

Program Partners:



Alaska
Songbird
Institute



North for Science! Expedition

For current 7th and 8th grade students

No cost to participants* -- No prior camping experience necessary

Covid vaccination highly recommended

Program Overview:

The *North for Science!* expedition is an active science education learning experience that requires all participants to be energetic, flexible team members who can be depended upon to enthusiastically engage in all opportunities the expedition presents, from staying focused during educational activities to assisting with camp chores. We will be working hard together, living outdoors and getting dirty... most likely in a range of weather conditions: warm to cold, wet to dry, clear to buggy. Although this is not a backpacking or extended hiking trip, all team members need to be comfortable carrying a daypack for long periods and walking over uneven, sloping terrain. We camp in tents at places that have outhouses but no showers. At all times students should be equipped for sudden changes in the weather. Safety is of paramount concern in all aspects of the expedition, and students are expected to immediately comply with the direction of the instructors. Although there will be brief times allotted for quiet reflection, this is a highly scheduled, active team educational experience rather than an individually oriented expedition.

Students who are selected to participate in the *North for Science!* expedition are expected to fully engage in all daily activities and discussions and always assist with the smooth operation of the program. We will also learn about various natural resource management techniques through assisting with service-learning projects. We plan to document our learning activities with photo and video, and students must be willing to participate in a presentation on their *North for Science!* experience. The team will drive from Fairbanks north on the Elliott and Dalton Highways to the Coldfoot area on the southern slopes of the Brooks Range. We will first camp in the Marion Creek Campground, our base for investigating the subarctic ecosystem with various researchers and agency specialists. We then continue north over Atigun Pass, and establish camp at Galbraith Lake. Here we investigate the arctic ecosystem and visit with researchers at Toolik Field Station before driving south back to Fairbanks. All plans and activities are subject to weather constraints.

We encourage students who were not selected last year and are still currently 7th or 8th graders to apply again.

* The Alaska Songbird Institute, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service cooperatively fund this program at no cost to the student. However, the program does not cover the cost of travel to and from Fairbanks, accommodations, or other expenses incurred by out-of-town participants before or after the program dates.

Anticipated expedition dates: June 7-14, 2026

Mandatory Orientation meeting: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Friday June 5, 2026

Personal gear check by appointment prior to orientation: We provide most camping gear and have some personal gear to loan out if you have not camped before, or if your own gear is not adequate for protecting you in a range of arctic conditions.

A. North for Science! Student Application:

If you are interested in being a part of this expedition, please provide answers to the following questions. A one-paragraph response to questions 1-6 should be sufficient. Make sure you provide the names and email addresses of your references. A parent or guardian needs to read and complete Part B.

Please type directly onto this form and email it back to us. You can also type your responses in a separate document then email or scan and send them. If you cannot scan, you can take a good quality picture with your mobile device and send the photo. ***Please make sure any handwriting is easily legible.*** Send all completed responses to:

north4science@aksongbird.org

Your Name:

Your current grade:

Your age in June 2026:

Your current school:

Best email address for contact:

Best phone number for contact:

Your home address:

1. What do you hope to gain from being a member of the *North for Science!* expedition?
2. Tell us about a time you were able to work well in a group.
3. Tell us about a time you found it challenging to work well in a group, and what did you do to meet this challenge?
4. Describe a different situation you have been in that proves you are responsible, dependable, and can communicate well.
5. What interests you most about science?
6. Describe any camping and sports-type experience you have (NOTE: prior camping experience is not a requirement for this program, nor do you need to be a serious athlete. Being a physically active person is required).
7. Ask two adults (who are not family members), at least one of whom is your current teacher, to provide a brief reference for you to attend *North for Science!* Ask these people to find the teacher/adult mentor reference link on Alaska Songbird Institute's webpage: <https://aksongbird.org/our-work/north-for-science/>

Please provide us the names and email addresses of these adults, so we can follow up with them if necessary.

1. Teacher/adult mentor name and school or relationship to you:
Teacher/adult mentor email address:
2. Teacher/adult mentor name and school or relationship to you:
Teacher/adult mentor email address:

B. Parent/Guardian Section:

Parents/Guardians, please read the Program Overview of the *North for Science!* expedition located at the beginning of this application. Although we are traveling on and camping near a road, the central Brooks Range is remote. Safety is our constant first priority, but please understand there are no medical facilities north of Fairbanks. If your student has a known medical condition that may require immediate attention when triggered (for example, severe allergic reaction to bee stings), this may not be the best program for them. Please contact Carol Scott, the program coordinator, with questions: north4science@aksongbird.org

As we are a close team, traveling in vehicles and tenting together, social distancing is not possible on this program. We therefore highly recommend participants are fully vaccinated against Covid, and current on all other vaccines.

Applicants are expected to write their own responses to application questions in Part A. This expedition can be an awesome learning opportunity and a fantastic experience overall, BUT it can also be strenuous both mentally and physically. Each participant really needs to accept the conditions we describe, and want to be part of this team. "It will look good on my kid's resume" is not a suitable reason for them to apply to this program. Thank you for understanding and respecting this requirement.

Please indicate by writing your name, phone number and email below that you have read the *North for Science!* Program Overview, can attend the orientation meeting and a gear check, and understand both the opportunities that await your student and the remote nature of the Dalton Highway.

Parent/Guardian name(s):

Parent/Guardian email:

Parent/Guardian phone:

Thank you!

**Send this complete application to:
Carol Scott north4science@aksongbird.org
Application Deadline: Saturday April 11th, 2026.**

We will acknowledge that we have received your application. If you do not receive this acknowledgement within two days, please check the email address you sent it to and re-send. Team selection will occur after April 11th.

***Students: avoid a last-minute rush to make the deadline.
Give yourself time to write your best responses and give your teachers/mentors
time to submit their references before the April 11th deadline.***