

2026 SRC Interpretation, Education, and Public Affairs Updates

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Visitor Services & Interpretation -

The Copper Center Visitor Center, Kennecott Visitor Center, and the Slana Ranger Station were open this year. Chitina Ranger Station was only open 2 days per week, staffing permitting. We are down about ~11% in visitation and have seen about 47,000 contacts made in the Visitor Centers as of mid-August. Through our visitor services we issued federal subsistence hunting, fishing and Off-Road vehicle permits. This summer and fall we have issued over 500 permits to local rural residents of the park.



Ranger staff at Headquarters Visitor Center



Ranger-led Talk at the Kennecott Visitor Center

Throughout the summer over 6,000 people attended a formal ranger-led program and were provided information to connect more deeply with the resources of the park. From porch talks at the Kennecott National Historic Landmark to Boreal Forest Hikes, rangers put together creative and engaging programs!

Education Program:

This past year through our education and outreach program, we were able to get more involved with the school and at community outreach events. This year we visited K-3rd grade classrooms to provide a Read with a Ranger and art activity, to learn about the importance of forests to the ecosystem. There were other outreach events like Copper Basin Library programs, Ahtna Annual Event, Sea Week and the Yakutat Tern Festival, Gulkana Airport Day, Junior Angler Events, Kenny Lake Book Fair and parades to celebrate American 250 over the fourth of July. Reaching out to the communities around the park, helped to fulfill a new Secretary's Order #3434 "Strengthening Coordination with Gateway Communities."



Reading with a Ranger Program at the Glennallen School and Truffula trees activity.



The 2026 Chosen Frozen Event.

We also held some educational events here on campus, like the Chosen Frozen Event for middle school students that took place in March 2026, an Earth Discovery Event for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade in May, and a family Winter Fun Day. These programs were facilitated in partnership with the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE), Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, and Copper River Watershed Project.



YCC at the Kenny Lake Book Camp weed-pull.

Youth Internships and Employment

Each summer the park recruits for youth workers for the local area to work, learn, develop and grow. This year 5 youth workers between the ages of 16-18 participated in Wrangell's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program, all of whom reside in the Copper Basin for a significant portion of the year. They learned about outdoor leadership, gained trail building skills and assisted with facility management projects. The Ahtna Youth Internship (AYI) program that runs through an agreement that supports the Cultural Center operation.

Relief Map Project

The park continues to work through the tribal consultations where we can seek input into park projects, setting aside time for community stakeholders and park managers come together to talk and exchange ideas. This past spring we hosted an in-person workshop in Copper Center was held to share ideas on a new relief map display at the Visitor Center.



Tribal Consultation on the Park's Relief Map Project.

Getting the Word out about WRST – Locally and Globally

The I&E Team maintained social media platforms, the WRST website, and the NPS App in addition to sending targeted emails to local stakeholders through the shared information request email. There is a Public Affairs Working group that sends out the official News Releases for the park. If you want to get on the mailing list please email wrst_public_affairs@nps.gov to join the "Local Listserv!" -Interested in knowing what's going on in the park? Follow us on our digital media platforms:

Park Website: www.nps.gov/wrst

Facebook: facebook.com/WrangellStEliasNPP

Twitter: twitter.com/WrangellStENPS

Instagram: instagram.com/wrangellstenps

Flickr: flickr.com/photos/wrst

YouTube: youtube.com/user/WrangellNPS

Public Affairs & Media Engagement

Wrangell has distributed more than a dozen news releases on subjects ranging from operational updates on trails, to successful law enforcement action, to subsistence related updates and meeting notifications, to wildland fire fuels management work, to commercial use opportunities.

Job & Internship Opportunities Coming in 2027

- New Process for Local Hire announcements through USA Jobs (www.usajobs.gov). There are also new application procedures and resume restrictions.
 - Resumes Limited to 2-pages
 - List Position Title(s) with Specific Dates (Month/Year) for Past Jobs Held
 - Highlight Specialized Experience
 - Check USAjobs.gov for Other Resume Restrictions/Tips
- There are plenty of youth work experience to be had through Fish and Feathers internship, Scientist-In-Parks, Student Conversation Association, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission,, Copper River Watershed Project, Ahtna Youth Internship Program, & YETI through Cooper River Native Association.