

America's State Parks Western Conference

Girdwood, Alaska~ May 4-8, 2026

Alyeska Resort 401 E 6th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501

Monday, May 4

8:00 am to 4:00 pm	Pre-conference activities
12:00 noon	Vendor set up begins
4:00 pm	Check-in and Registration begins
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Director's Meeting
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Vendor Reception open- Drinks and Light Appetizers

Tuesday, May 5

7: 30 am to 9:30 am	Conference Registration and Breakfast – Alyeska Resort café opens at 7:00 / coffee in rooms
8:00 am to 9:00 am	Welcome- DNR Leadership, NASPD Leadership, TBD Matt Wedeking, Ian Thomas Thank you to our sponsors, housekeeping
9:00 to 9:45 am	Keynote- Jen Cureton, Canadian Parks Council: Philanthropy in Parks: Meaningful Connections & Powerful Partnerships
9:45 am to 10:15 am	Break- vendor meet and greet -Sponsor intro
10:15 am to 11:00 am	Unique Partnership Opportunities in Alaskan Land Management: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) / Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA): –Jim Walker
11:00 to 12:00	Panel: The Power of Partnerships to Accomplish Objectives (Jen Cureton-Host) Share overview and benefit of a variety of unique partnerships, Alaska State Parks partners: Panel with Claire Leclair, Chugach Park Fund; Ryan Thomas, Greatland Trust; TBD- Aspira; TBD -Placeholder
12:00 to 1:00	Alyeska Lunch- Sponsored by Tyler Tech Grab extra layers for the rest of the day, and head to bus
1:15 pm	Motor-coaches-pick up (Lunch on bus) depart to Eklutna
2:30 pm	Arrive at Eklutna (Chugach State Park) / Eagle River Campground (Swap ½ group at a time) Pete Panarese -former Chugach state Parks Superintendent; TBD- Placeholder

4:15 pm	Transport to Williwaw
5:00 pm	Williwaw: Dinner at Williwaw meet ASP Staff, presentation by Sponsor- BRANDT
7:00 pm	Motor-coaches depart for Hotel via- BORETIDE
Wednesday, May 6	
7:30 am to 9:30 am	Breakfast at Alyeska Resort
8:00 am to 9:15 am	The Staircase of Stewardship: Growing the Next Generation of Park Stewards <i>Hosted by Ky Harkey -The Visitor Experience; Sarah Webber- AZ State Parks; Chris Padgett, TN State Parks; Meredith Gutierrez. Anchorage Park Foundation -YEP Program; Shawna Popovici, Manager of Interpretation- Alaska State Parks; Judy Caminer, Chugach Park Fund</i>
9:15 am to 9:30 am	Vendor break
9:30 am to 10:30 am	Maximizing Revenue for our Parks: Creative Strategies <i>Matt Wedeking: Hiring, Recruiting and Maintaining staff; KJ Shah- Kaizen: Generating Revenue with Reservation partners, Nikki Potter: Managing an effective Permitting team</i>
10:30 am to 11:00	Break
11:00 to 12 noon	Partnering with the Federal Government to Accomplish Objectives <i>Rys Miranda, ASP Design & Construction; Sarah Meitl, ASP Office of History & Archaeology; Danette Berkovitz, ASP Grants Manager</i>
12:30 pm	Depart for Wildlife Center
1:00 pm	Lunch at Wildlife Center- begins with presentation by SPONSOR: Kaizen LUNCH: Alaska Regional Highlights Superintendents (Regional Managers) highlight their region for 10 minutes each
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Walk around Wildlife Center**Time with bear feeding schedule
4:30 pm	Motor-coaches depart for Girdwood VISIT Portage -Stop at Girdwood Brewing
6:00 pm	Dinner on own at Girdwood Brewing Company (food truck options)
8:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Coaches to Alyeska Resort
Thursday, May 7	
7:30 am to 9:30 am	Breakfast at Alyeska Resort
8:00 am to 9:00 am	Building Standards utilizing our SCORP as a guide: how states are doing this (RICKY)
9:00 am to 10:15 am	SCORP and LWCF Data: what mobility data are we using (RICKY)
10:15 am to 10:45 am	Break (coffee service)

11:00 am

SESSION- SCORP Workshop

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Lunch at Alyeska Sponsor CAMIS

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

SESSION- SCORP Workshop Continued

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Free time

4:30 pm

Reception – sponsor

5:30 pm

Closing Awards Dinner at Alyeska - Sponsor ASPIRA

8:00 pm

Friday, May 8

SAFE TRAVEL HOME!