

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner



Department of
Natural Resources

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Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: December 26, 2018

First Day Hikes planned in Anchorage, Big Delta, Homer, Southeast

(Anchorage, AK) – Alaska State Parks encourages Alaskans to celebrate the New Year by enjoying the great outdoors in one of six hike/ski excursions hosted by Parks staff and local volunteer groups in Anchorage, Big Delta, Homer, Sitka, Ketchikan and Juneau, on or around New Year's Day.

The free, guided events listed below are part of the national "First Day Hikes" initiative (<http://www.stateparks.org/initiatives-special-programs/first-day-hikes/>) sponsored by state park systems throughout the United States.

Two-mile guided interpretive hike in Chugach State Park, Anchorage

Date/time: Saturday, Jan. 5, 5 p.m.

Location: Glen Alps Trailhead

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum Age: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: Please leave your dogs at home for this hike

What to bring: hiking gear including ice-grippers, and plenty of warm layers. Hot chocolate in the parking lot afterwards!

Cancellation Information: Joe, at 907-748-4751

One-mile roundtrip hike, ski or snowshoe in the Quartz Lake State Recreation Area, Big Delta

Date/time: Tuesday, Jan. 1, 12 p.m.

Location: Meet and sign in at the Quartz Lake cabin. The Quartz Lake State Recreation Area is 10 miles north of Delta Junction and is reached by a three-mile road at Mile 277.8 of the Richardson Highway. Follow the signs to the boat ramp and park in the parking lot adjacent to the Glatfelder Trailhead. From there the group will ski, hike, or snowshoe to the historic Glatfelder log cabin.

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum age: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: Well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome

What to bring: Water, a snack to share afterward, snowshoes/skis/warm hiking boots and appropriate clothing

Cancellation information: Northern Region State Parks Office, at 907-451-2698

Three-mile roundtrip hike, ski or snowshoe in the Eveline State Recreation Site, Homer

Date/time: Tuesday, Jan. 1, 12 p.m.

Location: Meet at the Eveline State Recreation Area parking lot. From the intersection of East End Road and Lake Street in Homer, travel east along East End Road for 13.4 miles, where you will turn left onto Alpine Meadows Drive (1.1 miles past McNeil Canyon School). Travel north along Alpine Meadows Drive for 0.4 miles to Eveline State Recreation Area trailhead on the left.

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum Age: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: Please leave your dogs at home for this hike

What to bring: Skis/snowshoes/warm hiking boots (depending on conditions), water bottle

Cancellation Information: Willy, at 907-299-6226

One-and-a-half to three-mile loop hike on Mosquito Cove trail in Old Sitka State Historical Park, Sitka

Date/time: Tuesday, Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Mosquito Cove trailhead parking lot in Old Sitka State Historical Park. Drive north out the road past the ferry terminal. Five miles from town, stop at the sign that says "End" - as that is the end of the road. Just before that sign, take a left into the Bay Side campground, take an immediate right, then go halfway around the loop. On the right, the first parking space with a trailhead sign is the beginning of the Mosquito Cove loop trail.

Difficulty: Moderate

Minimum Age: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: None

What to bring: Weather appropriate gear, water bottle

Cancellation Information: Jeff, at 907-747-4821

Half-mile loop hike on Lunch Falls Loop Trail in the Settlers Cove State Recreation Site, Ketchikan

Date/time: Tuesday, Jan. 1, 11 a.m.

Location: Meet at the parking area at Campground Picnic Shelter on Lunch Falls Loop trailhead. Hike will end at the Settlers Cove Public Use Cabin where there will be

refreshments, S'mores for kids and a campfire to warm you up after your winter hike. Please park in the upper day-use parking lot and walk down to meeting location.

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum Age: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: Well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome

What to bring: Dress for weather. Bring binoculars if interested in birding – local bird expert will be there to answer questions. Naturalist will be available to answer questions and State Park staff will be on hand to talk about current and future improvements to Settlers Cove State Recreation Site. If snow prevents access to Settlers Cove, the alternate location will be Refuge Cove State Recreation Site.

Cancellation Information: Aaron, at 907-247-8574

One-mile loop hike/ski in the Eagle Beach State Recreation Area, Juneau

Date/time: Saturday Dec. 29, 2 p.m.

Location: Meet at the main parking lot of Eagle Beach State Recreation Area next to the ranger station

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum Age: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: Well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome

What to bring: Snacks, water, weather-appropriate clothing

Cancellation Information: Brad, at 907-465-2483

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Media Contact: Darcy Harris, 907-269-8699, darcy.harris@alaska.gov

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