

*The Science of Fly-Fishing
Field Seminar Overview & Arrival Information
July 17 - 18, 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. We will spend the majority of our time outdoors, on and in the water practicing new skills; however, some indoor time will be used for formal presentations. To get to our river sites, we will encounter moderately strenuous hiking on uneven terrain, and will likely experience rainy conditions and river crossings. **Participants should be in good physical condition.**

With fly-fisherman and UAF lecturer Shann Jones, this course is a unique opportunity to learn about aquatic ecology and the basic skills of fly-fishing, the natural history of Alaska's common fish, aquatic environments, fishing safety & etiquette, and artificial flies. Because of the poor fish habitat in many of the park's rivers, this course will spend most of its time on the periphery of the park and on the more fish-friendly rivers crossing the Denali Highway near Cantwell. Fly-fishing experience is not necessary. Equipment is available for a rental fee of \$15 per person; please let us know in advance if you would like to rent equipment. Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own rubber hip boots, as it's very likely that the class will spend some time wading in the water. Adequate waders can be purchased at stores like Fred Meyer and Wal-Mart for about \$30.

You will need an Alaska Fishing License for this course. Both resident and non-resident licenses can be obtained from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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. – 10:30 a.m.	Breakfast & course overview and introduction
	10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Head out to the rivers
Sunday-	8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast at the MSLC
	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Continue explorations

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 or recommend any particular lodge operation or cabins. However, we are glad to provide you with a list of local lodges and campgrounds upon request.

Transportation during the course

We will be traveling as a group in a 12 passenger van when we go into the field.

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.**

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 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 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

For the entirety of the course we will not have access to phones or cell phone coverage. 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 out and bring it with you for the first day of the course.