



Backcountry Trip Plan

NOTE: Filing a backcountry Trip Plan will NOT result in an automatic search for you and your group if you are overdue.

*It is critical that you provide a responsible third party with your itinerary. Let them know where you are going, when you will be back, and arrange to contact them when your trip is complete. **A third party must report that you are overdue before a search can be initiated.** This form will provide important information to Park Rangers and Alaska State Troopers in the event of an emergency.*

Group Information & Description	
Group Leader's Name	Phone #
Address:	
List names of the members of your party: <i>Please include information on medical conditions & current medications.</i>	
	Phone #
	Phone #
	Phone #
	Phone #
List all tent makes, models, & colors:	
List all backpack makes, models, & colors:	
List all colors of jackets:	
List all type & color of boat/canoe/kayak:	
Description of vehicle	
Are you using an Air Taxi or Shuttle Service? If so, which one(s)?	

Itinerary & Planned Routes	
Location	Date
Location	Date
Location	Date
Location	Date
Location	Date

Emergency Contact Information	
Name of Third-Party Contact:	Phone
Relationship?	

Equipment Checklist:

- Bear Repellent or firearm
- Extra Food—How many days?
- Technical Gear (*ropes, ice axe, crampons, etc.*)
- Emergency/First Aid Gear
- Orienteering/navigation gear (*maps, compass, GPS*)
- Waterproof matches
- Bear Resistant Food Container *Check one out if needed*
- Camp Stove with extra fuel
- Water purifying equipment
- Extra Clothing
- Rain gear
- Sunglasses or goggles
- Radio/Satellite phone/PLB
(Cell phones do NOT work in most areas of the park)

If Boating:

- Personal Flotation Devices for each member
- Extra Oar or paddle
- Waterproof bags/containers
- Tool Kit

Backcountry Guidelines:

(to be reviewed with park ranger)

Bears

- Avoid surprising bears. Look for signs of bears and make plenty of noise, especially when traveling in heavy brush or near running water.
- Keep bears from becoming human food conditioned. Use bear resistant food containers or suspend food and trash a minimum of 10' above ground and 4 feet horizontally from an upright support.
- Cook and store food at least 200' away from sleeping areas.



River Crossings

- River crossings are dangerous. Water here is extremely cold. Many rivers are silty, making the bottom difficult or impossible to see.
- Water levels can rise rapidly after rain. Glacial rivers can rise quickly during warm weather that increases glacial melt.
- Water levels tend to be lowest early in the morning. Unfasten waist belts and loosen shoulder straps of packs when crossing. Ask rangers to demonstrate crossing methods.
- If a stream seems too difficult to cross...
...it probably is!

Weather

- Be prepared for any weather condition from cold, winter weather to hot sunny days.
- Hypothermia is a year round danger. Dress in multiple layers and stay dry.

Drinking Water

- Filter, boil, or chemically treat drinking water.

Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead
- PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT. Do not bury or burn garbage. Seal it in plastic bags.
- Bury human waste at least 6" deep and at least 200' from water. Pack out toilet paper with trash.
- Wash and dispose of soapy water at least 200' away from fresh water sources and camping areas. All food scraps should be removed and packed out as trash.
- Use only dead & down wood for campfires. Do not burn trash. Break up campfire rings.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.

Group Leader's Signature

Date

Issuing Ranger

Date



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve Park Headquarters

Mile 106.8 Richardson Hwy.
PO Box 439 Copper Center, AK 99573
(907)-822-5234

Slana Ranger Station

(907)-822-5238

Gulkana Operations

Gulkana Hangar
(907)-822-5236

Yakutat Ranger Station

(907)-784-3295

Alaska State Troopers

Glennallen, AK
(907)-822-3263

In an Emergency, dial 911