



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Alaska Outdoor School (AOS) is a three-day, two-night outdoor education program operated by the [Kenai Mountains – Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area](#) (KMTA) in partnership with the Chugach National Forest and Anchorage School District and supported by a diverse network of federal, state, and local partners. AOS is based in beautiful Portage Valley where the outdoors is transformed into an extension of the classroom. Our nature based classes align with science curriculum offering a hands-on, and adventure-based approach to learning.

Prior to Outdoor School: Your school will provide important dates and other information regarding your students' Outdoor School experience. The teacher(s) have been given firm dates to have all paperwork turned in, and we appreciate your effort to get all forms returned in a timely manner.

Location & Facility: Alaska Outdoor School is held at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, located 50 miles south of Anchorage in Portage Valley. In rare instances the Seward Highway can close between Portage and Anchorage due to rockfall, avalanche mitigation, or landslides. In this rare event, a road closure may delay your child's return home. Outdoor School staff are well equipped for this possibility with plenty of extra food and staff prepared to care for the needs of your child.

Transportation: Students will be transported by a regular school district bus with a fully qualified driver.

During Outdoor School: During the day, your student will participate in outdoor-based lessons, be challenged in teamwork activities, and explore the beautiful landscape around Portage Lake. During the evenings, there will be campfires, s'mores, songs, games, and a quiet wind down time to prepare your student for sleep. At night, your student will sleep in adult monitored areas within the Begich, Boggs visitor center.

Food: All meals and snacks are provided by KMTA and the Anchorage School District. We can accommodate nearly all dietary needs and allergies. You can contact Program Coordinator Josh Vantrease at jvantrease@kmtacorridor.org if you would like to discuss your child's food restrictions and needs.

Clothing & Gear: While we hope for sunny and warm days, it is crucial to be prepared for cold, wet, and windy weather. Please carefully look over the Packing List well in advance to make sure your child will be adequately prepared for AOS. If your child is missing something on the list, Alaska Outdoor School has a robust gear library and is happy to let students borrow anything they need while in the program.

Parents/guardians are welcome to volunteer as chaperones on this trip! Support from parents is essential for AOS to be a successful and positive educational experience. Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested in accompanying your child's class as a chaperone.

KMTA and our Outdoor School partners have taken every precaution necessary to ensure your students' **comfort, health, and safety** while at Outdoor School. If you have any questions or would like more info on how we plan to keep your child safe at AOS you are encouraged to talk with your students' teacher. We believe that every student can be successful at Alaska Outdoor School!

Sincerely,
KMTA education staff and Outdoor School partners

Program Schedule

Day 1 (Wednesday)

10:30 – 11:00	Arrive at Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in Portage Valley
11:15 – 12:15	AOS Orientation & BBVC Tour
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 3:15	Field Study 1
3:15 – 3:30	Snack
3:30 – 5:00	Recreation time
5:00 – 6:00	Move into dens + den time
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner
7:00 – 8:30	Campfire
8:30 - 9:30	Den time
9:30	Lights out

Day 2 (Thursday)

7:30 – 8:00	Breakfast + Announcements
8:30 – 9:30	Morning circle
9:45 – 12:00	Field Study 2
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch & Recess
1:00 – 3:15	Field Study 3
3:15 – 3:30	Snack
3:30 – 5:00	Recreation time
5:00 – 6:00	Den Time
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner
7:00 – 8:30	Campfire
8:30 - 9:00	Den time
9:00	Lights out

Day 3 (Friday)

7:00	Breakfast + Pack
8:00 – 8:45	Morning circle
8:45 – 11:00	Field Study 4
11:00 – 11:30	Lunch
11:30 – 12:00	Closing Ceremony Load bus + Depart

