



NPS Educational Adventures!

for Anchorage and Surrounding Communities

National Park Service 2009 Education Programs



The National Park Service is proud to present a variety of educational programs, kits, and materials to assist teachers and youth leaders in meeting educational standards and curriculum needs **in the Anchorage community**. The National Park Service represents a local and statewide resource in teaching about concepts in science, geography, mathematics, language arts, art, life skills, employability and more. We look forward to being a partner in your educational adventures!

In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand.



The Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage, managed by the National Park Service, will continue its emphasis on education in the urban community. Education staff will be in park uniform and will offer a venue of educational opportunities. In addition, teachers and youth leaders can look forward to accessing curriculum and web activities via the internet. 2004-2005 should prove to be another exciting year.



People and Parks: A place of fun and learning for all ages.

Here in Alaska, we have seventeen National Park areas, some of the most scenic, cultural, and wild places in all of the nation!

Alaska's National Parks and affiliated areas include:

- Aniakchak Monument & Preserve
- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
- Cape Krusenstern National Monument
- Denali National Park & Preserve
- Gates of the Arctic National Park
- Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- Katmai National Park & Preserve
- Kenai Fjords National Park
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
- Kobuk Valley National Park
- Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
- Noatak National Preserve
- Sitka National Historical Park
- Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- Yukon-Charley Rivers National Park & Preserve
- Aleutian World War II National Historic Area
- Inupiat Heritage Center

Interested in Learning More about National Parks?

- Check out ParkWise at www.nps.gov/akso/ParkWise for on-line lesson plans.
- Make a virtual tour of the Denali Dog Kennels, Lake Clark Kid's Pages, and Yellowstone National Park at the Park Service web site at www.nps.gov. Go to "Learn NPS."
- Visit the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Downtown Anchorage.
- Learn about Alaskan animals at www.nps.gov/aplic/forkids.htm

Enhancing Classroom Studies



Stamping in the scavenger hunt.

The National Park Service provides protected habitat to a variety of species throughout the nation. National parks encourage visitors to experience a diversity of wildlife as part of larger ecosystems. In addition, national parks have played a prominent role in the recovery of bison, elk, trumpeter swans, and other species in trouble. In Alaska, rangers study populations of animals and their habitats to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy them as well.

Alaska Animal Scavenger Hunt

Join rangers in exploring the visitor center for wild Alaskan animals. The exhibitry at Alaska Public Lands Information Center provides an opportunity for groups to view wild animals at a close (and safe) distance. Species include brown bear, wolverine, Dall sheep, caribou, arctic fox, polar bear, and many more. The scavenger hunt includes hands-on materials (skulls, furs, stamps, and other "touchy-feely things"). Group tours include a short introduction to Alaska's parks and public lands (20-25 minutes), a movie of your choice (30-40 minutes), and an age-appropriate scavenger hunt (30 minutes). Programs typically last 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Addresses Alaska State Standards Science A12, A15, B1, and D1.

Scavenger hunt subjects include *Alaska's Birds, Animals, and Alaska's Native Peoples.*

Movie titles include *Alaska's Coolest Animals, Alaska's Three Bears, and the Biggest Bears.*

Important Note: Due to increased rentals in the building, we are no longer able to accommodate lunches for visiting groups.

Live Alaskan Animals

The National Park Service partners with Bird Treatment and Learning Center and the Alaska Zoo to present **live Alaskan animals in the AAPLIC auditorium:**

BTLC

**1st and 3rd Wednesdays at noon
Alaska Zoo**

2nd and 4th Thursdays at noon

Birds include the great-horned, snowy, boreal, and barred owl, the shrike, red-tailed hawk, magpie, merlin, raven, northwest crow, kestrel, or Steller's jay. The arctic fox and porcupine also visit from the Zoo. Presenters (with critters) discuss the animals' life, habits, and habitat.

There is NO charge for this program, but it is by appointment only. Please call in advance.



A porcupine visits a class in the auditorium at Alaska Public Lands Information Center.



Educational Bears Invade Classrooms

This year fifteen GEOBEARS have been adopted by thirty first grade classrooms throughout Alaska. GEOBEARS are an innovative technique for learning about Alaskan animals. Each GEOBEAR, equipped with two tape recorders, passport, camera and film, will be the focus of a learning adventure to four (soon to be five) national parks in Alaska.

With adoption, the bears are tagged with a picture of the class and an itinerary chosen by the teacher to coincide with his/her lesson plans about Alaskan animals. Classes are encouraged to communicate with park rangers via tape or letter at each Alaskan park.

On arriving in Denali National Park, for example, education specialist Martha Tomeo will send the classroom a packet of materials that includes natural history and standards-based student activities about wolves, a tape of wolf calls, and a photo album from the rangers at the park. After a week or so at Denali, GEOBEAR is mailed to the next park for yet another animal adventure.

At present GEOBEAR's itinerary includes learning about otters in Kenai Fjords, caribou in Western Arctic Parklands, humpback whales in Glacier Bay, and wolves in Denali. Katmai and its renown bears will be added for future adoptions. It is hoped the GEOBEAR project helps teachers recognize parks as pertinent educational resources while assisting classrooms in their studies of Alaskan animals.

If you are interested in adopting a bear for this school year, please call 644-3670.

GEOBEARS was funded by a grant from PARKS AS CLASSROOMS (r).



The Last Great Gold Rush



Park Ranger Chris Smith, former ranger with Klondike National Historical Park, presents the program.

What was it like to search for gold in the wilds of Alaska and the Yukon? Learn how George Washington Carmack discovered gold in the Klondike in 1896.... and the trials & tribulations the stampedeurs faced en route to the goldfields. **Witness a gold-panning demonstration, participate in a Gold Rush scavenger hunt, and watch the 30-minute video "Days of Adventure, Dreams of Gold".**

The Stampeder Kit, available for loan to classrooms and other groups, complements this on-site program.

Fridays with the SeaLife Center

The National Park Service and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center are pleased to partner with the Alaska SeaLife Center in presenting educational programs that allow students to explore the marine ecosystems of Alaska. **These free programs will be held at AAPLIC each Friday of the school year. Each program lasts 30-45 minutes. Topics include:**

Meet an Aquanaut (K-12)

Marine Mammal Adaptations (grades K-6)

Cephalopods - The Jet Set (grades 2-12)

Bioluminescence (grades 2-12)

Coastal Archaeology (grades 7-12)

Bird Brains (grades K-3)

The Scoop on Poop (grades 6-12)



The Great Alaskan Mystery Box



This travelling trunk contains videos, books, slides, puppets, and a myriad of student activities about Alaska. **The box covers Alaskan geography, geology, animals, history and culture.** A journal and camera are included so that classes can document their use of the box.

The traveling trunk is loaned for a period of two months. The Mystery Box has travelled to Arizona, California, New Jersey, Kansas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Georgia.

The Great Alaskan Mystery Box is a partnership between the Loyal Order of the Moose and Parks As Classrooms. It is a program using Alaska's National Parks to supplement learning in the classroom.

Other Park Service Educational Resources



NEW! Alaska Native Culture Board Game All about the geographical and cultural differences of Alaska's native groups. Teacher can request a copy of the game and/or a school visit. (grades 2-8) Contact Susan Bender at 644-3459.

NEW! Alaska Park Science: Connections to Natural and Cultural Resource Studies in Alaska's National Parks. Published quarterly, each journal contains articles on a variety of science and cultural issues. A digital copy is available at www.nps.gov/akso. (middle to high school)

Archaeological Resource Guide for Alaska Elementary School Teachers contains suggestions and contacts for teacher reference materials, books, videos, maps, web sites, and CD-ROMs concerning the subject and experience of archaeology in Alaska. Contact Becky Saleeby at 644-3477.

National Historic Landmarks in the Great Land is a 30-minute CD on the legacies of Alaska's past. (middle to high school) Contact Becky Saleeby at 644-3477.

History Day in Alaska: Making history come alive all year long, students in grades 6-12 research topics and prepare entries for a national contest held in June. This year's topic is "Communication in History - the Key to Understanding." Contact Darrell Lewis at 644-3470.


World War II in Alaska - A Resource Guide for Teachers and Students presents a summary of World War II in Alaska, a bibliography, web sites and local resources. (grades 4-12) Contact Janet Clemens at 644-3461 for a copy.



The Alaska Natural History Association offers a 15% discount on educational sales items to all teachers.

New Park Web Site Provides Class Resources

<http://www.nps.gov/akso/ParkWise>



National Park Service

*Welcome to ParkWise:
Educational resources about
Alaska's national parks
for teachers and students.*

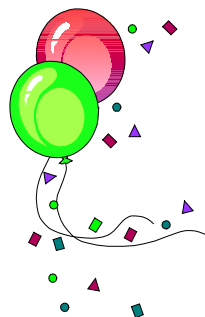
National Parks in Alaska preserve your cultural and natural heritage. Join us on an educational journey into the past, present and future of your national parks. *Let's begin!*

Teachers Students About

ParkWise is a new education website developed by the Alaska Region of the National Park Service in conjunction with the Anchorage School District and GCI. It will help teachers and students understand more about the valuable cultural and natural resources in Alaska's national parks, and about the role of the National Park Service and its partners in preserving America's common heritage. To make subjects come alive for students, ParkWise uses real data from research in parks. ParkWise is an evolving resource providing curriculum units, activities, maps, data, and photos, as well as links to parks, partners and programs.

Curriculum units and lesson plans include:
Fly Away about migration of golden eagles
Hoofin' It explores adaptations of Dall sheep
People & the Land views cultural connections
National Park Treasure Hunt involves parks throughout the nation.

Each unit is concept-based and linked to national standards. (multi-graded)



NEW HANDS-ON PROGRAM

GPS Training

Have your class learn how to operate a GPS unit for orientation, mapping, and documentation of outdoor travels and research. Equipment provided; by appointment only. (grades 9 and up)

Alaska Natives Scavenger Hunt

*The fur of what animals might have been used to create Athabaskan mittens?
What is an "umiaq"?
Name the five major native groups.*

A new scavenger hunt addressing Alaska Natives is now available. The scavenger hunt helps students explore the different native groups in Alaska, their language, how they arrived in Alaska, where they live, and their housing, clothing, transport, and traditional practices.

The scavenger hunt takes 30-45 minutes to complete. Several films about native culture are available for viewing in the auditorium. (grades 3-8)



Our Wild Neighbors Workbook

Is a 48-page workbook designed to help teachers and students learn about Alaskan animals, adaptations, evidence, ecosystems, interdependence, biodiversity, endangered species, wildlife etiquette and how humans can help wildlife. Written for grades 1-4, the workbook contains background content, activities and graphics. **The workbook is free to public, private, and homeschool teachers and other group leaders. Call, email or write for delivery.** The workbook addresses science, geography, and technology standards.

Education Kits

Track Kit

This kit includes several tracking activities, track stories, and the instructions for making your own plaster casts. Teachers provide the plaster and other materials. Latex molds include beaver, coyote, eagle, bear, wolf, caribou and many more!

Loon Kit

Check out this kit on our fantastic friends, the loons. It contains a loon costume, slides, video, books, several activities and more! The kit comes from Alaska Science Teachers Association via funds from ARCO Alaska, Inc., Audubon Society, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Classroom Puppet Show Kit

We had such a response from students to handle the puppets from the APLIC Traveling Puppet Show that we decided to create a puppet show for classroom use. This puppet production features the *True Story of the Three Little Pigs* ...the story of the Three Little Pigs from the wolf's perspective. The show is sure to be a hit with players and audience alike! All puppets, scripts, props, and a portable stage are included.

Wolf Kit

Do you want your students to learn more about wolves? This kit from Alaska Department of Fish and Game includes activities, Native American stories, books, puppet, videos, posters, a wolf hide and skull, and more! Prepared with the assistance of biologists and educators throughout Alaska, the kit is designed to be used at all grade levels.

Marine Mammals Kit

An education kit with books, posters, games, a video, puppets, and curriculum guides about marine mammals in Alaska: Whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, walrus, polar bears and otters. This kit was developed at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center in Ketchikan.

Beak Adaptation Kit

Imagine a hummingbird trying to gulp down a mouse, or an eagle trying to sip nectar from a tiny flower...sounds impossible, right? This kit will allow your students to determine ways that birds' beaks are adapted to retrieving and eating different foods. The kit follows *NatureScope's* "Fill The Bill" activity and includes materials for 8 different stations of hands-on experiments with beaks using kitchen tools.

Owl Pellet Kit

Are you studying bones? Try a unique means of teaching by dissecting an owl pellet. Owls, hawks and other raptors swallow their prey whole and later regurgitate a pellet containing complete skeletons of rodents, moles, shrews, and birds. (The pellets are sanitized.) The kids discover each new bone with excitement and fun... they can even reconstruct a skeleton!

This is the only kit which involves a charge of \$2.75 per owl pellet (education discount already included).

Songbird Blues Kit

Migratory songbirds are the focus of this new kit from the Montana Natural History Association and the National Park Service. It has been specially adapted to fit Alaskan songbird species and includes a teacher's activity guide, videos, books, student research kits, posters, songbird cassettes, puppets and much more! A great resource for teaching about birds!

Alaskan Animal Scent Kit

Charge up your kids with this tracking adventure. Students follow their noses in this activity adapted from *NatureScopes's* "Sniffing Out A Trail". Students must find their scent at five stations, read the attached clues, and determine what Alaskan animal they are. Kit includes instructions, film cannisters, and clue cards. Teachers supply the scents: orange peel, onion, garlic, vinegar, and other inexpensive scents.

Educational kits are can be reserved ahead of time. The NPS staff at AAPLIC also has a Resource Library with curriculum, books, games, tapes, posters & videos for classroom use. Kits are loaned for 1-2 weeks at a time; library materials are loaned for 4-6 weeks.

Compass Kit

Wondering where you are? Interested in orienteering? This kit includes 30 Silva Starter compasses for use by students. Also includes a demonstrator compass, *Outward Bound Map & Compass Book*, *Teach with Topos*, and other books.

Stampeder Kit

Straight from Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, this kit explores what it might have been like to come to Alaska during the Gold Rush. Includes children's activities & Gold Rush materials.

Classroom Constitution Kit

Written over 200 years ago, the Constitution is an important "living" document. Includes a replica of the Constitution, lesson plans, quizzes, and School House Rock video. Includes buttons and/or pocket constitutions for students.

Alaska Resources Kit: Minerals

Alaskan educators and industry teamed up to create this kit which includes 150 activities, mineral samples, testing kit, books, posters, filmstrips, and a video. Students use reading, discussion, math, and games to learn about minerals. The materials are flexible enough to be used with 4th grade through high school.

Contact Joanne at 644-3670 to reserve kits, films, or library materials.





Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Downtown Anchorage

Our Wild Neighbors Web Site

This year the National Park Service will be inaugurating the “Our Wild Neighbors” web site for use by students in the classroom. The web site ties directly into early-grade curriculum on Alaska animals while addressing state and national science standards concerning natural systems and human impact. It includes activities on ecosystems, adaptation, the food web, endangered and threatened species, wildland/wildlife etiquette, and the role of parks in protecting animals and habitat. Funded by Parks As Classrooms, the web site complements the 48-page “Our Wild Neighbors” workbook for teachers. **The “Our Wild Neighbors” web site is located at <http://mms.nps.gov/ram/akr/ourWildNeighbors2.swf>**

To Schedule a Program

For more *information* on national parks, programs, kits, internet partnerships, the education library, Geobear, or the web site, call Joanne Welch at 644-3670, Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 5:30... or visit our homepage at <http://www.nps.gov/anch>. Programs are scheduled for Tuesday-Friday.

To *schedule* a program, send a request form to Anchorage School District Community Resources. Private schools, homeschools, and schools outside of the Anchorage area may schedule directly.

AAPLIC is located at 605 W. 4th Avenue, at the corner of 4th and F, and is open Monday-Friday during the school year.



A Fairy Tale Adventure Puppet Show

Puppet shows are not only fun, but they can be educational, too. This classroom puppet show features some familiar fairy tale characters and Alaska animals. They both want students to learn about **important wildlife and wildland concepts**. Little Red Riding Hood meets with a very enlightened wolf, some friendly lemmings talk about wildlife etiquette, the Three Bears touch on bear safety, endangered species, biodiversity and more. **Designed for students K-3, the puppet show requires 30 minutes set-up and take down and lasts 30-45 minutes. There must be an audience of two or more classes and a nine foot ceiling to accommodate the portable stage.** The puppet show addresses Alaska State Standards Science A12, A14, A15, B1, C8, and D1.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center is an interagency facility managed by the National Park Service. The Center represents eight different state and federal agencies in helping to provide visitors and residents with meaningful, safe, enjoyable experiences on public lands while encouraging them to sustain the natural and cultural resources found therein.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Puppeteers, classrooms, and puppets all enjoy the performance.