



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Campbell Creek Science Center

Field Trip Guide for Educators



Here, every day is an adventure.



IGNITE YOUR NATURAL CURIOSITY

Imagine the discoveries you will make as you explore Alaska's natural world. The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center's dynamic programs spark curiosity and build connections with nature for all learners. The Campbell Creek Science Center (CCSC) is the perfect outdoor classroom where learning and science come to life.

Here, everyone is a scientist. Let us guide your journey.

The Perfect Field Trip

- Campbell Creek Science Center's place-based field trips give preschool and K-12 students hands-on, minds-on learning experiences with the natural world.
 - Carefully designed programs complement your curriculum and improve children's understanding and retention of classroom concepts. Each field trip meets state and national education standards including Next Generation Science Standards, National Geography Standards, and CASEL Social Emotional Learning.
 - Choose from standard programs on topics such as forest and creek studies, earth science, ecology, natural resources, outdoor skills, and team building. In many cases, programs can be adapted to meet your specific needs.
- Our science educators are experienced outdoor leaders. We practice inclusive education to ensure all students are fully immersed in learning and growing together.
- Programs take place on the 730-acre Campbell Tract, where your students will investigate insects thriving in the creek, track animals living in the forest, and identify the forces behind Alaska's dynamic landscapes.

SCHEDULE YOUR FIELD TRIP

The Campbell Creek Science Center offers field trips year round, Tuesday through Friday (summer programming may be limited), starting between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Some field trips are best suited for certain times of the year. Check the program descriptions for recommended seasons. The field trip minimum is 10 students, the maximum is 75 students. Contact us if special arrangements are needed.

Looking for a different outdoor learning focus? Many programs are customizable. Contact us to learn more.

Know Before You Go

We want your field trip to be an incredible experience. Please take note of the following and come prepared:

- Notify us in advance of any special needs or requirements for your group. An all-terrain wheelchair is available for participants with mobility impairments. Handicapped parking is available near the building and in the parking lot.
- Recruit your adult chaperones. We require one adult chaperone per 15 students to ensure the safety of program participants.
- Let us know if you would like to have lunch on site during your field trip. We are a “zero waste” facility. Be prepared to “pack in, pack out” lunch and snack waste.
- Prepare for the weather. Our programs take place primarily outdoors. Temperatures on Campbell Tract can often be 10 degrees colder than in other parts of Anchorage. Please ensure that children and adults come dressed for the weather, including layers and proper footwear for both indoor and outdoor activities.
- Organize your transportation to and from the science center. We do not provide transportation.
- Please consider spending the whole day with us. We offer day-long field trips to immerse your students in natural resources, STEAM learning, and the outdoors.

Ready to Register?

- Call or email us early for best availability.
- Schedule a minimum of two weeks in advance, up to one year in advance.
- A deposit may be required upon booking.
- Payment is due at time of field trip, unless your school district requires invoicing.

Program Costs & Scholarships

The Campbell Creek Science Center offers half and full-day field trips.

- Half-day program (up to three hours): \$12 per student.
- Full-day program (up to six hours): \$24 per student.
- There is no charge for teachers and chaperones.
- Scholarships for low income and underserved audiences may be available through our nonprofit partner, Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center. If financing the program fee or transportation cost is a concern, please contact us.

Rescheduling & Cancellation Policy

- Our field trips take place in all seasons and are not cancelled due to weather. The exception is if your district cancels due to weather.
- If you cancel your program fewer than five business days in advance, your deposit will be forfeited. For cancellations less than 48 hours in advance, a \$25 administrative fee will also be charged.
- Complete refunds will be made for any field trip cancelled by CCSC.
- Need to reschedule? We are a first-come first-serve facility, but do our best to accommodate changes. Call our front desk at least five business days in advance of your program to reschedule.

CONTACT US

 Campbell Creek Science Center

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www.blm.gov/ccsc



Preschool Field Trips

Our educators are experienced working with learners of all ages. We can customize many of our standard field trips to meet learning levels and program lengths best suited for young audiences. All programs provide hands-on nature exploration, scientific inquiry, and guided play. Program themes include dinosaurs, insects, animals, senses, and more. Contact us to set up your preschool program.



Kindergarten - 6th Grade Field Trips



At the Campbell Creek Science Center, students practice meaningful, inquiry-based science, bringing their classroom lessons to life. Through activities like hiking and snowshoeing, students have the opportunity to exercise and explore their beautiful public lands. With our emphasis on social emotional learning, students connect with themselves, each other, and the wonders of the natural world.

All CCSC programs are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards and the science content standards for Alaska.

Sensational Senses

Grades: K-3

Seasons offered: All year

Come see, listen, smell, and feel how scientists observe the world around them! In this program, student scientists practice using their senses and discover how tools, such as magnifying glasses, binoculars, and thermometers, can enhance their senses.

Alaska Animals

Grades: K-3

Seasons offered: All year

What animals are found in Alaska? Where do they live? How do they survive? Games, hands-on activities, and natural items immerse learners in the diverse habitats of Alaska animals. Students investigate animal evidence and learn about adaptations that help animals survive.

Forest Explorers

Grades: K-3

Seasons offered: All year

Calling all forest explorers! In this program students discover the diversity of tree species in Alaska and analyze the important role of trees in ecosystems. They investigate the parts of trees and learn how seasons, climate, and other factors affect trees' life cycles.

Salmon Stories

Grades: K-3

Seasons offered: All year

Learn about animal adaptations through one of Alaska's star species: salmon! In this engaging, hands-on program students role play the story of the salmon life cycle, investigate fish characteristics and adaptations, and discover how salmon are connected to other living things in their habitat.

A Seed's Journey

Grades: K-3

Seasons offered: Spring / Fall

Grow your understanding of Alaska's plants! Through games, skits, seed planting, and a seed collection walk, students learn about the basic parts, needs, and life cycles of plants.



"I highly recommend this trip for third graders who may either have learned or will be learning this information in their class. The hands on learning environment teaches kids in a different way to reinforce their classroom learning." *Sherrod Elementary teacher, Forest Explorers*



Watershed Wonders

Grades: 4-6

Seasons offered: Spring / Fall

Grab your boots and go with the flow to experience the dynamic Campbell Creek watershed! In this inquiry-based program, students learn about the interconnectedness of rivers, wetlands, and the ocean. They observe how moving water shapes the landscape and investigate aquatic and riparian habitats. They conduct chemical and physical water quality tests and identify various aquatic macroinvertebrates to evaluate the health of the creek.

Earth Ranger Academy

Grades: 4-6

Seasons offered: All year

Join the Earth Ranger Academy for a multi-day immersion in ecosystem science and exploration! Students spend three days at the science center learning about ecological principles, exploring the outdoors, and collecting and analyzing scientific data. Team building and outdoor skills sessions are also woven into the program to help students gain confidence and excitement about learning outdoors.

Dynamic Earth

Grades: 4-6

Seasons offered: All year

Discover how water and ice change Alaska over time! In this program students learn how glaciers form and shape the landscape. Students model erosion using a stream table and hike along Campbell Creek to observe erosion in action.

"Great mix of visual aids, hands-on, wilderness exploration and interactive activities. One of the best field trips I've chaperoned." *Northern Lights ABC Elementary chaperone, Dynamic Earth*



"Here is what I like about the alone spot in the woods. The sound is amazing. You can hear all the birds and the best thing is you are with nature. You can also see all the cool bugs and feel the textures of trees."

Alpenglow Elementary fifth grader, Earth Ranger Academy

Team Building & Outdoor Skills - 4th Grade and Older

Boost your students' confidence to work as a team. Challenge them to learn new skills to survive and thrive in the Alaskan outdoors. Teach the value of stewardship. We offer team building, outdoor skills, and service learning field trips for all learners.

Team Building

Grades: 4 and up

Seasons offered: All year

What makes a great team? Learn the fundamentals of effective, student-led teamwork in the supportive environment of the Campbell Creek Science Center. Experiential activities get participants moving, cooperating, communicating, trusting, and problem solving in positive ways. This program can help jumpstart collaboration at the beginning of school or build camaraderie throughout the year.

Outdoor Survival Skills

Grades: 4 and up

Seasons offered: All year

What does it take to survive in the sub-arctic environment of Alaska? How should we prepare to spend time outdoors? What can we do to stay alive when things go wrong? Through hands-on experience with fire starting, shelter building, orienteering, and other skills, students learn techniques to stay warm, healthy, and secure in the outdoors.

Service Learning Experiences

Grades: 4 and up

Experience the act of stewardship with service-learning projects. Assist with a citizen science project (e.g., tree inventory, wildberry studies, stream assessments), learn to use programs like eBird to complement your students' understanding of how scientists use and collect data, study Alaskan plants with our gardens, and more. Call us for more information on how to incorporate service learning into your field trip.



"Extremely satisfied. The instructor was excellent, and had a great attitude, and kept the kids engaged. Great experience."

Inlet View Elementary chaperone, Winter Survival

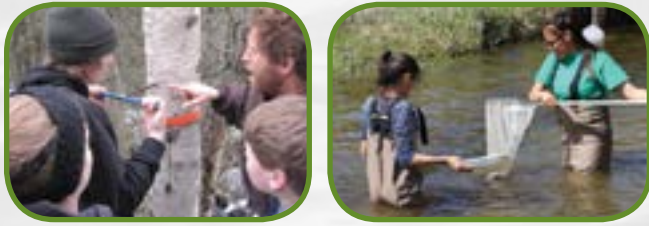


"It was very interesting to see the dynamics of the group change so dramatically from the first task to the last. The instructor was AMAZING at controlling, guiding, encouraging and managing the many personalities of the group. I believe that the experience was very effective for many of the kids." *Bear Valley Elementary chaperone, Team Building*

Middle School - College

Learning continues at all ages. Make classrooms relevant to the career world with a program at the CCSC. Our skilled educators can adapt standard programs and build a custom program for your teen, high school, and college students. Explore natural resource career options, develop outdoor leadership skills, engage in stewardship, and put STEAM education into practice.

Call us to set up a program for your students.



Annual Special Events

Water Discovery Days (4th Grade)

Alaska's incredible watersheds give life to the many species that live here (including people!). Your 4th graders will discover the science of salmon, identify aquatic macroinvertebrates, and learn about the importance of riparian habitats, all along the banks of Campbell Creek. This free event takes place each September. Advanced registration is required. Registration opens mid-August.

Outdoor Week (6th Grade)

Give your 6th graders the opportunity of a lifetime to develop lifelong recreation skills, explore outdoor related careers, and learn ways to stay safe and have fun in the Alaskan outdoors. This free event takes place each May. Advanced registration is required. Registration opens mid-April.



"I was completely floored by how amazing CCSC's leadership activities were! It was certainly a learning experience for me as an educator, and the girls took home so much awareness about self and group. They also had a ton of fun and were giggling all day."

Girls Riding Into Tomorrow (GRIT) team leader

Other Field Trip Options

Homeschool Programs

We offer field trips for homeschoolers, mixed-grade groups, and families. Choose from the listed program topics or work with us to build a program that will meet your group's objectives or learning goals.

Distance Learning & Outreach

Want a field trip but live far away? Included in our list of standard topics are distance learning programs. We also provide some outreach to schools. Contact us for details.

Scout, 4-H & Afterschool Programs

Continue the learning experience outside of the traditional school day. We offer field trips on afternoons, evenings, and weekends for Scout, 4-H, and other afterschool and extracurricular groups. Choose from our standard program topics or work with us to build a custom program that meets the goals of your program, badge, or project.





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BLM Mission

The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Campbell Creek Science Center Mission

The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center engages all learners in outdoor experiences that increase appreciation, connection, and stewardship of Alaska's public lands and natural resources.

We believe in creating engaging and immersive experiences for all learners to better understand, enjoy, and connect to their public lands. Through our work, we foster the next generation of natural resource stewards.