



Nature Scouts: Program Information

Welcome to Denali Discovery Camp! Thank you for participating in this program, sponsored by the Denali Education Center and the National Park Service through the Murie Science and Learning Center, and in cooperation with the Denali Borough community. We're looking forward to another great summer exploring Denali! The opportunity to develop awareness, knowledge, and skills that increase campers' understanding and enjoyment of Denali National Park and Preserve is a privilege.

Please read the Program Information, Equipment List, and Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics documents carefully with your child. The third page of this document is your child's schedule for the week of camp, including the times and locations to drop off and pick up your child. **Please post this page in a visible spot in your home during Camp and refer to it each day as locations may vary!**

We are excited to offer this educational opportunity for your child. Feel free to direct any questions to 907-683-2597 or youth@denali.org.

What to Expect:

Denali Discovery Camp aims to develop children's understanding of nature through hikes, group activities, and exploration of the area in and around Denali National Park and Preserve. Instructors encourage first-hand discovery through structured activities and informal exploration. Though the topics are driven by the ecosystem, each group draws on the creativity and interests of the campers to keep the experience engaging and dynamic.

Denali Discovery Camp groups are determined by grade level. A combination of small group size and the common age of the campers allow the program structure to be tailored to meet the age-appropriate needs of campers. Daily camp destinations and hikes are also customized by age – the youngest campers focus on the east end of the park and the oldest campers explore the remoteness of Wonder Lake Campground and Kantishna (when accessible). Using the five content areas (Habitat, Wildlife, Plant Life, Natural Science, Landscape, and Wilderness) as a common thread, Denali Discovery Camp topics and activities are designed to grow with the campers to lend consistency and integrity to the program.

Denali Discovery Camp Goals:

- ★ Provide an opportunity for children to experience the outdoors in a fun and safe manner.
- ★ Develop a sense of inquiry and curiosity about the natural world.
- ★ Cultivate skills of observation, awareness, and reflection about our environment.
- ★ Promote understanding of the subarctic ecosystem.
- ★ Convey the significance of Denali National Park and Preserve as a protected ecosystem.
- ★ Foster stewardship of wilderness and wild places.

Orientation:

Denali Discovery Camp Orientation will take place at the **Murie Science and Learning Center on Monday morning, at 9:00 am**. A parent or guardian should attend orientation with your child. Parents will be able to meet the instructors, learn the camp rules, and ensure their child has adequate gear for the day. **The orientation on Monday will start at 9:00 a.m.**, and parents will be free to leave at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Drop off/Pick up:

It is very important that you are on time each day. Since much of the program depends upon bus schedules, the group usually cannot wait for late arrivals. Please check in with your child's group leader when you drop off your child- multiple groups meet in the same location and this will help minimize confusion and maximize safety and supervision.

Early Drop Off/ Late Pick Up:

If you need to drop your child off earlier or pick

Nature Scouts: General Schedule & Information

Day	What to bring	Drop off	Pick up
Monday	Day Pack	9:00am Murie Science and Learning Center	4:00pm Murie Science and Learning Center
Tuesday	Day Pack	9:00am Murie Science and Learning Center	4:00pm Murie Science and Learning Center
Wednesday	Day Pack, Overnight Gear for gear check	9:00am Murie Science and Learning Center	4:00pm Murie Science and Learning Center
Thursday	Day Pack	11:00am Riley Creek Campground	**Camp Out**
Friday	Overnight Pick up	Overnight	11:00am Riley Creek Campground

Directions:

Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC): The Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) is located at Mile 1.5 of the Park Road. Heading into the park on the Park Road, you encounter the traffic roundabout. Take the rightmost spoke of the roundabout, heading to the MSLC. Turn right at the first driveway after the traffic roundabout. You may park in the Denali Visitor Center parking lot if the MSLC parking lot is full. Please do not idle your vehicle in the bus stop area of the MSLC as this is an active bus stop. Please bring your child into the MSLC. The MSLC front desk phone number is 683-1269 if you have questions or would like further directions.

Riley Creek Campground: The Riley Creek Campground is located at just inside the park entrance. Turn left towards the post office, and follow the gravel road to **Riley Creek Campground**, located at the end of the gravel road. **Campsite specifics will be announced via email and in-person during Monday Orientation.**

Contact Information:

For questions or emergencies, please contact the following call the Denali Education Center at 907-683-2597 or email youth@denali.org