



## 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 &amp; current medications.</i>	
	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

### 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.

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**Group Leader's Signature**

**Date**

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**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**