



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Alaska's National Parks News Release

September 18, 2009

For Immediate Release

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Help Us Make America's Best Idea Even Better! Join Alaska's Parks on September 26 for a Day of Service and Celebration

Be part of an unprecedented event on September 26 when the national park units in Alaska and national parks across the country invite you to make America's Best Idea – the national parks – even better. Presented by the National Park Service and National Park Foundation, it will be a special day of service and celebration for visitors and volunteers to experience their parks and catch a sneak preview of Ken Burns's new documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* premiering on PBS on September 27.

"We are excited about the opportunity to greet old friends and welcome new visitors to explain how our parks are part of America's Best Idea," said NPS-Alaska Regional Director Sue Masica. "Making that best idea even better is our goal and one we can only accomplish with the support of our visitors, volunteers, and partners."

Alaska parks are offering a mix of volunteer events, open houses, and previews of the PBS series.

At Denali National Park, volunteers will perform trail maintenance, including trimming away vegetation away from the trails in Denali's front country area. Registration is required so that there are adequate tools for volunteers. Volunteers using the tools must be 18 years or older. Contact Ryan Buerkle at 907.683-6419 or Ryan_Buerkle@NPS.GOV.

In Seward, from noon to 6 pm., Kenai Fjords National Park will be represented at a booth at the Seward Music and Arts Festival. They'll be running a Junior Ranger programs for youth, and will preview the upcoming Ken Burns documentary and a Junior Ranger program.

From 9 a.m. to noon in Skagway, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park will join with the Taiya Inlet Watershed Council and the Skagway Traditional Council to sponsor clean-ups on local trails and waterways as a part of National Public Lands Day and International Coastal Clean-Up Day. After the clean-up projects, free snacks can be enjoyed while watching a preview of "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" shown at noon at the park visitor center.

These examples of Alaska park events are just three of many occurring in the national parks across the country. The nationwide program is cosponsored by the National Park Foundation (www.nationalparks.org), the National Park Service's Congressionally-chartered philanthropic

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Partner. See <http://www.nps.gov/september26/> for more information and a link to individual park and state-by-state listings.

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