

MATTRESS GALAXY

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Immersed in Alaska: Eight-day summer trip provides wealth of exp

Judging by the enthusiasm remaining among a group of Hudson High School students who took an eco-cultural trip to Alas
expense.

By: **Jon Echternacht**, Hudson Star-Observer

Judging by the enthusiasm remaining among a group of Hudson High School students who took an eco-cu
their time, effort and expense.

Eleven students and three adult chaperons, including HHS science teacher Patty Mueller, made an eight-d
immersed in the fauna, flora and culture of the area in and around Seward and Kenai.

Their experiences included hiking up a glacier, taking a boat ride to observe another glacier, netting salmor
kayaking in the open water.

Each student had to raise about \$3,000 to cover the cost of airfare, guided tours, food and lodging provide

“We had a bunch of fundraisers,” said Kelsey Robertson. “We bagged groceries, had bake sales and sold c

The Green Edventures program promotes educational emphasis on climate change, cultural studies and ei
areas.

Mueller said the Hudson group pulled invasive plants from an area and did water testing.

When asked about their single favorite experience, a variety of answers came back.

“Hiking on the glacier,” said Mary Leshner, which necessitated wearing spikes and learning to walk a certain
glacier, which was tough enough, but on the back side it was 1,200 feet down an icy incline that provided a

The glacier’s color was unique. It was a deep aqua and the guides referred to it as Smurf blood.

The students said there were markers to designate the end of the glacier each year since the 1880s and it

A tandem kayaking experienced topped the list for Molli Bichrt.

The boat ride to another glacier where the group observed big chunks of ice thunder into the seas was as big as a car, one as big as this school,” said Robertson.

For Camden Droppo, a stint at netting salmon with the Kenaitze Indians in the Kenai Peninsula created a story. “We pulled in 151 fish in one netting and 350 salmon in three pulls,” he said.

Droppo said he won a competition of sorts by holding up eight salmon with the fingers of one hand hooked nets was a 35-inch King salmon.

The group toured the Ghost Forest created when the 1964 earthquake inundated Seward with salt water and during World War II to defend Seward from a possible Japanese invasion.

When asked if they would do such a trip again, the answer was a resounding “yes” in unison. The group returned to Baja, Mexico, with Green Edventures next time round.

One student remarked emphatically, “yes in a heartbeat,” and another said on the plane ride back there was home.

See the attached Photo Gallery for more pictures from their trip.

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