

Changing Climate: Say What? An exploration of climate change in our community



This summer, Alaska Geographic will team up with the Chugach Children's Forest, the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department and the Anchorage Park Foundation to lead local middle school kids in an exploration of our changing climate and its effects on our forests, waterways and wildlife. The *Changing Climate: Say What?* summer science camp will be led by Alaska Geographic staff and teen crews from the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program.

Each day, program staff will lead children in science experiments, creative games and activities to illustrate key points, and collecting on-the-ground data that will become a component of a statewide discussion of climate change in Alaska. Children will keep a scientific journal of discoveries along the way, reflecting on how their experiences relate to their nearby environment. Children will spend significant time learning in the field near the school, in open park spaces, at the Campbell Creek Science Center, and in remnant forests, creek banks and fields throughout Anchorage. Classroom learning will complement their scientific experimentation by enabling them to place their local experiences in a national context.

The two week long program will culminate in youth recommending strategies for managing the effects of climate change in our community. Youth will be encouraged to think broadly and creatively about the long-term implications for Alaska's public lands, vast forests and unmatched natural resources.

Changing Climate: Say What? is a free, closed enrollment program targeted at rising 7th and 8th graders who are interested in science but have little opportunity to be involved in such programs. Program partners will invite teachers and career counselors from local schools to identify rising 7th and 8th graders who will enjoy the opportunity to take a hands-on, experiential approach to learning about climate change.

Changing Climate: Say What? is now enrolling students for the July 6 - 16 session at Spenard Recreation Center and the July 27 - August 6 session at Fairview Recreation Center, from 9:30 am - 12 pm. To enroll or to learn more, please contact Betsi Oliver at eoliver@alaskageographic.org or 771.8450.



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Expectations

Changing Climate: Say What? will meet Monday through Friday, promptly at 9:30. Each day includes inside and outside activities, regardless of weather, so campers should dress appropriately for rain or shine and fluctuating temperatures. Three or four of the days will be spent at the Campbell Creek Science Center or at the State Park so campers should wear comfortable walking shoes and dress in layers.

The camp is an intensive (and fun) science experience. Students are expected to be serious about learning, be excited about science, show willingness to work as a team and have a positive attitude.

Enrollment will be on a first come first served basis. For more information, please contact Betsi Oliver at Alaska Geographic at 771-8450 or eoliver@alaskageographic.org.

Program Partners

Alaska Geographic is a non-profit bookstore, publisher, educator, and supporter of Alaska's public lands--and the official non-profit partner of Alaska's 15 national parks, 16 national wildlife refuges, and America's two largest national forests, plus a variety of other public lands. Our core purpose is to support Alaska's parks, forests, and refuges—and to help you connect to these remarkable landscapes. We believe the more you know about Alaska's public lands, the more you'll care about their future.

The Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program is a program of the Anchorage Park Foundation, the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department and Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, a program of the National Wildlife Federation. The goal of the YEP program is to positively engage a new generation of diverse youth leaders with the environment and the Anchorage community through meaningful training, employment, and outdoor recreation.

Additional support to make this program possible from the Chugach National Forest, the Anchorage School District and Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center.

Schedule

Tuesday, July 6 - Friday, July 16
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Spenard Recreation Center

Tuesday, July 27 - August 6
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Fairview Recreation Center