

Center for Alaska Coastal Studies

Bringing you the Nature of Alaska since 1982

Spring Field Trip Guide



Education Program Overview

We are a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster responsible interactions with the environment and to teach about marine and forest ecosystems. First organized in 1982, we have provided field trip programs for Alaska's schools for 25 years.

Our programs offer students unforgettable experiences in science that are interactive, information-packed, and fun. These programs have been recognized for excellence by the National Science Teacher's Association, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Northwest Aquatic & Marine Educators.

Throughout the school year, our dedicated professional educators, assisted by trained volunteers, share their passion and knowledge of the natural history of Alaska through in-class visits, day field trips, and residential programs.

Education Facilities and Field Sites

The rich and productive Kachemak Bay and surrounding watershed is the landscape for our programs. We have two nature centers on this Bay, the Peterson Bay Field Station and the Carl E. Wynn Nature Center, that are headquarters for most of our programs. We also utilize the facilities at the NOAA Kasitsna Bay Laboratory for some programs.

The Peterson Bay Field Station facility, located across Kachemak Bay from Homer, is accessible only by boat, and has a fully equipped kitchen, lab, aquaria filled with local marine creatures and three yurts for sleeping. The Wynn Nature Center, a cozy cabin with a wonderful trail system and overlook, is set in wildflower meadows on the bluff over Homer. We also utilize the dynamic Beluga Lake and Slough wetlands in Homer.



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CACS Spring Educational Programs

Take a look at the wide variety of programs that we offer related to Alaska's coastal ecology. Many of these programs can be combined to maximize your learning experience while visiting Kachemak Bay.

Alaska Coastal Ecology (Grades 4-12)

Classes participate in 1-3 day field science program at the CACS Peterson Bay Field Station or the NOAA Kasitsna Bay Lab. Students explore the intertidal and coastal forest ecosystems, as well as geology and archeology through hands-on activities. Studies focus on adaptations, ecosystem connections, environmental monitoring, and problem-solving through a variety of hikes, labs and learning activities. April-May and September. Fees include transportation, lodging and instruction. Pre- and post-trip visit to Kenai Peninsula Classrooms for additional \$50.



Kachemak Oceanography (Grades 4-12)

Take a four or a six-hour cruise onboard the 65 ft. Rainbow Connection and engage your students in scientific inquiry-based activities. Four-hour cruise focuses tanner crabs while six-hour cruise on oyster farming. Students rotate between stations on water sampling, plankton, crab pots, and more. April-May. Fees include transportation and instruction. Pre- and post-trip visit to Kenai Peninsula Classrooms for additional \$50.

Beluga Wetlands (Grades K-12)

Explore coastal wetlands during a two-hour field trip that guides students along the shores of Beluga Lake and Slough. In addition to comparing and contrasting freshwater and saltwater wetlands, students will learn wetland functions and how to collect and identify aquatic invertebrates. April and May. \$2 per participant or \$50 per class.



Reservation Requests

To submit a reservation request, complete the reservation form located on our CACS website <http://akcoastalstudies.org/school-trips.htm> and send it by email, fax, or mail after September 15 at 7 am.

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