

Chugach State Park – Friends of the Chugach Avalanche Center
*****APPLICATION and OUTREACH NOTICE*****

Avalanche Specialist

Position: Avalanche Specialist

Seasonal, mid-Nov through mid-Apr (40 hrs/wk)

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Compensation: \$25/hour

plus mileage reimbursement and gear stipend

The Chugach State Park and Friends of the Chugach Avalanche Center will soon be filling an avalanche specialist position. This is a seasonal appointment, under the Chugach State Park, with a guaranteed 5-month tour in Anchorage, AK. The position will work in conjunction with the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Center. This notification and application information is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of the upcoming opportunity.



Position Description:

To provide avalanche information for high use areas of the Chugach State Park in an effort to assist recreationalists in making informed and safe backcountry travel decisions. Areas include the Anchorage Front Range (i.e., Flattop/Glen Alps) and the South Fork of Eagle River. The specialist will compose a weekend avalanche outlook containing a synopsis of the past week's weather and avalanche conditions, current conditions, and expected weather and avalanche concerns. The outlook's primary audience will be winter hikers, backcountry skiers/snowboarders, snowmachiners, snowshoers, fat bikers, and climbers. Field data will be collected 2-3 days per week followed by a comprehensive observation available to the public. Avalanche accident investigations will be done when needed as directed by Chugach State Park.

Responsibilities include:

- Issuance of a weekend avalanche outlook for the mountains near Anchorage
- Issuance of 2-3 field observations/week
- Assist with issuing avalanche warnings through the National Weather Service
- Safely conduct avalanche investigations when needed
- Safely conduct regular fieldwork in avalanche terrain
- Interpret National Weather Service products to forecast weather conditions
- Update databases with avalanche, weather and other pertinent information
- Update social media outlets with avalanche and weather information
- May be asked to conduct interviews with local media (TV, radio, newspapers)
- Interface with avalanche professionals in the community and emergency service organizations

The candidate should possess the following experience, knowledge, and skills:

- Strong background and training in snowpack assessment, avalanche hazard evaluation, and companion rescue
- Professional 1 avalanche training required. However, professional 2 avalanche training, Level 3, or Canadian equivalent preferred
- Excellent backcountry skiing skills in steep complex terrain
- Strong written communication and public speaking skills
- Knowledge of mountain weather and weather forecasting using computer models

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

Field: Field work will be performed outdoors in a mountainous winter environment a minimum of two days/week. Travel will include accessing job sites predominantly via backcountry skis or occasionally on snowmobile, often through avalanche terrain. A minimum of one field partner will be required per the safety operations plan. This would be either a volunteer or CSP/Chugach NF Avalanche Center employee.

Office: A minimum of two written field reports and one weekend outlook will be required per week. Additionally, updating weather and avalanche databases, social media postings, and communicating with regional avalanche professionals will comprise the majority of office time.

APPLICATION NOTICE

Chugach State Park
Friends of the Chugach Avalanche Center

Respond by: **August 25, 2023**

Position Title: Avalanche Specialist
Duty Station: Anchorage (Potter March), Alaska

Primary Contact: Wendy Wagner (on behalf of Ben Corwin, Park Superintendent - Chugach Region and the Friends of the Chugach Avalanche Center)

Email: __wendy@chugachavalanche.org__ phone: 907-229-9060 _____

TO APPLY: send the following to staff@chugachavalanche.org

- Name and phone number
- Cover Letter including:
 - A description of your interest and qualifications in this position
- Current resume
- Minimum of three professional references