Environmental & Resource Education

A Resource Guide for Alaskan Educators

Do you want to be featured in our next edition? Drop us an email and we'll send you a questionnaire!

Do educators! Organize!

First Edition
2013/2014

This is YOUR guide. Use it, share it, love it! Let us know if there is something more you'd like for us to include! Send us an email!
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ABOUT ANROE
The Alaska Natural Resources and Outdoor Education Association (ANROE) is an incorporated educational organization that promotes and implements natural resource and outdoor education in Alaska. ANROE provides networking services, training, curricula development and review, and other support for people involved with natural resource education. Joann Popham designed the ANROE logo, inspired by a western Alaska Eskimo mask. Radiating from the moon’s face, ringed with mountains and water, are Alaskan life forms. The hands symbolize escapement: Allow some to remain.

Find out more:
http://anroe.wordpress.com/

ABOUT MSOEE
Alaska Pacific’s Master of Science in Outdoor & Environmental Education (MSOEE) is one-of-a-kind in the state. Faculty and students focus on providing and developing experiential education curricula- learning by doing. The program is based on the 700-acre Spring Creek Farm in Palmer, Alaska, a working hay farm, CSA and environmental education center for the surrounding community. APU students contribute to Louise's Farm School, a homeschool science supplement program, named after the farms’ headstrong homesteading namesake, Louise Kellogg.

To learn more, please visit:
http://www.alaskapacific.edu/academics/outdoor-studies/ms-outdoor-and-environmental-education/

QUYANA, HÁW’AA, SPASIBO, MAHSÍ, TSIN’AEN, CHINAN, AWA’AHDAH, GUNALCHÉESH, QUYANAQ, QAGAASAKUNG, TSIN’ÉE, THANK YOU.

ABOUT THIS FIRST EDITION
All logos are the property of their respective organizations. Front and rear cover images, by Jennifer Stein 2012- “Potter Marsh”, 2009- “AWCC”. Alaska Regional Map- Alaska Division of Business and Community Support.

Organizations included in this edition gave timely feedback on a profile questionnaire, and are featured because they gave their consent to participate in a thesis project, which resulted in creation of resource guide from the answers provided.
Environmental Education Resource Guide

**Kachemak Bay Environmental Education Resource Guide**

Maintains an educational clearinghouse of educational programs, professional development opportunities, and educational resources for the K-Bay region, and showcases outdoor and hands-on activities at the region’s museums and centers. This site offers information on how to access local curricula, as well as field guides, books, and multimedia. Links to checkout kits from across the state are available.

**Kachemak Bay Research Reserve**

As the only fjord-type estuary in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, KBRR is unique not only for its location, but it’s collaborative state-federal-local partnership offers multiple perspectives for stewardship, education, and professional training. A number of field guides are available for download, and offer a useful supplement for self-guided exploration. Visit the website to find out more about professional development programs offered through partner organizations. Discovery Lab programs are offered at the AK Island & Oceans Visitor Center between September and May, with a different topic each month.

**Fall 2013**

Hello!

My name is Jennifer, and I am a graduate student at Alaska Pacific University. Over the course of the past four months, I have been working with the Alaskan environmental education community to assemble a very thorough assortment of educational opportunities and experiences for you, the educator, and your classroom. The following pages include a diverse array of organizations that provide different elements that will enhance your teaching about our great state. In this guide, you will find opportunities with different local, state, and federal organizations, as well as non-profit groups and corporations alike. As educators, we should strive to provide as much background for our students, so that they may make their own informed decisions and they continue to learn and grow through life.

As an educator-in-training, I understand the need for diversity and simplicity when exploring resource opportunities. Our time is valuable and short. It is my hope that you will find the contents of this guide useful and easy to follow, and that you are able to connect with an excellent opportunity to provide some form of experiential education for your classes. I am a proponent of place-based education, and firmly believe that through hands-on education and experiences, we as professionals can provide a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural world for our students and ourselves.

I want to take a moment to thank all the individuals who helped to guide me through this process, and provided me with all the information found in this guide. This document is a result of collaboration at all levels within each organization, and without which, there would be nothing to share with you. Also, I want to offer a huge thanks to Alaska Natural Resources and Environmental Education Association (ANROE) for helping me to assemble and volunteering to host this guide and corresponding database on their website.

Please, use this guide as you see fit. If you feel there are unrepresented organizations, I encourage you to collaborate with us to make this guide the best it can be. Each region in this wonderful state has its own resources, values, and assets, and the more we work together and share this information, the better we can appreciate our big backyard. Thank you for picking up this resource guide!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stein

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**How to Use This Guide**

You have a number of different options to approaching this guide. As you can see in the Table of Contents, each entry is divided up by its organizational classification- University-base, Federal & State, Non-governmental, Non-profit & Not-for-profit, and Collaborations, which consist of 2 or more entities across a variety of classifications. Within each section, the organizations are sorted alphabetically. Each entry has an at-a-glance key that identifies the physical or regional location of the organization, a website, phone number & email address when available. You should be ready to contact an organization for the most detailed, up-to-date programming, and be aware of noting seasonal offerings or staffing limitations. Some programs may be cancelled or discontinued. A simple phone call or email can save time and money- especially if travel is involved. Certain entities are headquartered in urban areas, but located in rural or remote places. Many of the groups profiled in this guide offer statewide, regional, or local delivery of curricula, and most have web content. The next page shows a regional division of organizations, with corresponding page numbers if you know what you’re looking for, or intend to explore by region.
The state of Alaska is divided up into five distinct regions: the Far North, Interior, Southwest, Southcentral, and Southeast. The Southcentral region is the most densely populated, and constitutes the bulk of this resource guide. However, there are a variety of different environmental education opportunities throughout the state, and some organizations even span multiple regions while being headquartered in a single location.

It is important to be aware that, due to limited resources, not all programming is available statewide. There are also a few organizations listed that are seasonal operations. This is only a small representation of the more than 100 groups within the state that provide environmental education opportunities. Each organization as a page number for quick access! To view a complete list of organizations and programming information, please visit our database at http://anroe.wordpress.com

### Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE)

WISE provides science and environmental education, resources, and support for research in the Copper River Valley. WISE has partnered with the Department of Fish and Game to offer Citizen Science Kits: Alaska Loon & Grebe Survey, Bat Monitoring Survey, and Alaska Wood Frog Survey Kits available. The following Program Delivery and Kits are available to the Copper River School District, Mentasta, Glacier View and area homeseschool and correspondence students: Boreal Forest, Plants of the Region, Geology, Animals, Physics, Ecology.

### Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS)

ARLIS provides universal access to natural and cultural resources information. The library staff and federal, state, university, and future partners recognize that improved understanding of Alaska's resources facilitates wise development, conservation and management. Web- and site-based educational content to supplement your own environmental education curricula. ARLIS houses environmental education kits, as well as a circulating collection of animal furs, skulls, and mounts from various statewide agencies, which are available to educators statewide. Reference staff is available to provide one-on-one assistance for research, as well as group tours of Alaska.

### Dorothy G. Page Museum

As a city-funded organization, the mission Dorothy G. Page Museum is to identify, collect, preserve, research, interpret and exhibit the cultural and historical heritage of Wasilla, Knik and Willow Creek areas. Tours are available, and must be scheduled in advance. A confirmation number for tour groups is required. Contact the museum for more information! Various “Wednesday Night at the Museum” programs are offered, with content ranging from crafting activities, to social gatherings, to recreation instruction. Visit the website for up-to-date offerings!
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
A regional non-profit partnership between community and industry to promote sustainable use and conservation of natural resources. Web-based content and options for local advocacy available.

Talkeetna Historical Society
Located in the city of Talkeetna, the Talkeetna Historical Society operates a small museum dedicated to preserving the history of Talkeetna and Alaska. The organization has a number of exhibits, and also offers an NPS Park Ranger Talk twice daily in the Summer with paid admission. Contact the Museum to schedule a guided tour.

Valdez Museum and Historical Archive
Serving the Copper River Basin and Prince William Sound region, the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive provides exhibits on Alaskan history, and a special focus on the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake. The Museum offers a variety of lectures, workshops, field trips, tours, and exhibits on-site. Classroom programs can be customized and include Native Studies, Exploration, Gold Rush, Old Town, Earthquake, Geography, Military, Industry, Road Building, and Mining themes. Kits are available to local educators and the general public in the surrounding area. Chugach Heritage Kits include: The Healing Power of Alaska's Plants and Abundance of Birds. A 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake & Old Town kit is in progress.

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UNIVERSITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Native Knowledge Network
The ANKN is an Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative partner designed to serve as a resource for compiling and exchanging information related to Alaska Native knowledge systems and ways of knowing. It has been established to assist Native people, government agencies, educators and the general public in gaining access to the knowledge base that Alaska Natives have acquired through cumulative experiences over millennia. Web-based content includes curricula and stories about Alaska Native cultures.

University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service
A partnership between the USDA and University of Alaska Fairbanks to deliver outreach education statewide, on a wide range of topics. District calendars showcase community activities, programs, and lectures. Check out the website or call for

FEDERAL & STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
ANWR was established to preserve unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values; to conserve wildlife in their natural diversity; to fulfill international wildlife treaty obligations; to provide continued opportunities for subsistence uses; and to ensure water quality and quantity. Refuge employees are sometimes available for program delivery in the Fairbanks area and Villages in Northeast Alaska. A number of educationally focused activities are available on their web site.

Petersburg Marine Mammal Center
The Petersburg Marine Mammal Center will develop education programs, assist research efforts and be a depository for and disseminator of information on research and sightings of marine mammals in Southeast Alaska. The website offers education content as well as links to other marine mammal organizations and marine mammal information sites.

Pratt Museum
The Pratt Museum is based in Homer, and serves the Kachemak Bay and Southcentral Alaska region. The Pratt highlights the Art, Science & Culture of K-Bay through exhibits, guided tours, educational media and web-based content. Contact the museum to arrange an appointment to view collections that will enhance your classroom teaching! The following kits are available for local use, free of charge. Raptors, Marine Invertebrates, Marine Mammals, Dena’ina Athabascan, Oil Spill, Sea Otter, Fossils. Call or email to secure your kit!

Renewable Resources Foundation
A non-profit dedicated to the protection of sport, commercial and subsistence fisheries through public education on a variety of issues that could affect these resources. Email for more information!
Eagle River Nature Center

Not-for-profit Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Inc. was established for the purpose of operating Chugach State Park’s Eagle River Visitor Center. The year-round facility offers extensive K-12 interpretive programming, as well as Naturalist training for Adults. Educators are invited to shadow ERNC naturalists during 2pm weekend programs, offered throughout the year. Volunteer summer naturalist and internship positions are offered, with housing, food stipend, and hands-on naturalist training provided. Visit the website, call, or email for more info on school field trip, outreach, adult, and self-guided program options!

Kodiak Maritime Museum

Highlighting Kodiak’s long relationship with the sea, the Kodiak Maritime Museum offers an innovative “museum without walls” approach to preserving and interpreting the city’s maritime history. Housed entirely online, the exhibits and programs are available to a statewide audience. Student groups in Kodiak can contact the museum to arrange a walking tour of the historic waterfront!

Palmer Museum of History and Art

Located in the heart of the glacially etched Mat-Su Valley, the Palmer Museum displays artifacts representing the history of art, exploration, settlement, agriculture, and trade, as well as showcasing the area’s social and cultural development. Contact the Museum to arrange for a guided tour!

Bureau of Land Management Glenallen Field Office

Serving the Southcentral Greater Copper River Basin region, the BLM Glenallen Field Office has a network of natural resource specialists and outdoor recreation planners to advise on outdoor learning excursions with the BLM management area. This field office has two teaching kits available for checkout by local teachers, Archeology and Paleontology. Call for more details!

Chugach National Forest

The Chugach Forest is situated along the banks of the idyllic Prince William Sound, from Seward to Whittier, Girdwood, Valdez, and Cordova. While there may be a lack of roads, the Marine Highway System crisscrosses to all locations. The Portage Valley Learning Center at Begich, Boggs Visitor Center offers winter and summer conservation education programs. Contact for more information! The Forest Ranger Academy, a program designed to compliment the ASD Earth Systems Elementary Science Program framework, is offered in the spring, when budget and staffing allow. Three units, Tree Ranger, Storm Ranger, and Aqua Ranger are available, and a commitment to the following Academy Guidelines is expected: 1-hour classroom visit by a Forest Ranger, Field Trip to Portage Valley, and completion of a pre and post packet with activities and evaluations.

JBER Wildlife Education Center

The Wildlife Education Center serves Active duty and retired armed service members and their families, civilians, and government employees. On display are hundreds of mounts of wildlife native to the state. Recreational and educational materials are available. The WEC is available for tours, private visits, and educational events. Call to schedule a visit- on base!

Kenai Fjords National Park

At the edge of Seward, and spanning the magnificent Harding Ice Field lies Kenai Fjords National Park. Take a ranger-led hike to Exit Glacier and witness the active retreat. Contact the park for current conditions. Can’t make it to the Park? Curriculum materials are available online for grades 3-12! Schedule an educational field trip with programs designed for K-8 groups. Offerings vary by season. Visit the website for the most up-to-date programming!
Koyukuk & Nowitna National Wildlife Refuges

Located in the remote Northeastern Interior, Koyukuk and Nowitna National Wildlife Refuges partner to offer education programs to the schools in Galena, Huslia, Hughes, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag. A variety of teaching kits, activity guides, and curricula are available for all Alaskan educators, and can be mailed statewide. Adaptations of Mammals to the Boreal Forest, Role of Fire in Alaska, People, Fish and the Habitats They Share, Songbirds, Teach about Geese, Wetlands Exploration. Contact the refuge staff to request your educational materials!

USDA Forest Service Alaska Region

Alaska contains 17 percent of all U.S. Forest Service lands and contains the two largest forests in the nation. The Tongass National Forest stretches over the 500-mile-long Southeast Alaska Panhandle and covers more than 80 percent of that land. The Chugach National Forest makes a 210-mile arc around the Prince William Sound. Visit the website to find out more about educational curricula and opportunities for recreation within National Forest System. A variety of educational content is available on the website, including activities, curricula, and distance-education programs.

Western Arctic National Parklands: Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve

The Western Arctic National Parklands is a collective endeavor by the National Park Service to manage the four distinct Park, Preserve, and National Monument units in Northwestern Alaska. Their aim is towards cooperative stewardship for the conservation and understanding of the natural and cultural resources in Northwest Alaska. Each park is unique, and each website has different educational content, curricula, and resources. Visit the Kobuk Valley and Cape Krusenstern to download the Western Arctic Parklands Junior Ranger book. The Noatak web page offers 15 different lesson plans representing a combination of K-12 content.

Anchorage Waterways Council

The mission of AWC is to protect, restore, and enhance the waterways, wetlands, and associated uplands of Anchorage. The “Creeks as Classrooms” program is aligned with STEM principles, and AWC works with teachers and students to combine science, technology, and math with their efforts to promote healthy waterways. Contact AWC for more information on creek monitoring, cleanup, and stream adoption!

Challenger Learning Center of Alaska

Though based in Kenai, the Challenger Learning Center also offers distance programming on their web site, which, like their on-site opportunities, is meant to inspire students to think out of the box and pursue education in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) field. CLCA offers professional development and teacher training, alongside distance delivery, on-site programs, workshops, and dormitory facilities for overnight groups. Visit the website for the most up-to-date programming.

Denali Education Center

Situated across the Nenana River from Denali National Park, the Denali Education Center offers fun, informative, and inspiring programs meant to foster understanding and appreciation for Denali. DEC believes the way to develop a deep connection to the Park is by direct exploration. The DEC campus is open from mid-May to mid-September. On-site guest cabins provide ample space for a variety of different groups who chose to explore within one of the Center’s multi-day programs or field trips. Visit the website for more details, or call to reserve space for your group!
Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

The AWCC is dedicated to Alaska’s wildlife through conservation, education and quality animal care. AWCC works with the Anchorage School District to provide outreach and programs to raise awareness about wildlife and conservation efforts. Annual teacher programs are also offered. Contact the center to schedule a tour, or to host a guest speaker and Snickers the animal ambassador at your school! Learn more about the Center’s efforts to restore an Alaskan population of Wood Bison. A distance-delivery format interactive lecture series on bears by renowned scientists and experts is available each month during the 2013-2014 school year. Visit the web for more details.

Alaska Zoo- Education Department

The Alaska Zoo has provided a home for orphaned, injured and captive-born animals for over four decades. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, the Zoo is dedicated to promoting conservation of Arctic, sub-Arctic and like climate species through education, research and community enrichment. The Zoo offers a wide array of site-based educational programs, as well as outreach, Animal Ambassadors, and guest speakers available to travel to your school in the Anchorage and Mat-Su boroughs. Check the website for more teacher resources, or contact the Zoo to schedule your own program!

Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository

The mission of the Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository is the celebration of Alutiiq heritage through living culture. The website provides a number of education handouts related to Alutiiq communities, prehistory, subsistence, clothing, festivals, and arts for download. Educational programs include exhibit-based guided tours and in-class guest speakers and activities. The Museum offers hands-on activities, an archaeological dig kit, artifact teaching collection, traveling education boxes, and other multimedia resources. Contact the museum or check out the website for more information!

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

The mission of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is to preserve and protect ecological integrity and heritage resources of a vast ecosystem in south-central Alaska, while providing for public use in a wilderness setting. Wrangell St. Elias, at 33.2 million acres, was specifically designated to encompass an area large enough to include a diverse range of scenery, high latitude biomes, and landscape level processes where man is considered an integral part of the ecosystem. Check out the website for a number of curriculum materials for K-12 classes!

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

Despite being located in a remote region of Alaska, the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve is easily accessible through the rangers and exhibits at the Fairbanks Public Lands Information Center. Schedule a field trip or a classroom visit and learn more today! The following kits are available for local pickup or statewide shipment and most can be sent free of charge, with return shipping paid by the requesting school: Bird, Compass, Fish, Gold Rush, Insect, Mammals, Owl Pellet, Songbirds Blues, Tree, Water, Wetlands.

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge

The Refuge has a children’s Outdoor Photography Kit that can be use for a larger group of students introducing them to nature photography. An Archery Kit is transportable for use as an educational tool for numerous functions. The refuge attempts to provide or attend 2 or more educational outreach opportunities, typically elementary-aged, around the Fairbanks area and the villages of the Yukon Flats. The Refuge maintains a small educational lending library at the Fairbanks office. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has a website with curricula and additional resources available. Visit the Refuge’s website for more information.
NON-GOVERNMENTAL, NON-PROFIT & NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Botanical Garden
The Alaska Botanical Garden is a public garden dedicated to enhancing the beauty and value of plan material through education, preservation, recreation, and research. Classes are invited to schedule field trips to the Garden to engage in hands-on lessons tailored to each grade. Courses are designed to support ASD curriculum. Call or email for details!

Alaska Center for the Environment
ACE is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing programming, education, and public outreach across a variety of different environmental conservation issues. The Center offers hands-on training, job opportunities, and skill nights. Contact for more information! ACE provides resources, funding, and a home base for Trailside Discovery Camp and Alaska Youth for Environmental Action. Trailside offers summer camps and school year programming in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. AYEA works to empower teens across the state to educate, inspire, and take action on issues affecting diverse communities. Contact ACE for more information on these organizations and a current list of funding, and a home base for Trailside Discovery Camp and Alaska Youth for Environmental Action.

Alaska Geographic Association
Focusing on the Outdoor Classroom, Alaska Geographic aims to connect people to Alaska’s Parks, Forests, Refuges, and other public lands. The AGA is responsible for maintaining a variety of bookstores and educational resources state-wide in the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers, National Parks, and Refuges. Many day programs and multi-day field courses are offered through the Murie Science and Learning Center at Denali Park. Contact AGA for more information. The AGA puts on a variety of Field Courses, Day Programs, and Events for students. A large number of courses developed exclusively for educators are also available. Visit the website for the most current offerings!

Alaska Museum of Science & Nature
The goal of the Alaska Museum of Science and Nature is to bridge the gap between scientists and science lovers through education, exhibits, research and collections in the applied sciences. In addition to exhibits and collections, the Museum offers workshops and outreach classes. You can download a 2013-2014 content guide from the website. Contact the Museum to schedule a group tour or request outreach programming for your school or event!

Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR)
ALPAR is dedicated to eliminating litter and increasing economically viable recycling in Alaska through the support of many Alaskan businesses. They provide training in recycling and litter prevention to municipal and tribal solid waste and environmental professionals across Alaska. Their website offers educational content, and opportunities to engage your students in recycling through various events and hands-on activities.

Alaska SeaLife Center
The Alaska SeaLife Center generates and shares scientific knowledge to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska’s marine ecosystem. Though based in Seward, the Center offers educational content and distance-delivery programs for a statewide audience. The center provides numerous teacher-training opportunities during the year. Staff is available for travel to deliver educational programs throughout Alaska. Visit the website or contact the Center for more information. Day-programs are available year-round at the Center, and programs are tailored to every grade level. Registration requests are located on the Center’s website.