



## ***Denali Science School*** ***- Systems and Stewardship -*** **Parent Packet**



# Your child is going to Denali Science School!

## Here are some things you need to know.

### What is Denali Science School?

Denali Science School is a hands-on science education program for Alaska students in fifth and sixth grades. During a three-day, two night stay at the Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) in Denali National Park and Preserve, students learn about how park rangers use science to protect and showcase this special place. The students conduct investigations, participate in discussions and collaborative activities, play games, hike, and grow as individuals and as a team.

### What will my child learn?

- Students will use tools and scientific methods to understand the natural world around them.
- Students will experience the four main habitats found in Denali. They will learn how they connect to each other and how they are impacted by change.
- Students will learn about the National Park Service and its mission to protect natural resources while giving visitors access to those resources.

### Where will my child stay?

Students sleep in a classroom in the Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC). The MSLC is equipped with drinking fountains and restrooms. No showers will be provided during your child’s stay. Students will eat in the MSLC dining hall located in an adjacent building.

### What will my child eat?

A sample menu is below. Please let your child’s teacher know of any allergies so accommodations can be made.

	Day One	Day Two	Day Three
Breakfast		Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Cereal, Juice	Pancakes, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Fresh Fruit, Cereal, Juice
Lunch	Arrive Afternoon	<u>Sack Lunch (choose one of the following)</u> #1 – Turkey and Cheddar Sandwich #2 – Peanut Butter and Jelly Each lunch contains a sandwich, bag of regular potato chips, carrot sticks, chocolate chip cookie and bottle of water.	<u>Sack Lunch (choose one of the following)</u> #1 – Turkey and Cheddar Sandwich #2 – Peanut Butter and Jelly Each lunch contains a sandwich, bag of regular potato chips, carrot sticks, chocolate chip cookie and bottle of water.
Dinner	<u>Pizza Party!</u> Cheese, Veggie, and Pepperoni Pizza Caesar Salad Ice Cream Sandwiches	<u>Spaghetti</u> Spaghetti, Meatballs, Marinara Sauce, Steamed Veggies, Breadsticks Chocolate cake	

## What will my child do each day?

### Monday/Wednesday

1:00-1:30 – Arrive and deposit gear

1:30-1:45 – Habitat Game

1:45-2:15 – Welcome and Orientation

2:15-3:15 – Visitor Center Scavenger Hunt, Intro to Habitats and Ecosystems

3:15-5:00 – Hike

5:00-6:00 - Games

6:00-7:00 – Dinner at MSLC Dining Hall

7:00-8:00 – Teacher activities

8:00-8:30 – Bedtime setup and wind-down

8:30-9:00 – Lights out

### Tuesday/Thursday

8:00-8:45 – Breakfast at MSLC Dining Hall

8:45-10:00 – Permafrost Permeability, Monitoring, and Impacts

10:00-10:15 – Snack

10:15-11:30 – Wolf Program

11:30-12:15 – Who Should Be Saved

12:15-12:45 - Lunch

12:45-1:45 – Sled Dog Kennels

1:45-4:45 – Mountain Vista Walk

4:45-6:00 – Work on Create a National Park

6:00-7:00 – Dinner at MSLC Dining Hall

7:00-8:00 – Teacher activities

8:00-8:30 – Bedtime setup and wind-down

8:30-9:00 – Lights out

### Wednesday/Friday

8:00-8:45 – Breakfast at MSLC Dining Hall

8:45-10:15 – Work on Create a National Park, snack

10:15-10:45 – Create National Park Presentations

10:45-11:00 – Closing activity (Postcards)

11:00-11:30 – Pack up gear/load gear on bus/classroom and bathroom clean up

11:30-12:00 – Lunch

## What should I do in case of emergency?

In case of emergencies or needing to get a message to a child, parents should call the lead teacher's cell phone number. In addition, Denali has a 24-hour Communication Center (907-683-9555) that can communicate messages to the group in emergency situations.

## What should my child bring?

We do lots of outdoor activities regardless of the weather, and your child will learn best if s/he is warm and comfortable. In September and early October, Denali tends to have average high temperatures in the 40s and 50s and average lows in the 20s and 30s. Students should come prepared for rain (check the forecast – maybe even snow!) and cold weather.

Pack clothes that can be layered to accommodate transitions from indoors to outdoors and variable weather conditions. Clothes and shoes should be comfortable and easy to walk in for long periods of time. Synthetic materials are best since cotton is cold and heavy when wet. All students must wear long pants, socks, and closed-toed shoes at all times when outside. They will likely be most comfortable wearing long sleeves and a light jacket or sweatshirt.

Please wear/bring the following items in a day pack plus **one bag**:

- Day pack for carrying lunch, water bottle, rain gear, and extra layers
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Two sets of clothes appropriate for recreating outside – wear one, pack the other
- Sweatshirt or fleece jacket
- Extra warm socks - **not** cotton, preferably wool or synthetic/wool blend
- Sneakers or hiking boots (no sandals or open-toed shoes)
- Warm jacket
- Warm hat
- Mittens or gloves
- Rain coat
- Rain pants
- Personal items: toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, small hand towel, etc.
- Water bottle (non-leaking and closeable)

*Optional:*

- Small pillow
- Stuffed animal, book, or journal

**Double check:**

- That all overnight items pack into **one bag**.
- No extra snacks in students bags.
- No phones, radios, electronic games, or toys are allowed.

### What Not to Pack

As with any school field trip, items prohibited in school are also not permitted at Science School. Less obvious items that can create distractions include cameras, electronics, and cell phones. Students may be disappointed to learn that we discourage cameras, but we want them to fully experience Denali through their own eyes. Adults are allowed to bring cameras and take pictures for the group. Electronics such as music and game players should not be brought to Denali Science School. The trip is a chance to unplug and enjoy the other participants in the group. Students should not bring cell phones. In case of an emergency, the group will always be reachable.