



Environmental Education Employment Opportunity Backcountry Instructor

Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies, Summer 2017

A 16-credit college quarter hosted by [Wrangell Mountains Center](#)
and accredited through The Evergreen State College

Imagine guiding students through a rocky and glacier-laden landscape, mentoring them on timely scientific studies, and sharing your passion for wild land. The Wrangell Mountains Center (WMC) seeks an intellectually engaged and enthusiastic educator with expertise in backcountry travel and earth science, alpine or boreal ecology, or environmental change. The educator will co-lead a three-week interdisciplinary backpacking research expedition in a trail-less, dynamic backcountry setting. This trip is the capstone experience of a summer-long natural history field course accredited through The Evergreen State College, for upper level undergraduate students. WMC is a non-profit organization committed to connecting people with wildlands through art, science, and education. Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies operates out of the off-grid WMC campus in the rustic community of McCarthy, Alaska.

Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies consists of seven weeks beginning approximately June 26, 2017 (to be confirmed soon). During the seven weeks, up to 16 enrolled students spend a total of four weeks backpacking through the trail-less mountain wilderness, learning about the ecological, geological, artistic, and human history of the landscape. During the latter part of the course students carry out independent research or artistic investigation, entirely while in the backcountry. At the conclusion of the course, students present their research findings to peers, local management agency representatives, and members of the local McCarthy community. With glaciers flowing from 16,000-foot peaks, canyons deeper than Yosemite, and spruce-forested valleys, this study area is in the middle of the world's largest international complex of protected wilderness lands. Glaciation, volcanism, erosion and ecological succession are exposed and active, making it an ideal natural laboratory in which to study Alaska's landscape of extremes. This is also an opportunity to explore how national park gateway citizens and environmental professionals grapple with sustaining the Alaskan bush lifestyle in the face of increasing tourism.

Primary responsibilities:

- Join academic faculty in McCarthy at least two days in advance of the trip
- Work with the academic faculty to lead backcountry travel, coordinate daily camp life, and make decisions regarding participant safety
- Promote a culture of collaborative living and sustainability practices, including Leave No Trace (LNT) principles
- Supplement other faculty efforts to help students carry out research projects
- Assist with risk management and safety training

Minimum Qualifications:

- Experience guiding backpacking groups
- M.S. or M.A. in relevant discipline
- Experience teaching interdisciplinary field courses
- Current Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification

Preferred Experience:

- Experience traveling in Alaskan wilderness
- Familiarity or past experience with WMC

For more information on Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies, please visit www.wrangells.org/fieldstudies, or direct questions to Dr. Aliette Frank (aliette@wrangells.org).

Compensation is approximately \$2,300 as well as food and, while in McCarthy, rustic accommodations.

Interested candidates should send a Letter of Interest, professional CV or resume including backcountry leadership experience, contact information for three references, and evidence of professional or community contribution in the field of study to Dr. Aliette Frank (aliette@wrangells.org). Review of applications will begin February 12th.

