



Government Reopening

The government shutdown ended Wednesday night (November 12) allowing National Park Service staff at Acadia and at national parks around the country to return to work. The shutdown lasted 43 days, the longest in history. More than half of Acadia's staff were furloughed.

We are thankful that furloughed staff can return to the park and that everyone who was not paid during the shutdown will receive back pay. The continuing

resolution funds the Department of Interior at the current level through Jan. 30. We continue to work with our congressional delegation to stress the importance of stable funding and staffing for the National Park Service and the need to lift the hiring freeze.

[Read more about the shutdown's impacts on Acadia and how you can still help.](#)



With Community Support, We Raised \$30,000 for the Park in Visitor Entrance Fee Donations

During the shutdown, Acadia National Park was unable to sell park passes or collect entrance fees during one of the busiest times of the year. Entrance fees are a critical funding source for a wide range of visitor services and maintenance projects, including trail work, custodial services, and infrastructure repairs.



We are incredibly grateful to all of the park visitors who supported Acadia by donating the value of a park entrance pass through our [Entrance Fee Donation program](#)—and to all of the individuals and businesses who helped us get the word out by posting flyers, sharing the link online, or talking with visitors. This community support means so much!

Seasonal Staff Accomplishments

Our seasonal staff does a range of work in the field, from helping build and maintain the park's trails and carriage roads to employing social science to monitor how visitors move about the park. They engage with park visitors and capture the work—and the lively season—through images and video. They also happen to be a hard-working and enthusiastic crew of early career professionals who bring great talent and care to their work.



[Check out what this season's crew accomplished!](#)

Huge Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Since the inception of Friends of Acadia nearly 40 years ago, we've always been powered by volunteers. From our Drop-in Stewardship program, Wild Gardens of Acadia volunteers, service groups, membership table volunteers, and the hikers who schlep soil to Acadia's summits during a Save Our Summits hike, these dedicated folks give graciously of their time. It's often sweat-inducing work, but their effort is so incredibly impactful and helps complement the hard work of park staff.

Thank you to all who volunteered with us this season, whether you dropped in once or returned week after week, season after season. Your impact is mighty!

[Check out photos](#) from the wide range of programs volunteers supported this season, and [join us for future projects](#)!



Seasonal Closures in Acadia

- **Unpaved Roads:** November 15
- **Park Loop Road and Paved Roads:** December 1
- **Thompson Island Picnic Area:** December 1
- **Echo Lake Beach:** December 1

For a full list of park closures, [visit their website](#).



Giving Tuesday on 12/2: Last Chance to Double Your Donation in 2025!

On December 2, Friends of Acadia invites you to be part of a powerful day of giving, and the last opportunity to have your donation doubled in 2025. On Giving Tuesday, every donation to FOA will be matched 1:1 until we reach our \$25,000 goal, provided by our generous donors Julie Banzhaf-Stone and Steven Stone.



Feel the power that comes with doubling your impact for Acadia's trails, wildlife, and visitor programs! Keep your eyes peeled for the launch email on Tuesday, December 2 (the link will also be shared on our website and social media). Together, we can do something extraordinary for Acadia!

Friends of Acadia to Partner with the Hannaford Community Bag Program in November

Hannaford has selected Friends of Acadia to benefit from the Community Bag Program throughout the month of November! Each time a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased at the Bar Harbor Hannaford, \$1 will be donated back to FOA.



In Case You Missed It:

Friends of Acadia's Eric Stiles joined other Friends group leaders to talk about the impact of the shutdown on national parks: ["Leaders of Friends Groups Express Concerns for National Park Service Employees, Parks" \(National Parks Traveler Podcast\)](#).

['They're Bleeding the Parks Dry.' Many National Parks Are Open During the Shutdown, but Entrance Fee Booths Are Closed," \(Boston Globe\)](#).

["Save our Summits Program Gets Creative to Help Fight Soil Erosion," \(Mount Desert Islander\)](#).

2025 Raptor Intern Jazmine DeBeauchamp shares this season's Hawk Watch happenings: [Riding the Winds: Hawk Watch in 2025](#)

Until next month,



Eliza Worrick

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Header Photo: Sunny views of Sand Beach with fall foliage blanketing Great Head and Beehive Mountain (Rhianon Johnston/Friends of Acadia).

