



Forest Ranger Academy

The Chugach National Forest is excited to offer a series of programs to enhance the 3rd grade science curriculum. Coming this spring, the Glacier Ranger District's Conservation Education program will offer three separate units:

Tree Ranger

Aqua Ranger

Storm Ranger

Each unit is developed to complement the ASD Earth Systems Elementary Science Program Framework and will help teachers and students meet the science standards set forth by the State of Alaska.

Commitment to a unit involves:

1. A 1 hour classroom visit by a Forest Ranger
2. Field trip to Portage Valley
3. A pre and post evaluation that is critical to assess the effectiveness of this program.

Due to the popularity and very limited space, a **lottery will be held for all interested 3rd grade classes**. Very few units will be offered for the 2010-2011 school year. To be considered for this 3rd grade activity, please submit a Community Resources Request form to the ASD Community Resources Center, indicating which unit you would like your 3rd grade students to participate in.



(Tree Systems and their Value)

In the classroom, building the layers of a tree one student at a time, provides an opportunity for the students to discover the inner workings of a tree. Students will analyze tree cookies to discover how seasonal variations affect growth. During the field trip to Portage Valley, students will learn to identify different trees common to South-central Alaska. Sorting characteristics using a dichotomous key, students will be challenged to classify the different trees along the Moraine Nature Trail in Portage Valley.

Science Standards Addressed: SA1.1,2, SA2.1, SA3.1; SB1.1; SC1.1,2, SC2.1,2, SC3.1



(Observing Change)

Invite a water drop to your classroom and explore the changing state of water as it makes its journey through the wacky water cycle. During the field trip students will incorporate their knowledge of the water cycle into the greater watershed of Portage Valley. Visual observations and hands-on experiments allow students to draw conclusions about the behavior of water and how it affects the environment around us.

Science Standards Addressed: SA2.1, SA3.1; SD1.2, SD2.1



(Recording and Interpreting Data)

In the classroom, students will learn about a few main factors that change the weather! Through observing a series of experiments and using scientific instruments to collect weather data, students will better understand temperature, air pressure, wind, and precipitation. Prior to the field trip to Portage Valley, the class will record weather data for Anchorage and Portage over a minimum 5 day period. While in Portage, students will step into the weather to record data from several microclimates, and investigate the natural topography that causes the extreme variability in these locations.

Science Standards Addressed: SA2.1, SA3.1; SB3.1, SB4.2; SD1.2, SD2.1, SD3.1, SD4.1,2

For more information please contact:
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