



*Science Writing in the Heart of Denali Teacher Training
Overview & Arrival Information
July 27 - 30, 2009*

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 three-credit course is led by the Alaska State Writing Consortium's Sondra Porter and MSLC education staff in one of the world's premier wilderness areas. This teacher training is a unique opportunity to explore science and writing in Denali National Park. We will learn about Denali's natural history and current research efforts as we develop our writing skills and discuss applications for our students. We'll explore ways of connecting students to place and how to deal with what has been labeled "nature deficit disorder". We will also discuss the connections between literacy and science and use these concepts to reinforce the Alaska State Standards for both language arts and science grades K-12. The course does not conclude on July 30th, but continues with online follow-up discussions and assignments. One audio conference (TBA) with the instructor will be scheduled. The due date for the final online assignment is September 28th.

This Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) course is active and field-based. We will spend the majority of our days outdoors observing wildlife, admiring the spectacular Denali scenery, and having in-depth discussions. Hiking will be moderately strenuous, covering distances of approximately 2 - 5 miles round trip including as much as 1,500 feet of elevation gain. We will be hiking off trail on rough, uneven tundra and forest terrains and will likely encounter wet conditions. **Participants should be in good physical condition.**

Tentative Daily Schedule

Our group will be staying together at the MSLC Field Camp. 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.

Monday	12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Greeting and check in at MSLC
	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Introduction, orientation & overview
	2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Drive to MSLC Field Camp & explore Denali
	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Dinner and evening discussions

Tuesday	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Exploration of Denali Dinner and evening discussions
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Exploration of Denali Dinner and evening discussions
Thursday	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Continued exploration of Denali Return to MSLC for final lesson & conclusion

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 mile to a roundabout, and make the first right turn off the roundabout. The MSLC is the first building on the right. However, because you will be parking overnight, **we ask that you park in the park concessioner's employee lot.** To get to this lot, pass the MSLC and continue to the second right turn. You will see a sign that says 'Service Road Buses Only'. Drive towards the bus yard and park in the first large lot on the left. This is a very busy area, so please yield to any buses or pedestrians. To walk to the MSLC, go back down the drive toward the park road and look for the MSLC in the direction of the roundabout. Please leave your overnight bags in your vehicle. We will load all bags directly into the MSLC van in the parking lot after our initial meeting in the MSLC.

Arrival

Beginning a half-hour before course start time, MSLC staff will greet you at the Center for check-in; your course begins at 1:00pm. The first day will not include lunch.

Accommodations in Denali

Your group will stay at the MSLC Field Camp at the Teklanika River Campground at mile 29 of the Park Road. This beautiful location allows us ready access to both east and west ends of the park road. Our field camp was built under the "School To Work" Program by local Anderson, Alaska high school students in 2004 and is made up of five tent cabins and one large Yurt dining tent. Up to four course participants share space in a tent cabin. Each tent cabin has two sets of bunk beds with foam mattresses and pillows. There is no electricity, plumbing or heated areas and each participant needs to provide their own sleeping bag and pillow case.

Lodging accommodations before and following the course are your responsibility. We do not endorse or recommend any particular lodge, cabins, or campground, but we are happy to provide you with a list of local accommodations upon request.

Meals

Simple hearty meals will be served family-style in the group dining tent at the field camp. Each morning, along with a 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 in the Park

We will be traveling as a group in a 12-passenger van when we go into the park. Due to the Park's backcountry limits we limit the number of participants to ten.

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 date, unless we can fill your individual course spot. If we are forced to cancel a course, we will fully refund your fee. Please note: if you purchase a membership with your registration, the membership fee is non-refundable.

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. The MSLC is open daily from 9:30a.m. – 5:00p.m. After-hours emergency calls can be directed to the Denali National Park & Preserve Law Enforcement Ranger Division at (907) 683-9555.

Professional Development Credit

Three professional development credits are included in the cost of this course. As a participant, you are officially pre-registered and pre-paid with the University of Alaska – Southeast. 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.