



## ***Dear Friends,***

As we approach the end of the year, we'd like to extend our deepest gratitude to all volunteers, members/donors, partners, community members, and friends who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the park and Friends of Acadia's mission. You truly represent the Power of Friends, and your support enables us to make a meaningful impact for Acadia and its surrounding communities. Whether through the gift of your time, financial contributions, or heartfelt encouragement, each of you has played an integral role in shaping our collective successes. Thank you and happy holidays!

## **#GivingTuesday Sets a Record**

Tuesday, Nov 28, was a remarkable day of giving at Friends of Acadia and we THANK YOU! We asked for your help to match a challenge grant of \$25,000 on #GivingTuesday, and your response blew us away.

In far less than 24 hours, 192 donors gave \$48,626. That, combined with the generous \$25,000 match from Board Member Julie Banzhaf-Stone and her husband, Steve Stone, means we raised \$73,626 for our work in Acadia National Park—in one day! We are truly humbled by your generosity and honored to have you as part of the Friends of Acadia family. Thank you for giving us an even stronger start in 2024!



If you have not yet donated in 2023 and would still like to make a gift before the end of the year, [click here](#).

## Get Your Skis Ready, It's Almost Time

The first significant snowfall of the season in early December created a buzz around Acadia about winter cross-country skiing. Rest assured, the [Acadia Winter Trails Association](#) volunteer groomers are gearing up for the 2024 winter season. Groomers will hit the carriage roads as soon as the park determines the roadbed is adequately frozen and there are at least six inches of snow base.

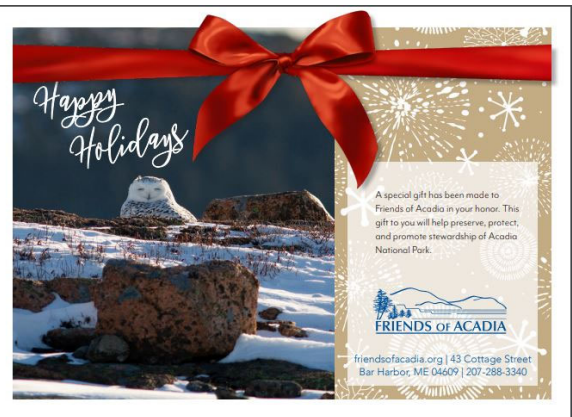
Fingers crossed for good snow and cold temps in January when grooming is anticipated to begin. Please check the Friends of Acadia [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for grooming updates as the season gets underway. Use the hashtag #SkiAcadia to share your conditions reports. Happy trails!



## Gifts for Those Who Love Acadia

**Give a Gift Membership:** When you [give a gift membership now](#), your loved one will be welcomed into Friends of Acadia's family of dedicated individuals committed to preserving and protecting the magnificent natural and cultural resources of Acadia National Park.

**Tribute Gifts:** Honor someone special this holiday season with a [Tribute Gift](#) to Friends of Acadia. We'll let your honoree, or their family, know about your thoughtful contribution. We also offer E-cards with various themes and messages to show your Acadia love. [Click here](#) to give a Tribute Gift now.



**Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs):** We have recently seen an increase in members using qualified charitable distributions from their IRA to support the mission of Friends of Acadia. Making this distribution directly to FOA can be a tax-smart way for you to make charitable gifts to Friends of Acadia. Contact your financial advisor or [Lisa Horsch Clark](#) before Dec. 31st for more details.

Giving a [gift membership](#) or making a [tribute gift](#) this holiday season? Don't forget to print out or email a complimentary gift card from our website. [Click here](#) to see all the designs.

## Seasonal Closures

Most of the Park Loop Road is now closed until the spring, but remains open to winter activities, such as walking, cross-country skiing, biking, and snowmobiling.





The Park Loop Road will remain open to motor vehicles between Jordan Pond Road in Seal Harbor and the Jordan Pond parking lot and between Schooner Head Road and Otter Cliffs Road in Bar Harbor.



When visiting Acadia in winter, being prepared for cold weather, early darkness, and icy conditions will help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

Visit the [park website](#) to see the most up-to-date information on closures.

## Seasonal Positions in Acadia

We'll soon begin to post seasonal job openings for 2024. There are a variety of ways to work with Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park during the summer and fall, from serving as a Summit Steward, as a Recreation Technician, or on the Stewardship Crew. If you know someone who may be interested in joining us for the season, please spread the word and [keep an eye on our website for job openings](#).



Acadia National Park is also hiring seasonal staff for 2024; visit the [park website](#) to see all open positions and to learn about [upcoming \(and free\) federal resume workshops](#).



## Stories of Acadia:

[Wild Turkey Appreciation](#)

[Heavy Lifting: Moving heavy rock is a big part of building and maintaining trails in Acadia](#)

[How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maple Spring?](#)

[Border Crossing: Collaboration Is a Smart Strategy To Address the Threats of Invasive Plants and Insects](#)

## In Case You Missed It:

[National Park Service selects Acadia by Carriage, LLC to operate Wildwood Stables](#)

[Mark Your Calendars for Fee-Free Days in 2024](#)

Header Photo: Ice crystals and snow blanket trees off the Sargent East Cliffs Trail. (Photo by Ashley L. Conti/Friends of Acadia)



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