



Toolik Field Station 2026 Town Hall Q&A

General Operations

Can I reserve a spot for a potential team member now and cancel later, or transfer it to another person if needed?

Yes, you can always make reservations now and cancel or change them later. We don't charge any cancellation or change fees.

When should I expect to receive the invoice for my reservation at Toolik?

Toolik Field Station bills monthly and will send an invoice after your stay is done. If you need an invoice by a specific date, reach out to our business department, which can attempt to meet your needed timeline. Email them at UAF-Toolik-Business@alaska.edu.

If the isotope lab trailer is being demolished, what space can be used for natural abundance isotope work?

Lab 7 is now our isotope-free facility. If your project needs a space for processing isotopic natural abundance samples, please reach out to Amanda Young directly at ayoung55@alaska.edu. She will ensure you are placed in Lab 7 and can tell you where enriched isotopes have been used in the past.

We need a field assistant to drive us to different sites. Is this included in the user day fee or does it require an additional payment?

Please coordinate with station staff to see whether this is possible. Depending on the distance and length of time, this may be considered a remote access/field assistance request and incur associated charges.

Do you have an estimate for the 2027 user day rate?

We don't have an estimate yet. We advise that projects budget a 2-4% increase per year, though it may be slightly more or less in some years.

Transportation

Do we need to set up a new fuel account every year for a multiyear project?

You'll need to request one each year, but we'll try to ensure you have the same code for the length of your project.

Do we need to fill out driver forms each year for people returning on a multi-year project?

Yes, both UAF and Battelle/NSF require that their driving forms be completed annually.

When does the "peak season" truck schedule start?

We regularly schedule vehicles on both Tuesdays and Thursdays in May through September. We schedule supplementary NATC shuttles in the "peak season," depending on reservations and demand. In previous seasons, the demand has been in June, late July, and early August. This season's dates are TBD as we see reservations roll in.

Spatial & Environmental Data Center

When will the EDC building be demolished? Herbarium is very useful! I will use the herbarium in 2026.

The old EDC trailer will likely be demolished in the spring. But it depends on when we can move the Herbarium. We are committed to keeping the Herbarium open and available this season. The new EDC is located in the old shower module, across from Lab 6.

How many staff members will GIS have this year?

GIS will have four staff members this summer (manager, analyst, and two season technicians), which is the same as last year.

Do projects get 16 free hours of support from both the EDC and GIS?

Yes, projects can request 16 free hours per year each from EDC and GIS, provided they spend at least 5 user days at the station.

Does travel time count as SEDC remote access/field assistance hours?

Yes, travel time is counted in total hours for any remote access/field assistance request. We also count prep time if we need to print data sheets or track down supplies.

Can the SEDC provide remote access/field assistance south of Atigun Pass?

In general, no. But we will consider special requests. Contact SEDC manager Amanda Young at ayoung55@alaska.edu.

Safety

Can Toolik pick up prescriptions at a pharmacy in Fairbanks?

Yes, Logistics staff can help with picking up prescriptions.

How can one be authorized to use watercraft on Toolik Lake?

You will need to complete a boating safety training with the on-site EMT. The training will last under an hour and can be scheduled during working hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.). Speak with the on-site EMT upon arrival at the station to schedule your training.

In Alaska, are Wilderness First Responders allowed to carry epinephrine auto-injectors (i.e., epi pens) for administration in an emergency?

If you have an allergy and typically carry an epi pen, we advise you to bring it with you and to let your team members know that you have one.

In general, Wilderness First Responders can obtain and administer epi pens as per Alaska Statutes [AS 17.22.010](#) and [17.22.020](#). Those who are WFR-certified can obtain a prescription by presenting their certification card to a physician and referring to the two statutes. In some cases, you may also need to show the prescribing physician, PA, or nurse practitioner a copy of the certification program's approval letter from the state.

Should the lab shoes be different from the ones to use outside? I mean, should they be indoor-only shoes?

Yes, your lab shoes should be clean and used only indoors at the station. All labs require closed-toed shoes, in accordance with UAF Lab Safety requirements.

How can we manage any potential new clutter that comes with needing a separate set of lab shoes? Many entryways to labs easily become messy with so many shoes along with some old stored shoes.

If your project is a long-term project at the station and you know what shoes are no longer in use, please retire them to the SCUA or Community Gear Closet. We can also work on getting additional cubbies in the entryways of labs for better organization.

Still have questions?

Help! I have a question about...

- In-station illness mitigation
- Boat, snowmachine, or bear safety
- Medical accommodations & concerns

- Transportation to & from the station
- Shipping (including hazardous materials)
- Expediting
- Temporary temperature-sensitive storage on UAF campus

- Fuel account
- Billing information

Please contact:

Safety
uaf-toolik-safety@alaska.edu
UAF tel: 907-474-2457

Fairbanks Logistics Department
uaf-iab-tfs-logistics@alaska.edu
UAF tel: 907-474-5159

Toolik Business Office
uaf-toolik-business@alaska.edu
UAF tel: 907-474-7837

- Reservations
- Room assignments
- Food allergies
- Fueling
- Storage
- Safety concerns
- Hazmat disposal

- Remote access
- Field assistance
- Field & lab equipment reservations
- Lab space
- Research permits
- Field & lab-based technical support
- Baseline data

- GIS support
- Spatial data collection or analysis
- Site selection
- Research permits
- Maps
- Drones, kites, any other aerial platforms

- Field & station-based technical support
- Gear & equipment repairs
- Research tool fabrication and design
- Snowmachine access

- Outreach
- Field courses
- Code of Conduct/Title IX policy
- Items for quarterly newsletter
- Science communication support
- Community support

- Letters of support for grant proposals
- Other inquiries regarding TFS mission & operations

Station Operations

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Spatial & Environmental Data Center

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TFS Management Team

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