

WAYPOINTS



News and stories from Alaska's public lands



Stunning fall colors at Serpentine Hot Springs, [Bering Land Bridge National Preserve](#), NPS Photo / Katie Cullen

Photo features Katmai and acting Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve superintendent, Joni Seay, and Hoonah Indian Association council member, Jack Lee, at the Glacier Bay totem pole raising.

Honoring Indigenous Voices in Alaska's Parks

Over the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to spend time in two of Alaska's national parks, seeing firsthand the work being done to connect landscapes with the stories of the people who have lived there for time immemorial.

One of the most memorable experiences was in [Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve](#), where I witnessed the raising of a totem pole at the park entrance. What struck me most was the strong leadership of the Huna Lingít, whose Ancestral Homeland lies within the park. When Glacier Bay was established a century ago, there was little



recognition of the people whose lives and culture were rooted there. Over time, however, the National Park Service and the Huna Lingít have built a partnership of co-stewardship that ensures ancestral Lingít stories are interwoven with the park's story. The totem pole itself is both a cultural expression and a symbol of that partnership, recognizing the enduring presence of the Huna Lingít in Glacier Bay.

A few weeks later, I traveled north to Nome for the grand opening of a new Heritage Center and exhibits for [Bering Land Bridge National Preserve](#), in partnership with Sitnasuak Native Corporation. Once again, the central theme was the deep connection between the land and its people. The new displays highlight the story of the Inupiat who have lived in the region for thousands of years and continue to shape its identity today. The presence of so many tribal members at both events underscored the importance of these efforts to connect natural landscapes with cultural heritage.

Together, these experiences reminded me that our parks are not just about the land and wildlife they protect—they are also about the people whose histories and traditions are inseparable from those places. By honoring Indigenous voices and weaving their stories into park interpretation, the National Park Service is strengthening the meaning of these landscapes for all who experience them.

With Gratitude,

Andy Hall
Executive Director

SUPPORT OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Join us **THIS SATURDAY** for our [Cruise for Public Lands](#) event to celebrate **National Public Lands Day!**

Help Raise Funds for AK Geo's Education Programs

Our Cruise for Public Lands event is almost here, and we would love for you to join us. Step aboard this Saturday, September 27, for an evening celebrating Alaska's parks, people, and partnerships.

The event will feature inspiring guest speakers, complimentary food, and the chance to win exciting prizes. Most importantly, your ticket directly supports Alaska Geographic's youth education programs, which provide teens with opportunities to explore Alaska's public lands, gain confidence in the outdoors, and grow into the next generation of public land stewards.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot today and be part of this special evening on the water.



Alaska Geographic

Major
MARINE TOURS
SEWARD, ALASKA



Cruise for Public Lands

A National Public Lands Day fundraiser for Alaska Geographic's education programs



DATE: Sept 27
ARRIVAL: Please arrive by 3:00 PM for a 3:30 PM departure
LOCATION: Meet at Seward Harbor 360 Hotel
ABOARD: Major Marine Tours' Spirit of Matushka

Set sail in celebration of Alaska's public lands! Join Alaska Geographic for an evening of connection, community, and breathtaking views as we raise critical support for hands-on education and stewardship. Enjoy Food, drinks, and meet with Alaska Geographic employees and community partners!

- SCENIC CRUISE
- FOOD & DRINKS
- MINGLE WITH PUBLIC LAND PARTNERS AND EDUCATORS
- SUPPORTS YOUTH, EDUCATION & STEWARDSHIP ON ALASKA'S PUBLIC LANDS

Hosted by Alaska Geographic

The official nonprofit connecting people to Alaska's public lands through the creation and delivery of educational products and programs.

CONNECT

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Reserve your spot today!

Tickets available at:



Space is limited — don't miss the boat!

Only 8 Tickets Left - Register Now!

Students Become Park Managers at Denali Science School

For much of [Denali National Park and Preserve](#), September means slowing

down and preparing for winter (it has already snowed twice!), but the [Murie Science and Learning Center](#) was still buzzing with activity.

Throughout the month, fourth through sixth graders from eight local schools participated in [Denali Science School](#), an immersive three-day field trip into Denali's wilderness classroom. The National Park Service Education team leads the program, with Alaska Geographic Science Educators jumping in to help lead and teach lessons.

During their time in Denali, students learn about the park's natural history and real-life management challenges through hands-on experiences. They monitor permafrost, explore habitats and ecosystems, and use science to tackle park management questions.

On their final day in the park, students apply the knowledge they've gained and design their own national park from scratch, complete with a management plan that balances wildlife protection, visitor access, and cultural traditions—just like park managers do.

These deep, place-based learning opportunities let students discover firsthand how complex park management can be. By the time they head home, students better understand what it takes to protect their valuable public lands.



[Learn More About Denali Science School Here](#)

Writing the Wilderness: Journals that Inspire

Alaska Geographic is proud to partner with the [Atwood Foundation](#) to make journaling a core part of our teen expeditions. Thanks to their support, journaling is a core part of our student expeditions. This year, we created curated journals tailored to each course, partner agency, and public land area, giving students a meaningful way to reflect and record their adventures.

One student, responding to the prompt “Think about the word wilderness...”, wrote:

“Peace. Adventure. Rolling green hills before snowy mountains. Fields of flowers so intricate



in design. A soft warm wind like a hug holding you close as you venture to the unknown.”

Moments like these highlight the power of reflection. These journals are more than just supplies—they’re keepsakes of growth, self-discovery, and a deeper connection to Alaska’s public lands.

Be a Part of the Impact - Support Our Youth Programs!



RECENT AID TO PARTNER

Your support through in-store purchases, donations, and membership allows us to give back to our public land partners. Read on to learn more about recent projects funded by Alaska Geographic.



Photo Credit: NPS/Cait Johnson

Honoring Voices of the Coast: Krusenstern/Sisualik Oral History Film

Alaska Geographic is proud to support an important new interpretive project with our partners at [Western Arctic National Parklands](#): creating an oral history film centered on the subsistence lifestyle along the coast of Cape Krusenstern and [Sisualik](#) Spit.

Sisualik is a traditional Iñupiaq settlement along the coast that remains active to this day. Its name means “place of beluga whales.” For generations, Iñupiaq families have

gathered here as part of their seasonal fishing camps, and today it continues to be an important gathering place, subsistence location, and home for many families and individuals from the Kotzebue area. Located within the boundaries of [Cape Krusenstern National Monument](#), Sisualik carries forward living traditions deeply tied to the land and waters.

The interpretive film will highlight the voices of those who call Sisualik home, sharing oral histories that illustrate the enduring relationship between people, place, and subsistence practices. By preserving and presenting these stories, the project will deepen public understanding of this coastline's cultural and ecological significance and the ongoing ways of life it supports.

We are grateful to our partners for helping make this project possible, and we look forward to sharing the finished film with communities, visitors, and classrooms across Alaska and beyond.

Finish the Adventure, Complete the Collection

Here in Alaska, the days are getting shorter, the leaves are turning different shades of gold, red, and eventually brown, and the snow will start creeping down the mountains. Bull moose begin their rut, bears make their way to their dens with full bellies, and flocks of migratory birds begin to head south. All of these mean the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. After hosting thousands of visitors, many of our stores will soon begin hibernating until next spring.

If you visited one of our stores this summer and realized you did not get that one shirt, sticker, or patch you wanted – fret not! Our website has a fantastic store where you can find your missing treasures! At the end of our summer season, some of our bestselling items (that have not sold out) migrate to our main office in Anchorage, where we fulfill customers' orders placed on our website.

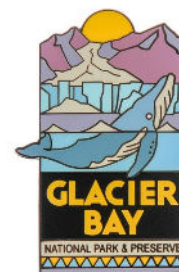
So if your collection feels one piece short—whether it's a Deneen mug, pin, patch, or magnet—you can still complete it today. Just click the button below and bring a little piece of Alaska home.



[Mug Pottery Denali National Park & Preserve](#)



[T-Shirt Chugach State Park - Charcoal Heather - Short Sleeve](#)



[Magnet DA Logo GLBA](#)

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