Rock and mineral identification workshop offered

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Fairbanks, Alaska—A UAF Mining Extension workshop in Fairbanks will cover basic techniques for field identification of rocks and minerals.

The workshop will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 28 at the Tanana District Cooperative Extension Service office at 724 27th Ave.

Extension community development agent Mara Bacsujlaky, who has worked as a field geologist in Pennsylvania and Alaska, will teach the workshop. It is designed for beginner rock hounds or those with basic knowledge of rock and mineral identification.

The workshop will focus on the primary rock-forming minerals and some of the more common metallic minerals that are of economic or collecting interest. Participants will learn the basic mineral classification systems and how to identify mineral specimens based on physical characteristics such as color, crystal shape, relative density, magnetism, hardness and luster. The workshop will emphasize rock types that more commonly host interesting minerals such as gold, diamonds or garnets.

The class fee of $15 will pay for a field ID tool kit. Sign up online at http://bit.ly/ak-rock-id or call Bacsujlaky at 474-5741. The workshop is geared to adults but youth middle-school age and older may participate with an adult. Participants are asked to bring a rock or mineral they find interesting and a small pocketknife.

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ADDITIONAL CONTACTS: Mara Bacsujlaky, Extension community development agent, at 474-5741 or mcbacsujlaky@alaska.edu.

ON THE WEB: www.uaf.edu/ces

NOTE TO EDITORS: Information here

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