



ALASKA OUTDOOR SCHOOL

EDUCATION THROUGH ADVENTURE

Alaska Outdoor school is looking for Field Instructors! This April, join our growing network of volunteer public lands professionals who share their expertise with youth participants of our Outdoor School in Portage Valley. This is your opportunity to engage with local students, network with peer agencies and organizations, and contribute to the growth of outdoor education in Southcentral Alaska.

Alaska Outdoor School cultivates lifelong stewardship of Alaska's public lands through immersive, experiential, place-based programming for 5th graders. Field instructors are subject experts from agencies, non-profits, businesses, and other organizations who volunteer to lead lessons at Outdoor School on topics such as glaciers, forests, salmon, and natural or cultural history. Field Instructors guide students in learning about the natural world through discovery, teaching students to rely on their observation and critical thinking skills.

Benefits of being a Field Instructor:

- Explore alongside students and investigate the links and relationships between different parts of the local ecosystem.
- Expose students to new career pathways through discussion of your organization, field of study, and a "typical" day at work.
- Share your love of the outdoors and the ways you enjoy time outside.

What does "Teaching a Lesson" Entail?

Field Instructors lead 4 sessions of a field study to groups of 5th grade students. Outdoor School orientation and training is provided to all participating field instructors. This training covers outdoor classroom management techniques and how to engage students in their lessons through hands-interactive activities rather than lecturing. For your field study topic, you can choose one of the following options:

- *Option 1: Bring your own lesson plan*
 - All lessons should relate to our central theme of interconnectedness and be place-based (relevant to the environment/ecosystems of Portage Valley).
 - All lessons should include movement activities that facilitate understanding of the lesson topic such as relay races, charades, hiking, or other types of activities. We are happy to work with you to adapt existing curriculum to incorporate these elements.
- *Option 2: Select a topic from our curriculum library*
 - Alaska Outdoor School has an extensive library of teaching resources and materials for you to select from if you do not plan to bring your own materials and lesson plan.

What's the Time Commitment?

For many students, Outdoor School is the best three days of the year, and our field instructors are a huge part of their positive experience. We ask that field instructors participate for the duration of the program but understand that this is not always possible. You can choose what works best for you from the options listed below.

- *Option 1: Individual Commitment*
 - 9am Tuesday morning - 1pm Thursday afternoon.
 - Lead a total of 4 sessions of a field study to groups of 5th grade students: 1 on Tuesday afternoon, 2 on Wednesday, and 1 on Thursday morning. These ~2-hour field study blocks are your only required time commitment but there are other activities you can participate in if you are interested.
 - Room and board are provided if you would like to stay in Portage Valley on Tuesday and Wednesday night.
- *Option 2: Team Commitment*
 - Coordinate with your peers and colleagues to share a single field study topic (e.g. 1 person teaches on Tuesday, 1 on Wednesday, 1 on Thursday). These ~2 hour field study blocks are your only required time commitment but there are other activities you can participate in if you are interested.

When are Volunteers Needed?

We are looking for 20 total volunteers (5 volunteers per week) to participate as Field Instructors during the following dates of our Outdoor School at the [Begich Boggs, Visitor Center](#) in Portage Valley:

April 4th – 6th

April 11th – 13th

April 18th - 20th

April 25th – 27th

How do I Sign Up to Volunteer?

If you'd like to volunteer as an Alaska Outdoor School Field Instructor, please fill out our [Volunteer Interest Form](#). For additional program information or to reach out to KMTA Education Program Manager Sarah Schuh with any questions, please visit [Alaska Outdoor School | KMTA \(kmtacorridor.org\)](#).