



Dear Friends,

September is the perfect time to slow down and appreciate the last warm days before the coming fall. With a slight chill in the mornings and evenings, autumn is on its way.

Out on the trails of Acadia we are beginning to see hints of red and gold. As we pack away our bathing suits and shorts, we look forward to our favorite cool-weather activities—biking or running on the carriage roads, hiking in brisk winds, taking in the sweeping scenery from a blustery mountaintop, or just enjoying the view from a roadside vista.

FOA Programs' End-of-Season Presentations

Each fall, we look forward to the FOA seasonal teams' final presentations. Participating in these public seasonal wrap-ups is a great way to learn more about the work being done to help better educate students and visitors about Acadia in the field. There will be a public Q/A after each presentation—we hope you'll join us!



Save this link to participate in the [Acadia Teacher Fellows'](#) final presentation Monday, September 28 at 4 pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86714011490>

Save this link to participate in the [Summit Stewards'](#) final presentation Tuesday, October 27 at 4 pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88972656046>

Click here to stream the [Acadia Digital Media Team's](#) final presentation now: <https://vimeo.com/449535446>

Have you made your reservations?

The National Park Service has developed a vehicle reservation system to reduce severe traffic and parking congestion so visitors can plan ahead and have a more enjoyable visit to Acadia National Park. As a pilot to prepare for the 2021 season, reservations will be required for vehicles to enter the Sand Beach Entrance and Cadillac Summit Road from October 1 to 18, 2020. Vehicle reservations for this time period are available now. They are only online and can be purchased here: <https://www.recreation.gov/timed-entry/400000>



Friends of Acadia is very encouraged to see this first step toward a timed reservation system for vehicles to enter the busiest sites in the park during peak times. We hear from visitors frequently about the frustration of being stuck in traffic or turned away when the Cadillac Summit Road or Sand Beach Entrance become gridlocked by over-crowding. Having the ability to pre-plan with a reservation, just as you would with a whale watch or a carriage ride, or dinner out, should provide more certainty and a better experience once in the park. We hope our members and friends will participate in this pilot program to help the park test the reservation system to improve it even more for future visitors.

For more information visit the park's website: https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/vehicle_reservations.htm

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the FOA website: <https://friendsofacadia.org/visiting-acadia/reservation-system-faqs/>

Carriage Road Rehabilitation: The Final Stretch!

Reconstruction of more than six miles of existing carriage road subgrade and surface on the Eagle Lake Loop will be completed in 2021. Ditches, stone-lined drainage channels, and culverts will be repaired or replaced as needed. Several sections of dry-laid stone retaining walls will also be repaired along with features designed to stabilize steep slopes.



When this work is completed, it will be the final section of the park's 45-mile system to have been rehabilitated--an almost 30 year endeavor. Acadia's carriage roads were among the Friends of Acadia founders' earliest priorities. Between 1992 and 1995, an extensive rehabilitation of the carriage roads was financed by federal construction funds. Friends of Acadia matched these Congressional appropriations with private funds that established the Carriage Road Endowment. Today, Friends of Acadia grants more than \$200,000 from this endowment to the park each year, to ensure that the carriage road system will be maintained in pristine condition.

Visit the park's website to learn more about next year's construction and anticipated closures: <https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>

New Ways to Give



- **Become a Trailblazer!** The Trailblazer program is an easy and convenient way to spread your membership gifts and other donations throughout the year. Trailblazers can now make monthly, quarterly, or annual gifts through a credit card or direct debit to a bank account on a date and schedule of your choosing. To learn more about this giving program <https://friendsofacadia.org/giving-membership/trailblazer/>
- **Be a Fundraiser!** You can now create your own giving campaign for FOA in honor of a birthday, anniversary celebration, or just because you love Acadia through the secure JustGiving platform. It's as simple as creating a campaign and sharing it with your friends and family through social media. To get started, click here: <https://www.justgiving.com/friendsofacadia>
- **Faster Donations with Digital Wallets:** Do you use a "digital wallet?" You can now make one-time donations or pay for event registrations with your e-wallet! The options include Visa Checkout, Masterpass, as well as ApplePay for those using the Safari browser on an Apple device.

For questions about these giving options, contact Lee McWilliams lee@friendsofacadia.org

Header Photo: Heavy fog hangs near Pemetic Mountain in Acadia National Park, Wednesday, September 2, 2020. (Photo by Ashley L. Conti/Friends of Acadia)



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