



Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment

**WISE | LEARN. GROW.
GET OUTSIDE.**



www.wise-edu.org

Volume 20 Winter 2022/2023

Day of Discovery



NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

Welcome	2
2022 Program Highlights.....	3
20 Years of Discovery.....	4
Learning With Laughter.....	5
Beneath Our Feet.....	6
Full Circle.....	7
Day Of Discovery.....	8
WISE Moments.....	9
WISE Partners.....	10
Thank you to our Donors	11

HC60 Box 338A
Copper Center, Alaska 99573
907-822-3575
contact@wise-edu.org

An Aquatic Ecology program participant investigates his discovery at Nic'anilen na'.

A WISE Wish

WISE is an educational organization, with a mission to make knowledge of the natural world and of the sciences available to any and all who may wish to participate in the many programs WISE offers for the citizens of and visitors to the Copper River Basin.

In recent times we have watched the threads of civilization stretch to the breaking point. Our human constructions of governance, of commerce, of communication, and of social process have been strained and entangled, and have sometimes snapped. We have witnessed the brutality of foreign war and the insanity of domestic politics tear at the integrity of the already weak fabric that holds our human planet together. Oddly and shockingly, we are divided by such fundamental questions as: What is truth? What is factual? Whatever our political leanings, we may have felt our own adrenaline take over and drive us to passions that hurt and divide, against people we have never met and even against those we know and perhaps love.

In these circumstances, it is worth seeking a viewpoint apart from ourselves, of a larger scene that is still and always will be beautiful, evoking awe, saturated with powers of rejuvenation. The natural world provides this, if we choose to look. The universe itself is hard to argue with, but easy to appreciate; and that appreciation is easy to share with others. When, for example, we find ourselves together on a trail through the natural world, we have a force under us, over us, and all around us that pulls us into unity. Who is there that wishes to argue with a spruce tree? With a colorful rock in a clear stream? With the track of a moose in a muddy bank or with the huge form itself not far ahead, somehow nearly invisible behind a small tree? Who wishes to argue with a nesting warbler? With a migrating swan? With the wind? With a light drizzle? With a silent fall of snow? Who is there who would not rather turn to a neighbor on that trail and offer a smile, a kind word of encouragement, a helping hand?

WISE suggests that, at least once in a while, we remind ourselves of what lies beyond our personal limits, what has been here long before our anger, and what — long after we have inflicted our worst wounds and torments upon ourselves — will still remain: the spruce tree that will still produce oxygen for a renewing atmosphere, a striped pebble that will still form a bed for the spawning salmon, the rocks themselves that deep within the earth even now and long into the future will still melt and meld and move and burst again raising new ranges of mountains in places not yet imagined. So in our troubled and sometimes very dark human hive, WISE takes a humble posture of mutual learning and offers a small assistance toward appreciation of the natural world — directly through excursions into its outdoor majesty and indirectly through classroom and online activities. But nothing is

better than a direct face-to-face meeting. So we wish that each of us might have the blessing, every once in a while, of stepping outdoors, exhaling the stale breath we carry and inhaling a fresh breath from the planet itself, and then sidestepping off-trail to stand in silence — perhaps for only a few seconds — in the presence of the impenetrable mystery and imperturbable power of Creation.



Dave teaches the Rock Cycle at Earth Discovery Days.

*Dave Wellman
WISE Vice President and Founding Member*

Thank You!

Cover Photos: Paul Boos, Janelle Eklund
Newsletter Photos: Paul Boos, Janelle Eklund, Amanda Friendshuh (BLM), Jolene Nashlund, WISE program participants.
Layout and Graphics: Carol Teitzel, Robin Mayo, Jolene Nashlund
Printing: Donated by Victor Bailey

2022 Program Highlights

WISE's 20th Anniversary Benefit Auction was a fun way to celebrate WISE's 20th Anniversary! The generous donations from our supporters helped raised over \$3300 for summer programs!

WISE Annual Meeting featured guest speaker Sally Gibert, founding member of the Wrangell Mountains Center. Sally regaled attendees with tales of her early years in Alaska and her journey of perseverance and appreciation of living within the Wrangell St. Elias National Park.

In-Class Science Lessons took us back into the classrooms! This year WISE taught 16 lessons to students in the Copper River Basin and Valdez.

Camp Chosen Frozen was held at the NPS gravel pit. Youth from area schools spent the day skiing, snowshoeing, building quinzees, and learning about dog mushing, cold weather first aid, and the fine art of snow-machine maintenance!

Youth Environmental Summit (YES) included lessons from WISE about Leave No Trace.



This skier is all smiles at Chosen Frozen where she cross-country skied for the first time!

Copper Country Discovery Tour and Field Sketching and Watercolor Tour started off with record setting numbers only to have the Copper River Princess Wilderness Lodge close down in June due to staff shortages putting a halt on our revenue-earning tours.

Nic'anilen na' Aquatic Ecology Day was held along side the beautiful waters on Nic'anilen na'. WISE continues to develop a management plan with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

Kids Don't Float Signage is getting a face-lift this coming summer. Accompanying the updated State of Alaska Poster will be a WISE identification guide of area plants and animals. Now you can swim and learn what that "bug" on your leg is!

Project Healing Waters returned this summer to Tangle Lakes. WISE is honored to provide support to our partners for their fly fishing program for wounded veterans.

Earth

Discovery Day returned to the WRST Visitor Center for a day filled with funny looking fish, extracting tree core samples, Wrangell Mountain Range identification, and many other exciting lessons about our natural world!

Science Lecture Series 2022 taught us about our local pollinators', on-going glacial studies, salmon migration, and trapping safety.



CRSP participants learned about the invasive European Green Crab that is impacting refuge habitat for juvenile salmon in our coastal waters.

Copper River Stewardship Program was able to return to its traditional form. Ten youth journeyed through the Copper River Watershed to learn about interconnections, stewardship, and the various invasive species found within our upriver and downriver communities.

WISE/BLM Summer Hikes resumed this summer with 103 hikers that were eager to experience the great outdoors!

Aquatic Ecology Days were held at Moose Creek, Nic'anilen na', and in McCarthy. At Nic'anilen na', a predacious diving beetle larva nearly 3" long was discovered!

Geology Camp was enjoyed alongside Root Glacier in the WRST National Park and Preserve. A highlight from camp, was hiking on Root Glacier! Youth spent three days learning about the amazing geologic features of the Copper River Basin and national park.

Outdoor Leadership WISE worked with the Youth Conservation Corps Team at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to teach lessons in leadership and outdoor skills accompanied with plenty of hikes.

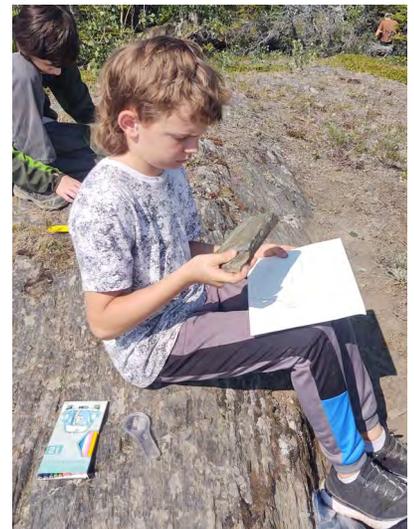
Changing Seasons for 2nd and 3rd graders occurred on Autumnal Equinox this year. Professor Vertumnis and the Four Seasons made a special appearance!

Pick.Click.Give donations were record breaking, totaling \$4,350 this year! Thank you for supporting WISE programs!

20th Anniversary Challenges

To share in the different hikes and nature journals, turn to page ten.

WISE also assists with partner programs throughout the year. For details see the 2022 Annual Report at www.wise-edu.org.



Lazurus is discovering that even though some rocks look grey, they actually contain many different colors!

Mission Statement

WISE provides science and environmental education, supports scientific research, and shares the natural wonders of Alaska's Copper River Basin.

Core Values

Stewardship - Grassroots Involvement - Partnerships
Integrity - Sense of Place - Mentorship

Twenty Years of Growth through the Eyes of Discovery

By Janelle Eklund, Founding Director

The day was Friday, April 18, 2003. The program was Earth Discovery Day. It was the very first program indoctrinated into the brand new organization established in 2002, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE). Eighty Eight students, nineteen presenters, eleven volunteers, and eighteen teachers and chaperones all participated in this fun filled outdoor discovery experience. From that day forward all WISE programs reflect that theme. Earth Discovery Day was so popular that there was a request for more to include younger grade levels. Shortly after, Changing Seasons came into being, and from there the rest is history. They just kept building off each other.

Discoveries from the earth are evident in each program.

Changing Seasons (2003) The discovery of: why leaves turn color; what a rain shadow is; how all things are connected; how animals, plants and birds adapt.

Aquatic Ecology (2009) The discovery of: macroinvertebrates and minnows; the anatomy of a fish; the joy of jumping in a lake; rowing a boat and paddling a canoe.

Hiking program (2010) The discovery of: names of wild plants and their edible and medicinal qualities; new trails and places; how a mud volcano is formed and the joy of wallowing in its mud; creatures of the boreal forest; kettle lakes, the peacefulness of a lake; the beauty of the mountains.

Copper River Stewardship Program (2009) The discovery of: different ecosystems in the same watershed; writing thoughts in a journal; photographing and drawing; the anatomy of a glacier; weather changes; how to make a dusky geese nest; making new friends and sharing the excitement of discovery.

Family Ice Fishing Day (2011) The discovery of: the beauty of a rainbow trout; the elation of bringing home dinner; the camaraderie of sharing the fun of the day.

In-class Science program (2004) The discovery of: how electricity works; the science behind simple machines using leverage, pulleys and other devices; what makes a magnet work; how sound travels; the science in chemistry; how a drop of water morphs into many forms as it filtrates through the water cycle; how a scale from a salmon determines it's age; how many millions of hairs per square inch keeps a sea otter warm.

Science Lecture Series (2004) The discovery of: Feedback between glacier melt and topography; migration patterns and energy use of returning sockeye salmon; Ahtna Place Names; the status of the Nelchina Caribou herd; archaeological findings on the shores of ancient Lake Atna; migration patterns of birds; bird identification; the habits and habitats of raptors; and much more.

Project Healing Waters (2011) The discovery of: fishing techniques with disabilities; the calm and peace that waters and earth give the soul; finding purpose.

Alaska Forum on the Environment participation The discovery of: being able to speak in front of an audience; the joy of sharing the knowledge you gain from programs; learning from others.

Outdoor Wilderness and Leadership Skills (2018) The discovery of: a confidence you didn't know you had; packing a backpack with canned food is way too heavy; the right tools, clothes and food for an expedition; what you need to know before you go; what it takes to be a leader; how to resolve conflicts; how to manage a group; how to take care of injuries; how to leave no trace; how to tie different knots for different uses; how to read a compass and topographical map; the different career options.

Right: *Upstream Learning students get a real hands-on experience while dissecting a salmon during In-Class Science.*



Winter Fun Day The discovery of: how to put on snowshoes and skis and what fun they are; how to build a snow shelter with piles of snow; the survival gear needed to stay warm and safe in winter; the wonder of mushing; art techniques using tools from the earth; sharing the wonder of the day with others.

Willow Creek Research Consortium The discovery of: how to take water depth measurements; the effects of weather; the effects of beaver activity; how to determine factors affecting water quality and quantity.

Wild Plants Workshops The discovery of: how to collect wild plants; how to use wild foods in cooking – green drinks, salsa, lasagna, salads, pesto; how to make an herbal oil and turn it into a salve or lotion; how to make a cold or warm infusion or decoction for tea; how to make a tincture.

Copper Country Discovery Tour (2008) The discovery of: how the mountains were formed; why the area is like a big basin; the seven tree species, the flora, how they are all connected, and their medicinal qualities; the anatomy of wildlife and the why; the different salmon that inhabit the rivers and their importance to other wildlife and people; the cultural history; the lifestyle of the people, their relationship to the land and survival techniques.

Christmas Bird Count The discovery of: the different species of birds that over winter; the numbers counted in each species and how it can change over time; the excitement of seeing a rare bird; the joy in participating in a citizen science event.

Other avenues of discovery are participating in partner programs such as Salmon Blitz with the Copper River Watershed Project; the Youth Environmental Summit with the Native Village; Geology Camp with Wrangell Mountains Center; Kenny Lake Library Book Camp; Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve Chosen Frozen program.

No matter how old you are there is no end to discovery. Think of discovery as growth. When you discover you learn more and your knowledge grows. When you grow in your knowledge you are better equipped to make wise decisions throughout your life. And it's fun to experience that wonder and excitement that comes with discovery!

Learning With Laughter

By Jolene Nashlund, WISE Staff

Who doesn't love a good laugh; that belly cramping, cheek hurting, tears streaming down your face, burst-of utter funniness? I know I can't pass up a humorous moment without a giggle, even when I ought not to laugh. I'm working on that! Although laughter can sometimes be a real stitch in your side, a growing body of research is suggesting, that it can also help you learn. Humor, when infused throughout a lesson can motivate students to focus on the content of the material being taught by reducing anxieties, which can in turn lead to an increase in participation. I have witnessed this and can see truth in this thought.



Summer flew into the scene on the wings of a butterfly! WISE staff member Judith Lorenz played the role of "Summer".

For our annual Changing Seasons program, WISE and our program partners put on an audience interactive skit about the science behind why the seasons change. It is a comical sci-fi-ish story about Professor Vertumnus, expert of changing seasons. He has landed in the Copper River Basin and his time machine is broken and he needs the students help to get it working again. In order to fix it, all the "seasons" have to be ushered in so the machine can be reset.

The seasons are really our program partners who are dressed in goofy costumes that look like autumn, winter, spring, and summer. After the earth's rotational and orbital speed is reset and the degree of axial tilt achieved, the earth begins to rotate around the sun. Equinox and solstice beckons the seasons, and then one by one, and in order, each season bursts into the scene with some down-right silly acting. Even the Professor has a hard time keeping a straight face! The students love it; they laugh, they answer the Professors questions, and they remember the information being taught.

Infusing humor with education is a healthy way to refocus and redirect attention back to the subject at hand in a fun and memorable way. There is real science behind learning with laughter, and this lesson is an important one for educators.

To all the wonderful educators out there, may you never miss an opportunity to laugh and giggle with your students and make learning fun!



For twenty years, WISE has been developing ways to engage youth in the outdoors. It is WISE's greatest hope that youth will be inspired to...

Learn. Grow. Get Outdoors!

The World Beneath Our Feet

By Phoebe Tschappat, CRSP Participant

On my recent adventure with the Copper River Stewardship Program, I learned how invasive plants are trying to tip the scales of the natural environment. I also learned more about the secret world hidden beneath our very feet. During the CRSP we traveled across the whole watershed. It's a vast and beautiful land, filled with intricate pathways connecting it all. I never knew that parts of Alaska could be so unique. It may come as a surprise but there are several species growing in your neighborhoods as we speak. Around the local hospital, down by the harbor, out the road.

During the majority of the trip we managed to pick some of the more prominent invasive species. White sweet clover, Bird vetch, Orange hawkweed, etc. we learned how invasive species cannot only damage other plant life by soaking up more nutrients, water, and sunlight. It can also affect other animals, such as salmon. Elodia, one aquatic invasive species, can grow and block the creeks and pools that salmon lay their eggs in. They also can block the culverts that allow the salmon to swim upstream.

This goes to show that although nature will run its course, sometimes we need to step in a little and help. Humans are a part of the process of spreading invasive species, so it should also be our responsibility to stop the spread. It can be as easy as accidentally stepping on an invasive seed and then going on a hike. Soon enough the invasive species spreads like wildfire, as you have just introduced it to a new area. Not just shoes can do this though, cars, bikes, equipment, all can increase the chance of spread. This is why it is advised to clean your tires and shoes before heading into new territory so as to decrease this.

Being a part of the Copper River Stewardship Program was an amazing experience that I will always carry with me. It taught me how to work as a team and carry responsibilities. It taught me that it is a privilege to live in a place where our backyard is a lush rainforest or a towering mountain. It made me more aware of my surroundings, and how one small thing can tip a balance. Most importantly it taught me the effect that we have on the natural world around us.



Below: Phoebe's watercolor invasive species comic is a perfect way to show how these alien's should be dealt with. Bottom Left: CRSP youth pick orange hawkweed. This pretty flower is an alien invader!



Partners Making It Possible!

WISE has been offering programs for twenty years. Many of these programs are made possible by our wonderful partnerships with other organizations. Youth science and environmental education is a shared cause and we understand that the best way to learn is through experience. It takes a lot of knowledge, skills, and resources to provide program participants with the best learning tools available to make the lesson a success. As partners, we work together by being able to offer the necessary components for each program.

As a result, WISE program participants are experiencing *amazing adventures!* Some of them are full immersion programs that take them away from their family for days, journeying to locations that they may have never been before, sometimes right in their own "backyard". The activities included challenge youth to identify, investigate, and ask questions.

Introducing our youth to environmental science and stewardship by providing these exciting hands-on opportunities can stimulate a curiosity and appreciation for nature that grows as they do, creating life-long learners.

*WISE thanks our partners!
With you, anything is possible!*

Full Circle: from WISE Participant to BLM Educator

By Amanda Friendshuh, BLM

Most people have a moment, I'm sure, when they suddenly connect with the beauty and complexity of the world around them. For me, it was a slow awareness over time. It took so long because I was raised with dirt underneath my fingernails and frost on my eyelashes. I didn't have a special awareness because it was a regular part of my life. My sisters and I were always outside experiencing the outdoors from the perspective of how nature provides. Most families in the Copper River Valley rely heavily on fish and game, including mine.

While attending school and WISE programs such as Changing Seasons and Earth Day over the years, I slowly came to understand how connected we are to animals, the watershed, and the health of our environment as a whole. As an avid outdoorsman, fisherman, and hunter, it is so important to me that this environment stays intact for the future. I depend on that environment to live a certain lifestyle that I am proud, blessed, and honored to live. In 2014 I was given the opportunity to go on the Copper River Stewardship Program where we worked on a video project with the theme of "We all Live Downstream." While working on that project and interviewing various watershed stakeholders, I realized that no matter what your background is, we can all agree on one thing: our environment is important and what we do has an impact.

In 2017, I began working as a seasonal park ranger for the BLM Glennallen Field Office where I have committed myself to the responsibility to educate others about practices that will sustain the amazing treasure we have in the Copper River Valley and now play a role in organizing programs that I participated in while growing up.



Amanda is all smiles as she enjoys a float in the peaceful waters of the Copper River Delta during the 2014 Copper River Stewardship Program .

I am so privileged to have been raised and educated in such a historical, powerful, wild, beautiful, and abundant place. I am glad to have the opportunity to not only continue experiencing our watershed, but to continue the cycle of teaching others about it

and how to care for it. Looking back at who I was growing up, I never would have guessed that I would spend a good portion of the year slogging around in chest waders, issuing subsistence hunting permits, digging for macroinvertebrates, rafting rivers, climbing glaciers, and loving every minute of it.

Thank you WISE for pushing me in the right direction and thank you BLM for putting up with me for this long!



As the Youth Programs Seasonal Park Ranger for the Glennallen BLM office, Amanda gets to team up with WISE for many of our summer programs and hikes. Amanda joined WISE and the WMC for Geology Camp this summer. Hiking on Root Glacier was a program highlight! When the school year starts gearing up again, Amanda heads south to Kenai to teach 3rd grade at the Chapman School.

Partner Focus Bureau of Land Management - Glennallen



The BLM Glennallen Field Office has provided WISE with a Youth Programs Park Ranger each summer. The Ranger accompanies WISE on the joint hiking program, "Take it Outside", Geology Camp, Aquatic Ecology Days, and the Copper River Stewardship Program to name just a few. BLM's contribution to

the youth of the Copper River Basin is invaluable; from the use of their state-of-the-art outdoor recreation equipment to the safety of a satellite phone, and a knowledgeable and fun Ranger, our youth are well prepared for their outdoor experience!

Thanks BLM for your partnership!

What was your “Day of Discovery”?

By Jolene Nashlund, WISE Staff

Last year, at WISE’s annual meeting, I listened to guest speaker, Danny Rosenkrans, tell a story about a profound moment for him; it was his “day of discovery”. Danny is a retired geologist; his moment of discovery, involved a conglomerate rock. I remember him describing how he looked at this rock, completely fascinated that, within this rock, was a compilation of other rocks, each with their own etiology, all massed together to tell an even greater story. The way Danny described his experience was masterful; the story was filled with so much detail and feeling that as a listener you almost felt like you were there, in that moment, discovering the wonder yourself.

Danny’s story inspired me to revisit my own impactful moments in nature. I realized, that it is hard to think of just one, but the memories of those moments can reignite a yearning for another day of discovery!

So, what’s your “Day of Discovery”?

“Winter was the most dreaded time of year. It was a time when I would stare at my playground – the Rocky Mountains- and wait for the snow to melt so I could resume hiking, rafting, and other warm weather activities. In 2017, a friend invited me to go downhill skiing with him in Utah. I was intimidated by the freezing temperatures, the steepness of the slopes, and the cost of my lift ticket.



Greg, enjoying a day in the mountains.

However, I decided to try it anyways and was immediately hooked. The sensations of speed, acceleration, and maneuverability were unlike anything I had experienced before. The rest times were just as special.

Lying in a fluffy pile of snow beneath the whispering lodgepole pines with incredible views of the rugged mountain landscape became what I can only

describe as a spiritual experience. I am forever grateful for my first skiing experience because it allowed me to enjoy my favorite place, the mountains, year-round.”

-Greg Feathers, BLM

I was fortunate enough to grow up next to a pond and stream, where I endlessly entertained myself exploring by canoe, floating on innertubes, or playing in the outlet stream to divert flows, create deeper pools, look for critters, and zone out to the consistency with which water kept on flowing. Only a hungry belly brought me home to re-fuel for my next adventure. **-Kate Morse, CRWP**

“In my early twenties, I lived for 7 months on an old wooden sailboat in the Caribbean. Our crew spent several weeks in the Tobago Cays, an archipelago renown for its extraordinary marine wildlife and shallow crystal-clear water. The first thing I would do upon waking up, was to jump in the water with my snorkeling equipment, to swim around one of the islands. The sun had just risen and the light underwater was especially beautiful with rays of light piercing gently through the water. Every day, I would meet the same species of fish in the exact same spots. It was like meeting neighbors. Everyone in its own micro-habitat. It was fascinating to me to observe them, learning to recognize each species and their habitat. On those morning dives, I came to comprehend that everything in Nature was created perfect and with a reason, everything in its right place when left undisturbed. I didn’t belong to that underwater world, yet I was part of it all. A sense of profound peace and reverence for Mother nature ran through me.”

-Judith Lorenz, WISE Staff



CRSP program participants are exploring Prince William Sound aboard the sailboat, Aurelia.

I was about 6 years old when I first fell totally in love with an aspect of nature. My older brothers and I were playing war, as we often did when our parents were not around. We lived on a fruit farm in Ohio, surrounded by miles of corn and soybean fields. Large oak trees grew in our front yard; rows of apple and pear trees covered the back acreage. For 2 years I had been climbing the little apple trees but one night I managed to reach the bottom limb of one of the giant oaks, swing my legs up above my hands and pull myself up into the tree. What a perfect spot to hide away from the boys, I thought!

I climbed higher, carefully working my way around the trunk that was ten times thicker than I was. Limb after limb, I ascended, the tree trunk slowly growing thinner. Leaves began to appear closer to me, at the edges of long, graceful branches that were getting thinner and gave slightly under my weight. The bark was rough then smooth, the smell clean and rich. At last, I was near the top, straddling two main branches, arms wrapped around the now slender trunk. It was dusk and through the leaves I could see the straight, flat horizon, a dark earth silhouette, orange glow above, cobalt blue with bright stars above the orange. I clung tighter to the tree and looked up, all around, into the sky I felt a part of. A gentle breeze began to blow, swaying me back and forth slightly in the tree. I wasn't afraid; the breeze was warm on my bare arms and legs, the hot summer day finally fading. The tree was impossibly tall, I was looking *down* at our two-story house roof, amazed at the new perspective of peering into lit windows from that height. No way would my brothers be able to find me!

I am not sure how long I stayed there, clinging, swaying, soaking up the strength of the tree, the feeling of the breeze, the clear night sky with millions of stars and leaves all around me. Long enough to fall in love. Long enough to remember that feeling for the rest of my life, to recognize it again in other experiences where nature is supreme, and you get to be a part of it.

-Diane Ellsworth, NPS

Right: Joseph carefully creates a barrier around the bear print before he pours the plaster into it at the Tolsona Mud Volcanoes.



While exploring the tidal flats in Cordova, Dominic carefully passes a crab to another CRSP participant to investigate.

WISE Moments

"I am very grateful for what WISE does for the community. The impact they have had on my life alone is almost un-stateable. They have opened my eyes to the world around me in ways that I never thought possible and helped give me an enormous appreciation for the natural world. Over the years they have enabled me to travel and see places that otherwise would have eluded me. On a darker note, I despise the truly abominable introduction exercise they always have us do! I am deeply thankful to WISE for enriching my life with experiences, knowledge, and just plain fun."
-Dominic

"What I like about WISE is that we can use plenty of fun materials like waders and microscopes."
-Tim

"I think my favorite part of Geology Camp was hiking on the yokel, which is Icelandic for glacier. I learned that from some pretty extraordinary people!"
-Miles

"We get to see other friends and learn about everything in nature."
-Evan

"WISE hikes are very fun, I'm glad they pick us up, and I hope they do lots next year. My favorite hike was Willow Mountain."
-Martin

"I had fun at the water ecology day. I was interested in looking through the microscope at the funny creatures. At the mud volcanoes hike I got to make a plaster print of a bearpaw. I liked climbing on the rocks at the Liberty Falls hike."
-Joseph

Education Partners

Copper River School District
Prince William Sound College
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Valdez City Schools
Campbell Creek Science Center

**“Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean.”**

-Ryunosuke Satoro

Funding Spotlight:

Alaska Residents can support WISE by donating a portion of their Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend through the Pick.Click.Give Program. This program was originally created in 2008 by the Rasmuson Foundation and is now managed by The Alaska Community Foundation.



WISE has been a Pick.Click.Give organization since 2009. Since then, generous PCG donors have contributed \$37,425 for WISE’s youth programs! Thank you for all your wonderful support!

Government and Tribal Partners

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Copper River Native Association
Chitina Village Council
Gakona Village Council
Gulkana Village Council
Mount Sanford Tribal Consortium
Native Village of Kluti-Kaah
Native Village of Tazlina
US Bureau of Land Management
US Forest Service Cordova Ranger District
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Nonprofit Partners

Alaska WildBird Rehabilitation
Copper River Watershed Project
Copper Country Alliance
Copper Valley Community Library
The Foraker Group
Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce
Kenny Lake Community League
Kenny Lake Public Library
Prince William Sound Science Center
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council
Project Healing Waters Alaska
Valdez Consortium Library
Wrangell Mountains Center
Willow Creek Water Consortium
Wellwood Conservancy



Board and Staff

Gay Wellman, President
Dave Wellman, Vice-President
Paul Boos, Treasurer
Felicia Riedel, Secretary
Janelle Eklund
Jenny Moser
Mark Proch
Margie Steigerwald
Sarah Gallt-Linnell

Robin Mayo, Executive Director
Jolene Nashlund, Development Director
Judith Lorenz, Naturalist Guide

2022 Funders



**Alaska
Conservation
Foundation**



Rasmuson Foundation
Juneau Community Foundation
National Park Foundation
Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation
Amazon Smile
Fred Meyer Community Rewards
Local 71 Union
Copper River Subway
Copper River Native Association
Copper Valley Community Association
Copper Valley IGA
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Post 27
Kenny Lake Community League

For more details on WISE revenues and expenses, please request our 2022 Annual Report, or see it at www.wise-edu.org

Thank You to our Generous Donors!

Spruce

\$500 and up

Ruth & Carl Benson
 Janelle Eklund & Paul Boos
 Ruth McHenry & Cliff Eames
 Nashlund-Morse Family
 Gail Mayo
 Meg Jensen & Mike McQueen
 Peter Mjos
 Victoria & Michael Rego
 Daniel & Diana Solie
 Margie Steigerwald & Russell Galipeau

Aspen

\$100 to \$499

Sandra Bales
 Charlotte Bird
 Katie & Ben Bobowski
 Nancy & Bob Boos
 Felicia Riedel & Tom Butler
 Jamie Dawson
 Rebekah & Joseph Donohue
 Evan Franklin
 Marnie Graham
 Trish Miller & Chip Hamann
 Eric Downey & Cathy Hart
 Shari Hart
 Ellen & Barry Hecht
 Bud Jackman
 Kirk & Leslie Johnson
 Paula & Bruce Kaye
 Sally & Terry Keizer
 Matt & Judith Lorenz
 Tami Long
 Nancy & Donald Maclay
 Marcia & Henry Milette
 Jan Miller
 Debbie & Mark Moderow
 Ethan Moorhead
 Molly O'Hara
 Danny & Arlene Rosenkrans
 Laurie Thorpe
 Marnie Graham & Doug Vollman
 Adele Valenti
 Jeremy Weld
 Dave & Gay Wellman
 Mark Miller & Ann Welshko
 Karen Combs & Lynn Wegener
 Gretchen Roffler & Benjamin Williams
 Carrie Wittmer
 Frances & Gary Wittmer
 Erika Wolter

Diamond Willow

Up to \$100

Anonymous
 Nate Anderson
 Mary Beth Cook & Jim Baker
 Ed & Elaine Begy
 Lauren Bien
 Allison Brooking
 Barb Cellarius
 Nancy Deschu
 Kyle Engle
 Lilly Goodman-Allwright
 Mary Gianotti
 Betty & William Harryman
 Mark Henspeter
 Danielle Kerfeld
 Kristin Link
 Robin Mayo
 Bonnie & William McLeod
 Jacquelyn McMahan
 Susan Moore
 Jack Mosby
 Kate Morse
 Cheyenne Oyen
 Tari Patinka
 Greg Quinton
 Brandie Radigan
 Richard Rogers
 Linda Rutledge
 Dorothy Sine
 Kelly Smith
 Melanie Sinclair
 Tim Sundlov
 Carson & Manda Tortorige
 Mark Vail
 Barb & Denny Wallace
 Heather Webb
 Kathryn & Terry Wedgeworth

Additional Thanks to:

Paul Boos and Janelle Eklund
 Copper River Record
 Victor Bailey

Ways to Support WISE

Online at www.wise-edu.org
Mail a check
Pick.Click.Give if you live in Alaska
Amazon Smile
Fred Meyer Community Rewards
Purchase cards or books
 Ask us about **Legacy Giving**
Volunteer at a program



BY DISCOVERING
NATURE
YOU DISCOVER YOURSELF

— *Maxime Lagace*