

Workshop Class Descriptions

Unless noted, much (if not all) of the class time will be spent outside. Please dress appropriately!!!

Archery. How do you hold a bow? What is a “nock?” Can you really hit that target? Absolutely! You will be shooting bows successfully after learning about equipment and technique! (Prerequisite for “Bow Hunting” class.)

Back Pack Chef. Gourmet meals from your backpack? Sure thing! Go from basic survival to lightweight, compact yet elegant and decadent dining. Bon Appetite!

Backpacking. Discuss tips and tricks on backpacking gear and essentials, the basics of loading a backpack, and the actual process of walking with a loaded pack. Have hands-on time to use and play with gear such as stoves, water filters and tents and discuss individual fittings for backpacks and footwear. Most importantly, we will go through what is needed to be physically and mentally comfortable in the woods and how to get the most enjoyment during your wilderness experience. Overnight campout optional.

Birding in Alaska. When is it safe to put out bird feeders? What’s that bird you always see in your yard? Learn to identify 5 common birds in Alaska. How to make your own bird feeders & bird baths, tips for landscaping your yard to attract birds, some fun activities to do with kids. We’ll go on a guided bird walk and cover how to choose the right bird guide books/apps for you.

Boating. You’ll back up the trailer, launch the boat, start the motor and drive it, load it back on the trailer, and tie it down. After this class you can tell your significant other that it’s their turn to hold the rope, while you launch the boat! You will be in the water at times. Knee boots required, but hip boots are recommended.

Bow Hunting. Join the growing field of bow hunters! Learn about equipment, shot placement, and tree stand and still hunting. You will also practice your archery skills on 3-D targets. (“Archery” class is a prerequisite.)

Canoeing. A popular method of travel in Alaska is by waterways. Prepare yourself for fun floating by learning about gear, paddle strokes, and water safety.

Chainsaws. How do you keep your campfire or wood stove fed? Learn about chainsaws and how to cut firewood and stack it in a wood pile; all in a safe and proper way!

Dutch Oven. Salami and freeze dried food? Why, when you can bake sour cream chicken enchiladas or homemade cinnamon rolls? Cook fabulous meals in a Dutch oven. Tasting is required!

Field Dressing. Learn one method that will tackle the task of cutting up a big game animal, placing it into game bags and transporting it from the field. You will discover that the task might take work and time, but anyone can process a moose or caribou in the field confidently by keeping the process simple. (Additional \$50 fee.)

Firearms Safety. Learn about handling guns safely, care, selection and purchase of firearms. No actual shooting (Prerequisite for “Shotgun,” “Pistol,” and “Rifle” classes). You may substitute Hunter Ed or NRA certification in lieu of taking this prerequisite.

Fly Fishing. What is a fly rod? What is the difference between a wet fly and a dry fly? Learn different casting techniques and what kind of fish you can catch. All this and time to fly fish from shore! **Fishing license required.**

Fly Tying. Creating a fly that will lure a fish is part science, part art. You will tie flies to entice your favorite sport fish!

Fur Sewing. Learn some basic fur sewing techniques. Make a beaver headband and wear it this winter! (Additional \$50 fee.)

Geocaching. Looking for an excuse to go for a walk in the woods? Do you like to treasure hunt? ‘Caches’ are scattered throughout the world in rural areas as well as cities (2300 in AK alone!). You will learn how to use a GPS and find a few caches. No matter where you go, you will have a new, fun skill to occupy free time.

GPS. Learn the basics of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and how they could be useful to you! Learn the terminology and functions then do some hiking and get practical hands on experience looking for coordinates.

Hunting Know-How. Planning a hunting trip for you or your family? This class will cover hunting equipment, different ways to access hunting areas, and briefly review regulations so that your hunting experience is most enjoyable for all ages.

Kayaking. Traveling by water is a great way to see Alaska. Instructors will help you learn about kayaks, paddling techniques, and maybe even how to roll over!

Map & Compass. A map and compass can keep you from being lost. Instructors will help you learn to read a map, take a bearing, plot a course, and follow it.

Moose Hunting. Interested in filling your freezer? Then sign up to learn about where moose live, hunting techniques, and proper shot placement.

No 911 First Aid. In the wilds, you can't call for an ambulance. What to do? Learn how to use your abilities and what's available to help someone who needs first aid.

On-Lake Fly Fishing. Fly Fishing just not enough? Want to take the next step to becoming that fluid fly fisher? Learn more about the gadgets, and gizmos that are useful in the fly fishing world. Try out float tubes and catarafts to get out on the lake. ("Fly Fishing" class or prior experience required.) *Fishing license required.*

On-Lake Fishing. The worst day fishing beats the best day working. Get out on the lake and learn how to cast, where to fish, how to catch & release, as well as how to clean any fish you harvest. Rubber boots/waders recommended. *Fishing license required.*

Outdoor Photography. Learn to make the most of your digital or traditional SLR camera and capture the beauty of the great outdoors. Topics include choosing outdoor subjects and image composition, different equipment options for outdoor photography, and learning the settings of your camera and how to use them to get the best shots of landscapes, wildlife, and adventure. If you have a camera, bring it and prepare to spend time outside taking photos, sharing results, and discussing them with your classmates!

Plants of the Boreal Forest. Do you know how to tell black spruce from white spruce? Can you identify the one deadly- poisonous berry we have in Alaska? Learn to ID the trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants in the boreal forest. Though not strenuous, participants must be able to walk a good distance, uphill at times.

Pond to Pan. Learn how to fillet salmon and clean the smaller pond fish. Try various ways of cooking several species; grilling, frying, and over the campfire. You will take home some salmon fillets so small cooler recommended.

Processing Game Meat. Learn how to tell the difference between cuts of meat that make the best steaks, roast, and burger. You will learn the basic information necessary to process game meat in your own home with confidence. (Additional \$50 fee.)

Rappelling. Descend from a 40 foot tower with a harness and ropes keeping you safe while pushing past your comfort zone. You can do it! (Additional \$20 fee.)

Rifle. Experienced instructors will teach you the fundamentals of rifle shooting and have you shooting safely and accurately! Learn about sighting techniques, shooting positions, and gun cleaning. ("Firearms Safety" class, Hunter Ed, or NRA certification is required.)

Salmon Fishing. What gear, what lures, how do you cast your rod and take care of your fish? Take advantage of our instructor's knowledge of salmon angling! Remember the silvers will be running in Valdez in August. There is no actual fishing in this class, but there will be hands-on casting practice outdoors, to prepare you for your own salmon fishing experience!

Shotgun. Our experienced instructor will have you breaking clay birds at the range. Shoot safely and accurately, and have fun! ("Firearms Safety" class, Hunter Ed, or NRA certification is required.)

Smoking Fish. Learn fish prep, filleting, brining techniques, etc. Smoke some red or silver salmon and take home to share with family and friends.

Sourdough. Learn about sourdough starters and the process of long fermentation that is crucial to making sourdough. Look up some sourdough recipes in a Dutch Oven and take home the knowledge, confidence, and skills to make sourdough at home.

Survival. Survival situations can occur in the most remote parts of Alaska, or within a very short distance from civilization. Knowledge and preparation are critical to surviving these situations. Our instructor will teach you the basic skills and how to use the right equipment to stay alive.

Trapping. Think you may be interested in trapping? Don't know much about it? An expert trapper will teach you about various fur bearer habitats, trap types, and trapping techniques.

Wild Edibles. Learn how to identify, harvest, and process common wild plants of the Boreal Forest. Get tips on how to make wonderful salads, teas, tonics, & enjoy nourishing trail snacks. Achieve a greater understanding of how to "grocery shop" for berries and greens in your own backyard!

Wildlife Tracking. Even though we don't often see them, animals are living all around us and leaving evidence of their activity. If you want to be able to identify wildlife from their tracks and other sign, then this is the class for you. You will learn how to identify wildlife tracks, gait patterns, scat, browse and other sign left by creatures big and small.