

EAGLE RIVER NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

JULY 2026

ERNC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER BUILDING HOURS:

May thru September
Wednesday-Sunday
10am to 5pm

Find out more about us @
www.ernc.org

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

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

Heads up!

The main building will be closed on
Saturday, July 4th. Trails are always
open! Remember, fireworks are
prohibited in Chugach State Park.



September Nights: 30th Annual Auction Fundraiser

Join us on Saturday, 9/19/2026, 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.

Have an item or service you'd like to donate to the auction? Please contact Betsy at admin@ernc.org.

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

Free Family Fun Event! Come out Friday, July 10th, 11am-1pm, 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!



www.bearpawfestival.org

- NATURE CENTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE ON REVERSE -

JULY 2026 PROGRAMS



Scan the QR code & it will take you to our online program schedule. You can view more info and register for programs.

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 12PM-3PM

ALL AGES PROGRAM

TRAILSIDE TALK: ROUTE PLANNING

Stop by the back deck of the nature center and chat with one of our volunteer naturalists about a different topic (almost) every Thursday! This week: Route Planning.

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, 11AM

GUIDED HIKE | NO REGISTRATION

LITTLE EXPLORERS

Join in for an hour(ish) long hike on or near the Rodak Trail at a toddler's pace! No registration is 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 in. Please leave furry friends at home.*

SATURDAY, JULY 4

BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY

Trails are always open! Fee machine and trails maps to the left of the front door. Latrines located in the brown building before the parking lot. Happy 4th of July!

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2PM

ALL AGES PROGRAM | REGISTRATION | \$5 FEE

DAM GOOD ENGINEERS

Come and learn about Alaska's premier ecosystem engineers – beavers! Join local expert and retired Chugach State Park Ranger Pete Panarese for a short presentation on these wonderful resident rodents who are actively shaping the Eagle River Valley. Afterwards enjoy a short, guided hike to beaver dam! *Registration is limited to the first 20 people. There is a \$2 cancellation fee for all cancellations; no refunds with less than 48 hours notice. Registration is free for ERNC members and children under the age of 5. Register online at www.ernc.org/public-programs. Please leave dogs at home for this hike.*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 & THURSDAY JULY 23, 10AM-12PM

GUIDED HIKE | REGISTRATION | \$5 FEE

BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, BLOOMS, OH MY!

Join our resident naturalists for a two-hour hike on the Nature Center trails! Learn about the plants and wildlife you see along the way. The hikes will not exceed 2 miles. Please leave furry friends at home. *Registration is limited to 20 people. There is a \$2 cancellation fee for all cancellations; no refunds with less than 48 hours notice. Registration is free for ERNC members and children under the age of 5. Register online at www.ernc.org/public-programs.*

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 11AM-1PM

OFFSITE PROGRAM

LITTLE EXPLORERS AT TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

Join us at the Teddy Bear Picnic between 11am-1pm at the Eagle River Town Square Hill. Local organizations and businesses take part in offering various activities for the kids! Free Hot Dogs (while supplies last). More information on the festival can be found at www.bearpawfestival.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1PM-3PM

JUNIOR NATURALIST | REGISTRATION

CSI (CRITTER SIGN INVESTIGATION) EAGLE RIVER

Put your investigative skills to the test during this guided hike. Learn how to identify different animal signs and what they tell us about their behaviors. *Registration is limited to the first 15 people. Register online at www.ernc.org/public-programs.*

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2PM-4PM

ALL AGES PROGRAM

SOLAR SUNDAY

Join members of the Southcentral Alaska Astronomical Society to learn about solar astronomy! Conditions allowing, we will practice solar observation skills with support from the Anchorage Museum.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 12PM-3PM

ALL AGES PROGRAM

TRAILSIDE TALK: FIRST AID KITS

Stop by the back deck of the nature center and chat with one of our volunteer naturalists about a different topic (almost) every Thursday! This week: Build a first aid kit.

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 10AMISH-3PM

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 19, 2PM

ALL AGES PROGRAM | REGISTRATION | \$5 FEE

WILD BERRY BOUNTY

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! If berries are not ready yet, this program will focus on early identification of berries. *Registration is limited to the first 15 people. There is a \$2 cancellation fee for all cancellations; no refunds with less than 48 hours notice. Registration is free for ERNC members and children under the age of 5. Register online at www.ernc.org/public-programs.*

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 12PM-3PM

ALL AGES PROGRAM

TRAILSIDE TALK: WILDLIFE SAFETY

Stop by the back deck of the nature center and chat with one of our volunteer naturalists about a different topic (almost) every Thursday! This week: Wildlife Safety.

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 6:30PM

ALL AGES LECTURE

CROW PASS 101

Join Crow Pass Trail expert Pete Panarese for an informational program on hiking Crow Pass Trail. Get insider tips, learn about the trail itself, and talk through advice for fording Eagle River.

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1PM-3PM

JUNIOR NATURALIST | REGISTRATION

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Bumps, bruises or broken bones come and practice your first aid skills so that you are prepared for unexpected injuries in the outdoors. *Registration is limited to the first 20 people. Register online at www.ernc.org/public-programs.*

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2PM-5PM

GUIDED HIKE | REGISTRATION | \$5 FEE

FAREWELL ALBERT!

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! If the salmon have not arrived by the 27th, join us to take one last look at the Albert Loop Trail, investigate beaver activity and say farewell until the snow flies. *Registration is limited to the first 20 people. There is a \$2 cancellation fee for all cancellations; no refunds with less than 48 hours notice. Registration is free for ERNC members and children under the age of 5. Register online at www.ernc.org/public-programs.*

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 12PM-3PM

ALL AGES PROGRAM

TRAILSIDE TALK: TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Stop by the back deck of the nature center and chat with one of our volunteer naturalists about a different topic (almost) every Thursday! This week: Learn how to read a topographic map.