

*Geology of the Nenana Canyon  
Field Seminar Overview & Arrival Information  
June 12 - 13, 2010*



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. 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 with 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.	Check in at MSLC
	8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Breakfast & Overview on geology of the area
	9:30 a.m. – 5:00 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. – 5:00 p.m.	Exploration via river raft and 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 and therefore you must be prepared for a wide range of conditions. Temperatures can vary from below 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, and rain pants. 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 12 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*

MSLC courses are designed to immerse participants in a particular subject area, and therefore course activities and destinations in the park will be devoted to the course content. **If you are interested in seeing more of the park, please allow for extra time before or after the course for further exploration via the shuttle bus system or on foot.** We particularly encourage first time visitors to plan for extra time, especially if this is a "once in a lifetime" trip. Please contact us for advice or visit [www.nps.gov/dena](http://www.nps.gov/dena) for further information.

### *Cancellation Policy*

Cancellations that occur 30 days in advance of the course start date will be refunded the course fee, less a processing fee of \$25 per space. For cancellations within 30 days of the course start date, the entire fee will be retained unless we can fill your space. Alaska Geographic memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable. If we have to cancel a course, your entire course fee will be refunded. To process a cancellation, please email us at [courses@murieslc.org](mailto:courses@murieslc.org) or call (907) 683-1269.

Refunds will be credited to the credit card used during the original transaction. Refunds may also be applied to course substitutions within the same summer season. Please contact us to process a substitution or refund.

### *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 and pre-paid with the University of Alaska – Anchorage. A registration form will be sent to you prior to the course. Please fill it out and bring it with you on 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.