

EAGLE RIVER NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

APRIL 2026



BUILDING HOURS:

October-April:
Friday-Sunday
10am-5pm

Contact us at:
907-694-2108 or
info@ernc.org

Find out more about us at
www.ernc.org

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

Heads up: The main building will be closed Easter day, Sunday, 4/6/25. Trails are always open!



Look Up! The flyways over Eagle River are busy in April. Millions of waterfowl and shorebirds are heading north this month. Step outside and see who's passing through.

ERNC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating 30 Years of Connecting People to Nature in Alaska

Long before Eagle River Nature Center existed, this valley had already known many lives. The Dena'ina Athabascan people called this place home for generations, naming the Eagle River Nuk'elehitnu, "Fish Run Again Creek". Their deep relationship with this land continues to shape it today. We honor their enduring presence as the original stewards of the Eagle River Valley. In 1958, homesteaders John and Freda Barclay carved a life here, eventually opening the Paradise Haven Bar and Grill in 1971. Those who braved the long dirt road were rewarded with burgers, snowmachine races, music, and the kind of camaraderie only found at the end of an adventurous drive. Even then, this was a place where community gathered in the heart of the valley. When Chugach State Park, established in 1970 to protect nearly half a million acres of mountains, glaciers, and forests at Anchorage's edge, acquired the Barclay property in 1980, that beloved gathering spot became a gateway for learning, recreation, and stewardship. Thirty years later, it still is. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we honor everyone who has been

part of this place: the original stewards, the early dreamers, the founders, the volunteers, the educators, and the supporters who continue the shared work of keeping this valley wild and welcoming. Because of you, ERNC remains exactly what it has always been: a place where community and conservation meet. Here's to 30 years of connection, curiosity, and caring for the wild...and to many more ahead.



Photo: John and Freda Barclay at the bar of the Paradise Haven. Where they stand is the current location of the ERNC front desk!

- NATURE CENTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE ON REVERSE -

APRIL 2026 PROGRAMS

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 10, 17, & 24, 11AM

GUIDED HIKE | NO REGISTRATION

LITTLE EXPLORERS

Join us for an hour(ish) long hike every Friday 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 & children up to age 6 accompanied by an adult. Older siblings are welcome to join in. *Please leave furry friends at home.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1PM-3PM

JUNIOR NATURALIST

GREAT MIGRATIONS

Pack your bags and hit the trail for a look into Alaskan animal migrations! Discover the obstacles different creatures face during their migration journeys. Do you have what it takes to survive the ultimate road trip?

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

MAIN BUILDING CLOSED FOR EASTER

Happy Easter! The Nature Center main building will be CLOSED. Trails are always open, so come on out and enjoy an Easter Day hike!

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1PM-3PM

JUNIOR NATURALIST

HUNGER GAMES: FOOD WEB EDITION

Predator vs prey! Carnivore vs herbivore! Producer vs consumer! Join us in the Education Yurt for hands on games to uncover the complex relationships that make up the food web.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2PM

ALL AGES LECTURE

WILDLIFE SAFETY FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Join local wildlife photographer Colin Tyler and ERNC naturalists to learn the 101's of wildlife safety as you build your own photography practice in Alaska's wilderness.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1PM-3PM

JUNIOR NATURALIST | OPEN HOUSE

WILDLIFE SAFETY

As temperatures warm up, everyone gets out on the trail—moose, bears, and people included! Join us for a hands-on workshop on wildlife safety. Come away with an introductory understanding of animal behavior and actions you can practice for staying safe on the trails. *Open house means you can show up anytime 1pm-3pm.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 11AM

WORKSHOP | REGISTRATION REQUIRED | FEE

BASIC BIRCHES

Every spring, right before leaf buds open, birch trees are working hard! Just under the surface, sap is flowing. Join ERNC naturalists to learn about tapping birch trees and how to use the birch water once you've collected it. Go home with the knowledge and equipment to do it yourself! *Registration is limited to 15 participants. Participants must be 14+ years old. This workshop has a cost of \$35 for nonmembers/\$25 for members. There is a \$2 cancellation fee for all cancellations; no refunds within 48 hours of workshop. Register online at www.ernc.org/public-programs.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2PM

ALL AGES PROGRAM

WILDLIFE SAFETY

Join wildlife educators with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for an intro to bear and moose safety. Learn about the biology of these animals, how to recreate with them in mind, and what you can do around your home to keep animals wild and people safe.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 11AM

FAMILY PROGRAM

STORY TIME: BEAR-LY WAKING UP

Families with preschoolers and early elementary students are invited to join us in the main ERNC space for a few seasonal stories and activities. Catch story time every month throughout the winter!

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 12PM-3PM

CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

STORY TIME: BEAR-LY WAKING UP

Join us to celebrate the Month of the Military Child! Girl Scout Troop 21010 on JBER is partnering with us to host a fun-filled afternoon for families and kids of all ages. Enjoy a variety of activities, including a self-guided scavenger hunt along the Rodak Trail, coloring pages for younger children, opportunities for family photos, learn about Leave No Trace principles, and join us at 1:00 PM for an informative bear and moose safety talk. Be sure to enter a raffle that day for a chance to win a Nature Center Membership. We hope to see you there!



Save the date our annual MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS fundraiser is coming up on June 6th featuring the Casey Smith Project!

More info coming soon. Music, beer and food in the beauty of the Chugach mountains. It really doesn't get much better!