



Dear Friends,

From all of us at Friends of Acadia, Happy Valentine's Day and thank you for your support! Acadia National Park is a place of great beauty and inspiration, so it's not surprising that so many people celebrate their love in the park. From first dates to proposals, weddings to anniversaries, many members have shared their special stories with us over the years. Who do you share your love for Acadia with? Send your someone special an Acadia Valentine, free of charge, as our gift to you as a thanks and celebration of our collective love of Acadia. Click [here](#) to see all the e-cards.

The Perfect Gifts for Valentine's Day

Are you looking for a little something extra to go with your [Acadia themed valentine](#) this Valentine's Day? A [tribute gift](#) in honor of your loved one's love for Acadia will show how much you care! We'll let your honoree know about your contribution with a hand-signed letter.



Make a Tribute Gift

If your loved one isn't yet a Friends of Acadia member, consider giving them a [gift membership](#)! They will receive a Friends of Acadia membership package that includes a personalized card announcing your gift, a one-year subscription to

Acadia magazine, a packet of six notecards with Acadia imagery and wildlife, a Friends of Acadia membership window decal, and the satisfaction of knowing that membership helps preserve and protect Acadia National Park for current and future generations.

[Give a Gift Membership](#)

#SkiAcadia Update

After a slow start to the season, the Acadia region finally received enough snow for grooming at the end of last month. Thank you to the volunteer groomers of the [Acadia Winter Trails Association](#) for your hard work and long hours dedicated to the enjoyment of others on our beautiful carriage roads!

Post your experiences and conditions reports by tagging @friendsofacadia and using [#skiacadia](#) on social media.

When grooming occurs, we'll post updates on social media and on the FOA website: friendsofacadia.org/visiting-acadia/ski-acadia/

Click [here](#) to learn more about how Friends of Acadia and the park make decisions about when to groom, and how we can all work together to have a good experience while out enjoying Acadia in winter.



Can You Host or House a Seasonal Employee?

Like so many Mount Desert Island organizations and businesses, Friends of Acadia relies on seasonal employees to conduct important work in the park during the summer and fall seasons. The ability for these young people, who are just getting a start in their careers, to find housing has become increasingly challenging as even more units that were rented seasonally in the past have been converted to short-term weekly rentals.



If you or someone you know has seasonal housing available or might consider renting a room to one of Friends of Acadia's summer crew members, please contact Stephanie Ley at stephley@friendsofacadia.org. Typically, our seasonal employees work June-August or June-November. Thank you for considering this very timely and important way to help Friends of Acadia's work in Acadia National Park.

Cadillac Summit Road and Park Loop Road Construction

The National Park Service (NPS) will close Cadillac Summit Road to all uses for road construction from February 28



(tentative date) through May 10, 2023.

The construction, which includes repaving and culvert replacement, began last fall and continued into November when the contractor suspended work due to the onset of winter conditions.

The exact start date for construction to resume is weather dependent and the park expects to re-open Cadillac Summit Road on May 11, though there is a possibility of temporary road closures as the project is completed.

The NPS expects Park Loop Road to experience single-lane closures along Ocean Drive in early spring. Expect traffic delays and plan accordingly.

Also, vehicle reservations will be required for Cadillac Summit Road from May 24 through October 22, 2023. As always, we encourage checking the official park website for the most up-to-date information.



Park Entrance Fee Update

Acadia has proposed increasing visitor entrance fees: a proposed \$5 increase for 7-day private vehicle, motorcycle, and individual passes, and a \$15 increase for the park's annual pass.

One of the primary purposes of the increase is to provide more funding to the Island Explorer bus system, which runs fare-free, propane-powered buses on and near Mount Desert Island each year from late June to mid-October.



In a public comment period from Nov. 29 to Dec. 29, 2022, the park received 115 comments with 70% of those supportive. Some asked for reduced fees for local residents.

The National Park Service has not yet approved the fee increase. A decision is expected late this winter or spring, and it will take some time to implement.

Friends of Acadia supports the increase because it will fund critically needed transportation and infrastructure projects, including expanding environmentally friendly access to the park by the fare-free, propane-powered Island Explorer buses.

The park will continue to offer a variety of free passes to select groups including military veterans, people with disabilities, volunteers, and 4th grade students. Four free days are also offered.

Read more on our website [here](#) and in the Winter-Spring issue of Acadia magazine which hits mailboxes in mid-March.

Double Your Gift to Acadia during our Spring Membership E-Challenge

Mark your calendar - The launch of Friends of Acadia's Spring Membership E-Challenge is expected to arrive in your inbox **March 2nd!** Many of you love to give during our E-Challenges, knowing your gift will be matched



dollar for dollar by a generous group of donors, and your impact for Acadia doubled. Supporting the E-Challenge is a great way to celebrate spring and your love for Acadia!

Save these dates for Important Friends of Acadia Events

The season for in-person events is just around the corner. Please mark your calendar for the following events.

- **April 29** - Earth Day Roadside Cleanup
- **June 3** - National Trails Day
- **July 5** - Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting
- **July 8** - Acadia Founder's Day
- **August 12** - 34th Annual Benefit
- **November 4** - Take Pride in Acadia Day



In case you missed it:

[National Park Service Selects Artist-in-Residence Participants at Acadia National Park for 2023](#)

[Winter Grooming on Acadia's Carriage Roads](#)

[Acadia Youth Conservation Corps Applications Due March 15](#)

[Great American Outdoors Act will fund improvements to Acadia National Park water systems](#)

[2022 was second-busiest year at Acadia](#)

Header Photo: Acadia themed valentines [available on our website](#).



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