Clothing & Equipment List provided.**

Directions, Parking Area and Meeting Location

The entrance to Denali National Park is located at Mile 237 of the George Parks Highway. Follow the Park Road for approximately 1.1 miles to a roundabout, and make the first right turn off the roundabout; into the MSLC parking lot. We will meet in the Murie Science and Learning Center.

Arrival

Beginning a half-hour before course start time, MSLC staff will greet you at the Center for check-in; your course begins at 8:30 a.m.

Accommodations in Denali

This field seminar does not include accommodations. We cannot endorse any particular lodge operation or cabins. However, we are glad to provide you with a list of local lodges and campgrounds upon request.

Meals

Each morning, along with a continental breakfast buffet, a lunch spread will be laid out for participants to create their own bag lunches for the day. We have a limited ability to accommodate specific dietary requirements; therefore, please notify the MSLC several weeks before the course of any specific dietary needs or restrictions.

Transportation During the Course

During the first day's activities we will be traveling as a group in a 15-passenger van when we go into the field. The second day will be by raft with the Denali Outdoor Center.

Your Denali Visit & Your Expectations

Course activities and destinations in the park will be devoted to the course outline and materials. For this reason, we encourage first-time (and long-time) Denali visitors to allow for extra time at the start or end of this course for further exploration via the shuttle bus system or on foot. Please contact us for advice or visit www.nps.gov/dena for further information.

Cancellation Policy

If you have to cancel your participation in the course, fees will be refunded for cancellations received in writing 30 days in advance of the course starting date, with a \$25 cancellation fee for each individual cancellation. The entire participant fee will be

retained for course cancellations less than 30 calendar days before course starting dates, unless we can fill your individual course spot. If we are forced to cancel a course, we will fully refund your fee.

Insurance and Liability

Participants should have their own health and accident insurance. Also please consider travel insurance in case you have to cancel your trip due to illness or injury. All participants will be asked to read and sign the enclosed Acknowledgment of Risk form and complete the Health and Emergency Contact form. Please bring these forms with you to the first day of the course. Please contact the MSLC if you have any questions or concerns.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency and non-emergency messages can be passed through the MSLC office phone number (907)-683-1269. After-hours emergency calls can be directed to the Denali National Park & Preserve Law Enforcement Ranger Division at (907) 683-9555.

Professional Development Credit

Optional professional development credit is available for this course. By choosing this option at the time of registration, you are officially pre-registered with the University of Alaska – Anchorage. A registration form will be sent to you prior to the course, please fill out and bring it with you for the first day of the course.

Suggested Pre-Course Reading List (all can be found online)

1) [Quaternary & Engineering Geology in the Central Part of the Alaska Range](#) - This paper contains the most detailed and complete publication on the local geology and glacial history. USGS Professional Paper 293, Wahrhaftig, Clyde, and Black, R.F. 1958.

2) [A website](#) that offers an oblique angled (google) picture of the Nenana River course through the Alaska Range.

3) [A website](#) that discusses the Nenana River flowing through the Alaska Range and being an “antecedent” stream.