



EDUCATION THROUGH ADVENTURE:

ALASKA OUTDOOR SCHOOL

GUIDING PRINCIPLES, EDUCATIONAL PILLARS AND INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

VISION

Advance a program model for 5th grade students that can be replicated by other school districts and organizations to create a statewide collective that provides multiday outdoor education programming to all 5th grade students throughout the state of Alaska.

MISSION

Provide transformational outdoor education that cultivates lifelong stewardship of public lands in Alaska.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AOS is committed to equity, inclusion, accessibility and cultural relevance in all program elements. AOS will achieve this by:

1. Lower barriers to outdoor education by providing Outdoor School to all fifth grade students, regardless of their ability to pay.
2. Model an inclusive mindset toward outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship. Expose students to the diverse ways to use and enjoy public lands.
3. Benefit students' physical, social and emotional health through play, group work and cooperative activities.

AOS is committed to an instructional model that includes outdoor adventure, scientific thinking, and self-discovery. AOS will achieve this by:

1. Experiential, hands-on, immersive outdoor learning that extends multidisciplinary instruction beyond the classroom to stimulate learning and provide students with opportunities to have positive outdoor experiences and learn/improve outdoor activities and skills.
2. Improving students' knowledge and appreciation of Alaska's natural beauty and natural resources by exposing students to nature through adventurous learning.
3. Partner with government agencies, school districts, businesses, and nonprofit organizations and utilize experts in their field (e.g. professionals from these organizations) for instructors.



EDUCATIONAL PILLARS

KNOWLEDGE [WHAT]	SKILLS [HOW]	UNDERSTANDING [WHY]
<p>SOCIAL AWARENESS Participants are developing their self-awareness and social skills, and their appreciation of the contributions and achievements of themselves and of others.</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS Participants are becoming alive to/in the natural environment and the importance of Alaska's public lands and natural resources.</p> <p>QUESTIONS TO CONNECTIONS Participants are investigating fundamental science questions related to life, seasons, and environment from multiple perspectives and disciplines.</p> <p>CULTURAL AWARENESS Participants are acknowledging historical and present-day habitancy, use, and stewardship of public lands.</p>	<p>ACTIVITY SKILLS Participants are acquiring and developing a range of skills in outdoor activities, expeditions, and exploration.</p> <p>I AM, I CAN Participants are demonstrating increased initiative, self-reliance, responsibility, perseverance and commitment.</p> <p>TRANSFERABLE SKILLS Participants are developing and extending their key skills of communication, problem solving, risk propensity, leadership, and teamwork.</p> <p>HEALTHY BEHAVIORS Participants are adopting healthy relationship behaviors with themselves and their friends, family, community, and the land.</p>	<p>HEALTH & FITNESS Participants are learning to appreciate the benefits of physical fitness and the lifelong value of participation in healthy recreation activities.</p> <p>APPETITE FOR LEARNING Participants are displaying an increased motivation and appetite for learning that is contributing to raised levels of attainment in other aspects of their education.</p> <p>BROADENED HORIZONS Participants are broadening their horizons and becoming open to a wider range of employment opportunities and life chances.</p> <p>INCREASE CURIOSITY Participants directly engage with aspects of the natural world.</p>

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

AOS instructors are expected to:

1. Engage students in experiential explorations of the natural world. Promote inquiry, discussion, and multiple ways of thinking.
2. Model leadership behaviors consistent with building a positive and safe community where students explore, share, and experience cooperative groups.
3. Related your professional knowledge, sills, and abilities to the broader processes of the natural world and outdoor recreation.