



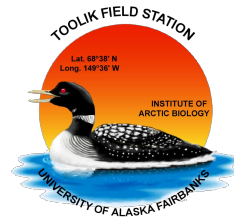
Toolik Field Station

Steering Committee – January 26, 2024



2024 Operations Overview

What to expect?



- Town Hall - March 8th
- Summer reservations due March 31st
- TFS rate increase in 2024 to \$124/night
- Logistics and transportation to operate as in 2023:
 - North and south trucks will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly.
 - Dalton Highway Express will run north on Fridays and south on Saturdays during June-July peak.
 - Arrival days to the station are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Other arrival days should be coordinated with the station manager.



COVID



- Similar model to 2023, modest changes.
- Before traveling, individuals will need to provide proof of 2 negative rapid antigen tests
 - 1 test will occur 2 days before the individual is scheduled to drive up to Toolik
 - 1 test will occur the day before departure
- Pre-departure test results will be collected via the same Google Form used in 2023
- Residents will also undergo a rapid antigen test on their 5th day at the station



COVID



- **Projects are responsible for furnishing all COVID antigen tests**
 - Same as last year, we also require 2 surplus tests for emergency testing purposes in the event of an outbreak
 - Projects must furnish 5 total antigen tests per person per unique reservation
- **Vaccines (or exemptions) are still required**
 - Vaccine/exemption attestations will be collected by the pre-departure Form
- **Residents are encouraged to wear a face mask for their first 7 days at the station but will be able to go about their business normally**



COVID



- Station housing assignments will attempt to separate new arrivals from established residents, but this will not always be possible.
- Should a station resident contract COVID-19 at Toolik they will isolate in their room and be monitored until they can be cleared in accordance with current CDC guidance - no more "sick bays"
 - Management will attempt to relocate roommates, but this may not always be possible depending on the population level
- Those who have been in close contact with a confirmed COVID case may be subject to additional testing requirements and distancing procedures



COVID

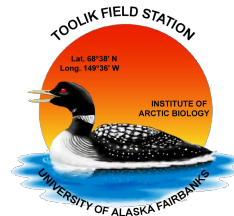


Our focus remains one of personal responsibility:

- Travellers should be aware of the risks of COVID-19 during travel and protect themselves as such (ie. wear a mask during travel, avoid large gatherings)
- Understand that there is always a possibility that COVID-19 could enter Toolik at any time
- Adjust your plans in the week leading up to your scheduled travel date – just because there isn't a quarantine doesn't mean you shouldn't practice social distancing and isolation



Facility Upgrades

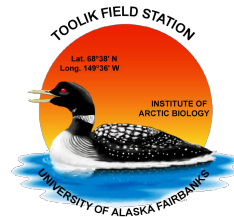


Tower holding tank replacement

- This season we will see the replacement of the tower holding tanks closest to the WeatherPorts as well as an upgrade to this tower facility
- This tower will remain out of order until upgrades are completed.
- Expected completion by the end of the Polar Field Services spring campaign, ~June 6.



Facility Upgrades



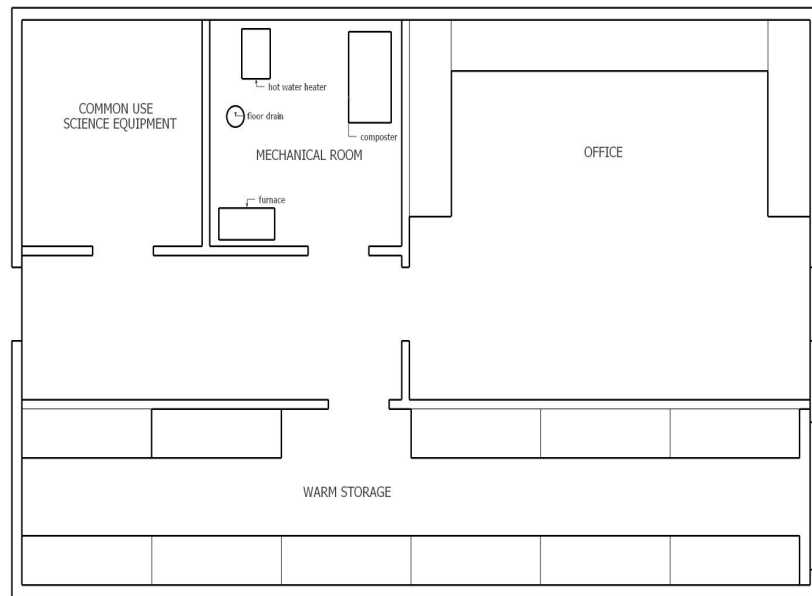
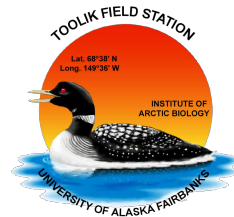
Central waste tank replacement:

- The central holding tank for the dining facility will also be replaced in 2024 with an expected completion of mid-September.
- Major construction effort throughout August – September
 - Impact the flow of both vehicle and foot traffic around the construction site
- Dining hall water conservation during construction
- Road closures to all traffic:
 - Directly to the west of the dining facility near the community center front door between the old location of the tool trailer and old tire shop/composter shed



Shower Module Revitalization

Planning is underway to repurpose the old shower module as a shared community resource including hosting common use equipment, office space, and warm storage.



Field Courses

- **Alaska Songbird Institute's North for Science**
 - half day visit to Toolik
 - 8-10 middle schoolers
 - Early June
- **UAF Summer Sessions Painting in the Arctic**
 - 6 day art course, led by Klara Maisch
 - 10 adult students + 2 instructors
 - June 13-20
- **UAF Climate Scholars**
 - 3 day field trip, learning history of the pipeline & oil extraction
 - 14 undergraduate students + instructors
 - Aug 12-15
- **OSU Upward Bound**
 - 5 day field trip on Arctic climate change
 - Funded by Battelle & Dept. of Ed.
 - 12 high school students + 6 instructors/chaperones
 - Aug 15-20

For beginners and beyond- an art adventure at Toolik Field Station

Painting in the Arctic with Klara Maisch

June 13 – 20

This six-day class (with a travel day on each end) takes place at Toolik Field Station (TFS), UAF's remote research station 370 miles north of Fairbanks. The course aims to develop or strengthen an observational-based landscape painting practice using oil or acrylic paint (watercolor is also an option if you have previous experience). There will be structured painting demos, as well as ample time to create at least two landscape paintings on location. All experience levels are welcome. Please check the web listing for more information.



Klara Maisch documents landscape change in oil paintings created on location. She skis with paintbrushes, stores paint in bear barrels, and backpacks with stretcher bars. Klara also works as a wilderness guide for Arctic Wild and has previously instructed for Inspiring Girls Expeditions. See Klara's process and work at klaramaisch.com



\$2,400

includes: roundtrip ground transportation from Fairbanks to TFS, lodging, meals, and six days of instruction in a remote, breathtaking location. Register now for this once-in-a-lifetime trip!

Read more and Sign up at:

uaf.edu/summer/travel/upcoming.php



Summer Sessions @ UAF Summer@alaska.edu || (907) 474-7021

Spatial & Environmental Data Center



- Normal operations
 - Including remote access
 - Last year we supported 45 projects for more than 1500 hours.
 - Baseline measurements
 - Field Support
 - Drone & GPS Surveys
- Staffing
 - Hiring new GIS & RS Analyst
- Moving the Science SCUA to a larger CONEX
 - Ability to organize donations and provide additional support.
- Discussion topic
 - Requests for night sky friendly station
 - Drone imagery release - embargo period



Website and myToolik



- myToolik
 - Please use the SRS system for all operational requests - for Maintenance, Logistics, dry ice, shipping, remote access, etc.
 - Project profile updates
 - Personal profiles
- Forthcoming
 - Orientation slideshow
 - Guide for international researchers
- Continuing
 - [COVID statistics](#)
 - Updated 2024 [Support](#) & [COVID](#) FAQs
 - Creating a Community of Respect [resource & training list](#)



Logistics

- The Logistics Department worked hard to ensure the 2023 season was a success for staff and users, keeping trucks on the road and supplies moving north and south.
- Maintained freight hauling, procuring supplies, scheduling and maintaining vehicles, and supporting COVID mitigation measures
- Managed the truck schedules to ensure users, staff, and samples and cargo arrived at the right place and on time.
- Shipped many samples and scientific equipment with varying degrees of special handling requirements

