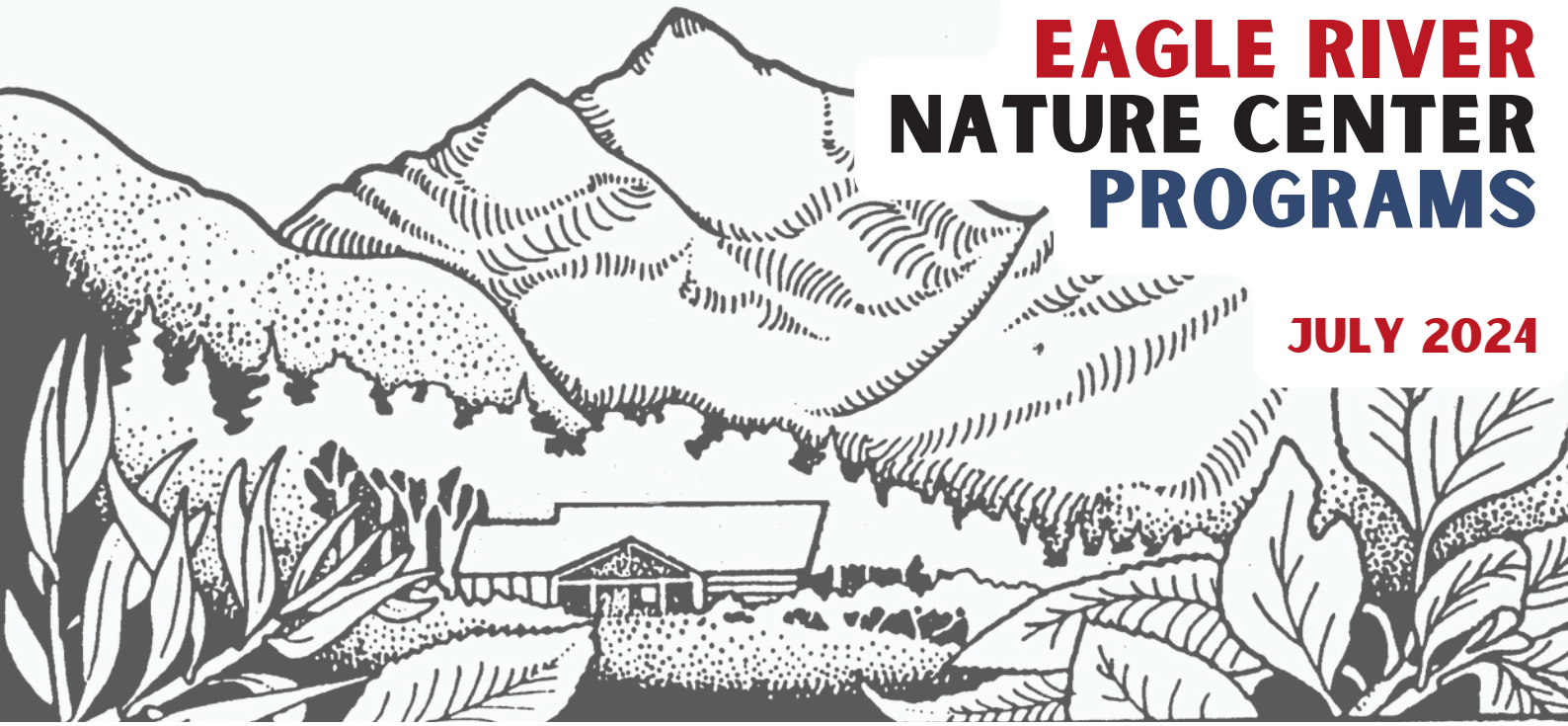


# EAGLE RIVER NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

**JULY 2024**



## **ERNC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SUMMER BUILDING HOURS:**

May-September  
Wednesday-Sunday  
10am-5pm

Find out more about us  
@ [www.ernc.org](http://www.ernc.org)

Contact us at:  
907-694-2108 or  
[info@ernc.org](mailto:info@ernc.org)

Location:  
32750 Eagle River Rd.  
Eagle River, AK 99577

You should be "Bear Aware"  
hiking on Nature Center Trails.

For more info and tips:

<https://www.ernc.org/outdoor-safety.html>



*Save  
THE  
Date*

### **September Nights: 28th Annual Auction Fundraiser**

Join us on 9/28/2024 at Odd Man Rush Brewing for an exciting evening of bidding, food, drinks and music! This is the Nature Center's biggest fundraiser of the year, with all funds raised going towards our mission of connecting people to nature in Alaska! More info will be coming soon, check our website for updates: [www.ernc.org](http://www.ernc.org).

*Have an item or service you'd like to donate to the auction? Please contact Laura at [info@ernc.org](mailto:info@ernc.org).*

### **Visit us at the Teddy Bear Picnic at the Bear Paw Festival!**

Free Family Fun Event! Come out July 12th, 11am-3pm, to the Eagle River Town Square Hill for one of our Bear Paw Festival signature events! Local organizations and businesses take part in offering various activities for the kids! Free hot dogs (while supplies last), teddy bear parade, teddy bear medical check-ups, sand bag games, hula hoops, whip cream competitions, and so much more! Make sure your kiddo brings their teddy bear to the picnic!



<https://bearpawfestival.org/>



**- NATURE CENTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE ON REVERSE -**

# JULY 2024 PROGRAMS

**FRIDAY, JULY 5, 19, & 26, 11AM**

## **LITTLE EXPLORERS**

Join in for an hour(ish)-long hike on or near the Rodak Trail at a toddler's pace! No registration necessary; just check in by 11am in the main ERNC building. *The target audience for this program is babies and children up to age 6 accompanied by an adult. Older siblings are welcome to join. Please leave furry friends at home.*

**SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2PM**

## **GUIDED HIKE | REGISTRATION REQUIRED RED, WHITE AND BLUEBERRY HIKE**

Join us on a family-friendly walk to look for what's blooming along the trail and learn about the different berries that grow in Alaska. We will cover how to identify what's safe to eat and what's not! *Register at [www.ernc.org/public-programs](http://www.ernc.org/public-programs).*

**SUNDAY, JULY 7, 10:30AM & 1:30PM**

## **WORKSHOP | REGISTRATION + FEE NATURE'S MEDICINE CABINET**

Did you know that willows contain salicin, nature's aspirin? While Devil's Club may not be a hiker's friend, it has long been valued as medicine. Knowledge of local medicinal plants can be helpful for emergencies in the back-country and at home. While not intended as medical advice, this class concentrates on plant identification, processing plant materials and how to make infusions, tinctures and salves. *This is a two-part workshop: a morning walk (\$30 fee, 10am-12pm) and an afternoon hands-on class (\$55 fee, 1:30pm-4pm). You can sign up for one or both (discounted \$75 fee for both). There will be time in between for lunch and perusing reference materials. More info and registration at: [www.ernc.org/public-programs](http://www.ernc.org/public-programs).*

**THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1PM-3PM**

## **JUNIOR NATURALIST | OPEN HOUSE TRACK ATTACK!**

Swing by the Ed Yurt to become a track detective! Investigate some of the common signs left behind by Eagle River Nature Center's residents, like foot prints, scat and browse marks. Then use what you know to solve a few mysteries about who has been lurking around the Ed Yurt and what mischief they've been getting up to!

**FRIDAY, JULY 12, 11AM**

## **ERNC AT THE TEDDY BEAR PICNIC BEAR PAW FESTIVAL**

Free Family Fun Event! Come visit us at the Eagle River Town Square Hill for the Bear Paw Festival Teddy Bear Picnic. Local organizations and businesses take part in offering various activities for the kids! Free hot dogs (while supplies last), teddy bear parade, teddy bear medical check-ups, sand bag games, hula hoops, whip cream competitions, and so much more! Make sure your kiddo brings their teddy bear to the picnic!

**SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2PM**

## **ALL AGES LECTURE | NO REGISTRATION BACK COUNTRY BATHROOM**

Volunteer naturalist Stacy Flagg is #1 at #2. Learn how to safely and ethically do your dood-y in the back country. Investigate products that can help ease your load and keep the wilderness pristine. Discover pro-tips for keeping your under carriage clean. Meets in the Ed Yurt.

**THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1PM**

## **JUNIOR NATURALIST CLASS | NO REGISTRATION TRAIL SNACKS**

Meet in the Ed Yurt for a guided hike around the Rodak Loop. Learn to identify common edible plants found along trails in the Chugach State Park and make your own trail guide to take home!

*Junior naturalist programs are open to elementary school-aged students and their families. Please show up at 1pm to participate, as this is a class rather than an open house-style program.*

**SATURDAY, JULY 20, 12PMISH**

## **CROW PASS CROSSING RACE FINISH**

The first racers to cross the finish line at the Nature Center of the Crow Pass Crossing running race will be around 10am! Please note that parking at the Nature Center will be extremely limited 10am-3pm while the race is happening! You may want to hike elsewhere today.

**SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2PM**

## **GUIDED HIKE | REGISTRATION REQUIRED DENA'INA LANDSCAPES**

Nuk'elehitnu (Eagle River) is located in Dena'ina Elnena, the traditional territory of the Dena'ina people. This program explores the indigenous landscape of South Central Alaska. After a short introduction in the education yurt, we will hit the Rodak Trail and explore Dena'ina people's knowledge of the flora and fauna of their landscape. This hike is led by Ivan Hodes -- a former educator and life-long outdoor enthusiast who has been exploring the indigenous landscape of South Central Alaska for 18 years. *Register at [www.ernc.org/public-programs](http://www.ernc.org/public-programs).*

**THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1PM-3PM**

## **JUNIOR NATURALIST | OPEN HOUSE THE SCOOP ON POOP**

Scat, dung, spore, droppings...Whatever you want to call it, everybody poops. Scat can be a useful tool for scientists to discover which creatures are in a certain area and what they're eating. Try your hand at scat ID, learn about the bathroom habits of different creatures and more down in the education yurt.

**SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1PM-3PM**

## **JUNIOR NATURALIST | OPEN HOUSE CREEK CRITTERS**

Meet on the lower Albert Loop bridges to discover what lies beneath the creek--caddisfly larvae, midges, even predaceous diving beetles! Bring extra clothes and boots and plan to get wet while filling a menagerie with macroinvertebrates, plus learn what some familiar bugs look like when they're young.

**SUNDAY, JULY 28, 11AM**

## **GUIDED HIKE | REGISTRATION REQUIRED FAREWELL TO THE ALBERT LOOP HIKE!**

As soon as the salmon return to our end of Eagle River, we close the Albert Loop to give the bears space to feast in peace...Assuming the salmon haven't returned by July 28, we know that they'll be back soon! Take one last look at the Albert Loop trail, investigate beaver activity and pack a picnic lunch to eat on the gravel bars in this family-friendly outing! *Register at [www.ernc.org/public-programs](http://www.ernc.org/public-programs).*