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YUKON  
ARTS CENTRE

## Call for Submissions

### Chilkoot Trail Artist Residency Program 2012 “The Artists’ Journey”

Together, the Yukon Arts Centre, Parks Canada and the US National Park Service are seeking submissions for 2 visual artists – one from Canada and one from the United States to participate in an international creative journey within the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, Alaska and the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site, British Columbia.

#### **Creating Connections through Art**

Artist in residence programs have an enduring history with Canada’s national parks and national historic sites. Their roots go back to the 1880’s when Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) saw art as an inspirational means to promote mountain tourism and western settlement. CPR provided travel, lodging and other benefits to artists who came to the Rockies to paint and photograph mountain landscapes. Artists such as John Fraser, Frederick M Bell Smith, and Thomas Martin Mower primarily used water colour to paint picturesque, romantic views that reflected the scale and grandeur of Canadian landscapes. Banff and other mountain parks continued to draw artists and photographers throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. With the inception of the Banff School of Fine Arts in 1935 Banff National Park became a magnet for artists from across Canada.

The Group of Seven were artists, who were committed to exploring the unique character of the Canadian landscape. They developed a unique painting style that broke with English tradition. Two of the Group Of Seven , Jackson and Harris, taught at the Banff School of fine Arts and two other members painted in the mountain parks. Contemporary artists continue to paint in many of our national parks and historic sites. Their paintings are modern interpretations that capture the mystery and beauty of our protected areas.

Currently Artist in Residence Programs exists in Ivvavik, Gros Morne, Riding Mountain, and Gwaii Haanas National Parks as well as the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site. These programs have been developed to help connect people and Parks Canada’s national parks and historic sites through art. Artists go beyond just making art; they also act as translators, inviting people to share their experiences at these special places through paintings, sculptures, photography or other mediums.

Artists have had a major impact on the creation and development of America's national parks since the beginning of the national park movement. Dramatic nineteenth century paintings of the western landscape raised public consciousness about the natural wonders of the West and helped stimulate interest in their preservation. Public response to Thomas Moran's splendid landscape paintings from the Hayden U.S. Geological Survey of the Yellowstone region in 1871 led directly to the creation of America's first national park.

The residency program holds a joint goal for the US National Park Service and Parks Canada, to build an increased awareness of the Chilkoot Trail, both nationally and internationally. By creating work from their experiences on the Trail, artists can inspire Canadians and Americans to the legacy of the Trail. Local residents, visitors, staff and audiences beyond the site boundaries will have the opportunity to experience the Chilkoot Trail through the eyes of a contemporary artist.

For the Yukon Arts Centre, the residencies are a way of fostering the Yukon's creative and cultural economy by developing programmatic ties with tourism, extending its programs to remote areas of our territory; bringing new and broader audiences into contact with contemporary artists; providing a stimulating working experience for artists; and encouraging art making that explores and even challenges ideas and issues in landscape art. The 2011 Artist in Residency program was situated at Lindeman Lake, British Columbia on the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site. The 2012 international residency will entail a journey starting from Dyea in Alaska and ending at Bennett Lake in British Columbia.

## Chilkoot Trail Artist Residency Program 2012 Call for Submissions:

In 2012 the artists will hike the entire Chilkoot Trail during a 2 week backpacking trip, spending several days at multiple locations. Each artist will be required to provide and carry all of their backpacking gear, food and art supplies for the journey. In order to facilitate the trip each artist may be accompanied by up to a maximum of 2 support people (friends or family) to help share the load and enhance your safety while traveling, camping and working in bear country.

This residency is open to Canadian and American visual artists.

**Deadline:** Feb 3, 2012.

All submissions must be postmarked by this date.

### Application should include

- Artist resume
- Biography for promotional purposes
- 10 – 15 digital images (or other visual support material)
- Image list with complete description of works
- Statement of interest and a description of work to be carried out during the residency. The applicant should also describe why he/she wishes to do the residency, and what particular perspective he/she will bring to the program.
- Brief description of your experience interacting with the public. This could include but is not limited to teaching, presenting artist talks or demonstrations, hosting open studios, or participating in arts and craft fairs.
- A ranking of your preferred time to hike the trail (1-2) As well, please identify times that you are not available.

June 26 – July 10, 2012

July 12 – July 16, 2012

There may be flexibility in the dates (i.e. a few days at either end). You may or may not be offered your first choice.

- A summary of your outdoor experiences in particular: trail hikes, camping, extended backpacking trips, and ability to hike over mountainous terrain (non-technical).

All applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives from the Yukon Art Centre, Parks Canada, US National Park Service and the Skagway Arts Council. Selections will be made within 4 weeks after the deadline.

### Canadian Applicants Mail/courier/deliver your application to:

Yukon Arts Centre

ATT: Mary Bradshaw, Gallery Director

Box 16, 300 College Dr. Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5X9

Tel (867) 667-8485 Fax (867) 393-6300 Email [gallerydirector@yac.ca](mailto:gallerydirector@yac.ca)

### American Applicants Mail/Courier/deliver your application to:

Skagway Arts Council

Attn: Chilkoot Artist in Residence

PO Box 116, Skagway, AK 99840

[chilkootartistprogram@gmail.com](mailto:chilkootartistprogram@gmail.com)

Contact Amanda McCutcheon

Tel [907-983-9243](tel:907-983-9243) Fax [907-983-9249](tel:907-983-9249)

### **Program information**

- The program provides an opportunity for established and aspiring visual artists to pursue their own work amidst the cultural and natural environment of the Chilkoot Trail.
- Artists will be expected to participate in 2 campground programs during their residency (ie exploring your art experience on the Chilkoot Trail), one program on the US and one on the Canadian section of the trail. In addition the artists will provide a short evening presentation in Skagway prior to commencing the hike, and another at the S.S. *Klondike* National Historic Site in Whitehorse shortly after completion of the hike
- The artist may be asked to give media interviews, or to be photographed.
- Artists will sign a photo release form allowing images taken of them during the residency to be used in Parks Canada promotional materials.
- The artists will sign volunteer agreements with Parks Canada and the United States National Park Service.
- The artists will be responsible for obtaining the required international work permits and/or visas.
- Artists are highly recommended to purchase extended health insurance.
- Each artist is expected to provide Parks Canada/Yukon Arts Centre/US National Park Service with: a “Sketch book concept”, (perhaps: Several pages of a journalistic record of your trip – this could be in the form of or a combination of sketches, photos, writing. It is a working record – providing an understanding of the creative process of an artist. This would be accompanied by a brief description (format to be chosen by artist) and will be placed on the Yukon Art Centre, Parks Canada and USNPS websites. This may also be used for information, display and publicity purposes, internal documents, program records and as a reference tool for future exhibitions. This is to be received within 6 months of the residency.
- Each artist is expected to provide Parks Canada/Yukon Arts Centre/US National Parks Service with a high resolution digital image of a finished piece of work that was initiated during the residency, which will be used for information, display and publicity purposes, internal documents, program records and as a reference tool for future exhibitions. This digital image is to be received within one year of the residency.
- Each artist is also expected to provide Parks Canada/Yukon Arts Centre/US National Park Service with digital images and/or a list of finished works produced as a result of the residency.
- Artists will be responsible for providing their own food, hiking/camping equipment and working materials.
- Work must be carried out in a manner that respects the national historic site regulations.
- Residencies will be 2 weeks in duration.

### **Yukon Arts Centre Support**

- \$1000 honorarium per artist
- Management of application and selection process.
- Future exhibition/publication opportunities pending funding.

### **Parks Canada’s Support**

- Hiking permits for the CTNHs (support people included)
- Contact with Parks Canada staff prior to and during the residency
- Train fare from Bennett to Carcross or Fraser for the artists
- Chilkoot Trail Orientation – at the Trail Centre in Skagway
- A bear spray for use on the trail for each artist.
- Use of 1 Parks Canada radio for the group and radio communication training
- Advertising for public programs and logistical support for presentations if required
- Special camping permits for specified camping sites
- Placement of food in caches along the trail
- One night accommodation for the artist in Whitehorse upon completion of the residency ( prior to their presentation at the *SSKlondike*)

**US National Park Service Support**

- One night accommodation in Skagway prior to the start of the trip.
- Chilkoot Trail Orientation – at the Trail Centre in Skagway
- Contact with US National Park Service staff prior to and during the residency
- Advertising for public programs and logistical support for presentations if required.
- Special camping permits for specified camping sites if required

**Skagway Arts Council Support**

- \$300.00 for each artist
- Management of application and selection process.
- Future exhibition/publication opportunities pending funding.

**Please consider the information below to help you decide whether this style of artist in residence program is the right one for you.**

Please use the **Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site Hiker Preparation Guide** as a primary reference for understanding the hiking experience on the Chilkoot Trail. The guide provides you with information on what to expect, equipment required, weather and trail conditions, terrain... (note that several sections will not apply to the artist residency program as it was written for visitors planning to hike the trail.)

Another excellent source of information is [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca) or [www.nps.gov/klgo](http://www.nps.gov/klgo)

See following page for guide

# CHILKOOT TRAIL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

## HIKER PREPARATION GUIDE

**The information in this guide supplements and updates the information on the accompanying map A *Hiker's Guide to the Chilkoot Trail*. Prior to planning your trip, assess your skills and physical fitness level. Do not over estimate your abilities on this challenging hike.**

The United States and Canada officially recognized the Chilkoot Trail as part of the Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park in 1998. The trail is cooperatively managed by the United States National Parks Service and Parks Canada.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

The Chilkoot Trail is isolated, strenuous, physically challenging and potentially hazardous. The trail is also extremely rewarding, providing hikers with spectacular scenery within a unique historical setting.

The Chilkoot Trail traverses rocky, very steep and sometimes snow covered terrain. The trail can be rough with deep mud, standing water, unstable boulders, slick rocks and roots making footing difficult. The portion of the hike from the Scales over Chilkoot Pass is a route not a trail. While the route is marked, extreme weather conditions can complicate route finding. "Crossing the Pass" is the most demanding day. It often takes 12 hours to travel from Sheep Camp to Happy Camp, a distance of only 12.7 km (7.9 miles). Some hikers are challenged by vertigo or by balancing on unstable slippery snow and rocks, as they carry a heavy pack and body weight up to and down from the Pass. Snowfields between the Scales and Happy Camp persist throughout the summer months. Be prepared to camp on snow at Happy Camp until late June/early July.

Mountain weather is highly unpredictable and can change quickly. Regardless of season, hikers can expect wet, cold, windy and/or white-out conditions; severe rain or snow storms are possible even in the middle of summer. Avalanche hazard persists until mid-July.

### WHO SHOULD HIKE THE TRAIL

The Chilkoot should only be attempted by persons who are physically fit and experienced in hiking and backpacking. It should not be attempted by novice hikers. Individuals who have previously injured their ankles, knees or back, or who have chronic pain frequently experience flare-ups while hiking the Chilkoot. To avoid unnecessary problems test your strength and endurance on shorter, less demanding overnight trips prior to hiking the Chilkoot. Hiking with a partner or small group is preferable.

**Families:** This hike is not recommended for young children. Children tend to speed ahead of their parents and frequently end up coping with hazards on their own. Parents should be particularly observant and watch for the onset of hypothermia in their children as well as in themselves. Practise good leadership and teach your family the importance of low impact camping.

**Custodial Groups:** A "custodial group" means a group affiliated with an institution, where at least one person is a minor and not in the company of his/her parent. Guidelines specific to custodial groups hiking the Chilkoot Trail will be provided by Parks Canada.

**Pets:** We recommend you do not take your pets on the trail; however, if you choose to do so pets must be kept on a leash **at all times**.

## HIKING SEASON

Parks Canada and United States National Parks Service staff patrols the trail from early June, when the route over Chilkoot Pass is first marked, until early September. USNPS Rangers are stationed at Sheep Camp and Parks Canada Wardens are stationed at Lindeman City and Chilkoot Pass. This however does not guarantee that someone will be at these locations at all times should you require assistance.

### When to hike

**Early June:** Winter like conditions persist. Travel may be very difficult. Avalanche hazard exists. During this time you will want to cross Chilkoot Pass early in the day to reduce your exposure in avalanche terrain. There will be few other hikers on the trail. Check with the Trail Center for seasonal conditions.

**Mid-June - early July:** Early season backpacking: significant amounts of snow, variable travel conditions. Avalanche hazard persists until mid-July. During this time you will want to cross Chilkoot Pass early in the day to reduce your exposure in avalanche terrain.

**Mid-July - mid-August:** Peak Season: Trail is generally snow free though some snow patches persist. Travel conditions are highly variable and dependant on weather. Peak visitor use occurs during this period.

**Mid-August - late September:** Fall Backpacking: Trail is generally snow free though some snow patches still persist. Weather is wetter; daylight hours are shorter, nights are colder (often below freezing). The route over Chilkoot Pass is not marked after patrol staff leaves the trail in early September.

## HIKING TRIP LOGISTICS

*Plan time to relax and enjoy this historical setting as well as to deal with unforeseen difficulties and delays. Allow ample time before and after your hike to avoid unnecessary conflicts with other travel arrangements.*

**Most backpackers spend between three and five nights on the Trail.** Almost all begin their trek in Dyea and hike north towards Bennett. This option retraces the journey of the stampeders en route to the Klondike goldfields and as most weather systems blow in from the coast, driving rain or heavy winds will tend to be at your back. It is desirable, especially in the early season when avalanche hazard is a concern, to stay in Sheep Camp the night before crossing Chilkoot Pass.

Hiking north to south you will be moving against the predominant flow of hikers and will encounter many more hikers along the trail. Descending the steep incline from the Pass to the Scales, while easier on the respiratory system, places greater stress on knee and ankle joints and puts you at greater risk of losing your footing, falling and possibly injuring yourself.

### ACCESS.

The Chilkoot Trail is accessed from the town of Skagway, Alaska. Skagway is accessible by road from Whitehorse, Yukon, via the South Klondike Highway. During the summer visitor season, there is a bus service between Whitehorse and Skagway. Vehicle rentals are also available in Whitehorse. There is both ferry and commuter air service to Skagway from Juneau, Alaska

### ***Dyea Trailhead***

The Dyea trailhead is a distance of 16 km / 10 miles from Skagway. Access is by all weather dirt road. Overnight parking is available in Dyea at the National Parks Service campground located 1 km / ½ mile from the trailhead. There are a number of private shuttles that provide transport from Skagway to the trailhead at Dyea. While these

services are reliably available, individual operators vary from season to season and specific contact information is not available until the onset of the summer hiking season. Contact information for these services is available at the Trail Centre.

### Log Cabin Access/Egress

#### Cut Off Trail Seasonal Closure

The **Cut Off Trail is closed between May 1 and November 30. During this time travel on it is prohibited** and you may be charged with an **offence under the *Canada National Parks Act*** if you are found travelling on the Cut Off Trail. The trail is **no longer maintained and a bridge has been removed**. Reduced sightlines due to **vegetation re-growth increases the risk of a surprise bear encounter**

Using the **WP&YR railway right of way and tracks** to get to or from the Chilkoot Trail is **trespassing and illegal under the *Railway Safety Act***. Travelling on the railway right of way is dangerous there is a risk of being hit by a train or other railway equipment. If you do so it is entirely at your own discretion and you accept any and all risks absolutely and **Parks Canada Agency is not liable to you whatsoever**.

### Bennett Trailhead

There is a primitive campground at Bennett, but there are no other tourist services. **There is no road access to Bennett**. Your exit options are train, or for those returning to Whitehorse, floatplane. There is no phone or cell phone service at Bennett. **All post-hike travel arrangements must be made prior to starting the trail**. Contact carriers directly:

### White Pass & Yukon Route

[www.wpyr.com](http://www.wpyr.com)  
1-800-343-7373

### Alpine Aviation

[www.alpineaviationyukon.com](http://www.alpineaviationyukon.com)  
1-867-668-7725



### BORDER CROSSING INFORMATION

The Chilkoot Trail crosses the international boundary between the United States and Canada. Full compliance with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative went into effect June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and requires U.S. and Canadian citizens to present one of the following documents for entry into the United States by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, or Bermuda.

**US/Canadian Citizens:** US Passport Card, Enhanced Driver's License, US or Canadian passport, or a Trusted Traveler Program card issued by US Customs and Border Protection.

**Landed Immigrants:** Passport from their native country with U.S. Visa, if required.

**Resident Aliens:** Permanent Resident Card

**Other Nationalities:** Passport (and Canadian and/or U.S. Visas, if required)

**Children:** US and Canadian citizens under the age of 16, or under the age of 19 if traveling with a school, religious, or other youth group, may present a birth certificate, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Canadian Citizenship Card, or a naturalization certificate. Birth certificates can be an original, photocopy, or certified copy.

**if accompanied by both parents:** birth certificate

**if accompanied by one parent:** birth certificate *and* notarized letter of authorization from absent parent

**if neither parent is present:** birth certificate *and* letter of authorization from parent/legal guardian

### **Northbound Hikers**

All hikers traveling from the US into Canada must register at the Trail Center prior to starting their hike. All hikers must be present and have proper documentation for crossing the border. Hikers must report to Canada Border Services after completing their hike:

#### **Fraser Port of Entry**

Km 36 –South Klondike Highway

Tel: 867-821-4111

Hours: 24 hours a day

#### **CBSA Whitehorse Office**

Suite 110 – 300 Main Street

Tel: 867-667-3943

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

### **Southbound Hikers**

Canadian and US citizens, and US resident aliens hiking from Canada into the US can register with Parks Canada in Whitehorse. All others must register directly with US Customs and Border Protection at the Skagway Port of Entry (mile 6.8 on the South Klondike Highway) **prior to commencing their hike**. When registering, all party members must be present and have appropriate identification/documentation with them.

**Questions?** Inquiries about Customs and Immigration requirements should be directed to the appropriate Canadian and/or US officials.

**Canada Border Service Agency Whitehorse:** 867-667-3943 [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca)

## PARK MANAGEMENT

### Quota

In order to maintain a high quality hiking experience and to minimize the impact of hikers on Park resources, a **maximum of 50 hikers per day will be Permitted to enter Canada over Chilkoot Pass.**

### Group Size

Large groups tend to have a negative effect upon the experience of other hikers, as well as placing greater demands upon park facilities and greater stress on the park environment. In order to minimize the impacts of large groups, **group size is limited to a maximum of 12; only one large group ( 9 - 12) is permitted to cross Chilkoot Pass on any given day.** Please show consideration for your fellow hikers and the park environment by respecting these limitations. **Use of multiple bookings to circumvent group size restrictions is unacceptable and may result in loss of Permits.**

### Designated Camping

**Camping is allowed in designated campgrounds only.** Individual campsites within the campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Open fires are prohibited.**

### Natural Resources

Prior to, as well as during the Gold Rush, the Chilkoot Trail was an important trade and travel link for First Nation peoples. After the Gold Rush the area continued to be important for a variety of subsistence activities. Local First Nations people have the right to hunt, fish, and gather wild food within Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site of Canada. Site visitors are not allowed to harvest, remove or disturb any natural resources.

### Permit Conditions

1. Do not remove or disturb any natural or cultural resources.
2. Do not disturb, feed or entice wildlife.
3. Do not leave packs unattended. Use food/garbage storage devices.
4. Do not pollute. Pack out all garbage/food waste. Use grey water pits where provided
5. Cook and eat only in designated areas. No food at tent sites.
6. Camp only in designated campsites (no camping in shelters).
7. No campfires.
8. Pets must be on a leash at all times.
9. Fishing is restricted
10. Metal Detectors, firearms and mountain bikes are restricted.
11. Maximum group is 12.
12. A business license is required for guided groups.

### Permits and Fees

**Every person overnighing on the Chilkoot Trail, and day users on the Canadian portion of the Chilkoot Trail, require a Permit.** Day users remaining on the US portion of the trail do not require a Permit. Those without required permits are subject to fines.

Permit Fees are collected to help offset the cost of trail and facility maintenance and information services. **All fees are payable at time of reservation. Permit fees are refundable up to one-calendar month prior to start date. Reservation fees are non-refundable.**

***Backcountry Permit Fees\****

**Chilkoot Trail Trip Permit:**

**\$50 per adult; \$25 per youth (6-16)**

US ONLY Trip Permit: \$15.70 per adult; \$7.90 per youth

CDN ONLY Trip Permit: \$34.30 per adult; \$17.10 per youth

**Reservation: \$11.70 per hiker** (in addition to Permit fee)

**Total (Permit & Reservation): \$61.70 (adult); \$36.70 (youth)**

**Canadian Day Permit:** \$9.80 per person

**Bennett Only Camping Permit:** \$9.80 per person, per night

**Trail Map:** \$6 + shipping

\* All fees are quoted in Canadian funds and may be subject to change. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Cash or Money Order accepted.

## **Reservations**

Forty-two Reservations (to enter Canada over Chilkoot Pass) will be taken for each day, leaving eight Permits for Walk-ins. **Reservations for the upcoming hiking season will start being accepted on Tuesday January 4, 2011 by calling: 1-800-661-0486.**

At the time of reservation **you must specify which campgrounds you will stay at for each night of your trip.** While this requires careful pre-trip planning, it eliminates over-crowding in campgrounds and ensures that everyone will have a place to camp. If you are taking the train, make sure your exit day corresponds with the train schedule:  
www.wpyr.com                      1-800-343-7373.

**Please have your desired hiking itinerary (and an alternative itinerary) ready and your credit card handy when you phone to make your Reservation.** You may reserve Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm PST by calling Parks Canada\*\* at:

**1-800-661-0486** Canada & U.S. 1-867-667-3910 local & overseas

**All fees are payable at time of reservation.**

**Permit fees are refundable up to one calendar month prior to start date. Reservation fees are non-refundable.**

**\*\*NOTE:** During the summer operation season (June 1 - Labour Day) **reservations can also be made through the Skagway Trail Centre 907-983-9234.** Reservations are taken Monday - Friday 8:30am -4:30pm (Alaska Daylight Time).

You must pick up your reserved Permits and register for Customs at The Trail Center in Skagway, located on Broadway between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues. Hours of operation are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm ADT, seven days a week. All hikers must be present and have proper documentation for crossing the border.

**If your Permit is not picked up by 12 noon on the day your trip begins, the Reservation for your entire trip is automatically cancelled,** unless prior arrangements have been made directly with the Skagway Trail Center (phone 907-983-9234).

## **Walk-In Permits**

Eight Permits **to enter Canada over Chilkoot Pass** are held for Walk-ins each day. Walk-in Permits are issued on a first-come first-serve basis at the Trail Center in Skagway, located on Broadway between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, **beginning at 1:00 pm ADT the day before you wish to start your hike**. In addition to the eight Permits held for Walk-ins, no show reservations will also be reallocated at 1:00 pm each day (for a same-day start). Parks Canada cannot guarantee availability. Walk-ins must specify which campgrounds they will stay at for each night of their trip at the time of Permit issue.

## **ON THE TRAIL**

### ***Take your time...enjoy your experience.***

*Problems often occur when hikers are ill prepared, rushing, not paying attention to terrain or conditions or when pushing on in the dark. Ensure that you have a realistic hiking itinerary, that you are properly equipped, take adequate rest breaks and watch for signs of exhaustion and hypothermia amongst your party members. Be prepared to turn back if you encounter extreme weather or members of your group have problems.*

## **Equipment**

Your main goal on the Chilkoot will be to stay warm and dry. Use equipment and clothing designed for cold, wet conditions; aim for quality, lightweight equipment. Synthetic or wool clothing is best. Have the capability to quickly prepare hot meals and drinks. Pack everything in plastic bags to keep it dry.

**Think of your Feet** - Do not break in new boots on this hike. Be able to treat blisters adequately; apply moleskin to blister prone areas **before** starting to hike.

**Walking Sticks** - The increased use of walking sticks and ski poles has added to the erosion problems on the trail. Use your walking aids only on snowfields or where you need them to ensure safety; **avoid using walking sticks on the exposed trail.**

**Water** - Purify all drinking water by boiling, filtering, using iodine or bleach, and/or other appropriate methods. Water is available all along the trail.

## **Do I need avalanche equipment in the early hiking season?**

When traveling in avalanche terrain during the winter it is standard protocol to carry an avalanche transceiver, probe and shovel. From June 1 to mid-July, Chilkoot Trail users are exposed to a relatively low avalanche hazard. Traveling early and not stopping in avalanche paths are sufficient mitigations of this risk. Therefore, Parks Canada does not formally advise each hiker to carry personal avalanche rescue gear in the summer hiking season.

Your pack should fit well and weigh no more than 30% of your body weight. Reassess your pack contents if your pack is too heavy. Be realistic – every ounce counts.

## **You may find the following checklist helpful in planning a summer hike of the Chilkoot:**

### **Core Items:**

- Backpack and waterproof pack cover
- Lightweight tent with rain fly and groundsheet
- Sleeping bag & insulating sleeping pad
- Stove, fuel, cookset and matches
- Water bottle and purification kit
- Food for trip, plus an extra day's supply of food and fuel
- 9 m (30') of sturdy cord to hang food
- Litter bag
- Map
- Border Crossing required documentation

**Clothing:**

- Sturdy, comfortable, well broken-in hiking boots
- Rain jacket and pants
- Gaiters
- Insulating layers (wool and synthetics are best)
- Windbreaker
- Extra change of clothes and socks
- Wool hat and mittens
- Sun hat, sun glasses and sunscreen
- Shorts
- Lightweight shoes for around camp

**Other:**

- Toilet paper
- Insect repellent
- Pocket knife
- Flashlight (August)
- Repair kit for equipment
- First aid and blister kits
- Whistle for emergencies

**Options for early June:**

- Winter travel equipment: Skis/snowshoes
- Ice axe/crampons

**Equipment options for early June:**

Some hikers find winter travel equipment beneficial in early June. You will have to balance the benefits of easier travel on the snow with the disadvantage of the weight of this equipment. Check with the Trail Center for up-to-date early-season travel conditions (907-983-9234).

**INJURIES AND EVACUATIONS**

Park Wardens and Rangers are responsible for patrolling the Chilkoot Trail and will assist injured hikers. Between one and five helicopter- assisted evacuations occur each year. If you have an accident while hiking on the Chilkoot Trail, you may be expected to pay for search and rescue and /or medical services, which can run in excess of \$2,000.00. **Make sure you have adequate insurance coverage.**

**Slips, trips and falls** occur due to a variety of reasons. If you are not seriously injured and are near the Trailhead, then attempt to get off the trail with the assistance of your party or other hikers. Do not continue on in the hopes that your condition will improve. **If you have knee or ankle injuries at Sheep Camp, you are encouraged to turn back, as the climb to the Pass is extremely challenging and will aggravate your injury.**

**If you are seriously injured** and unable to continue hiking, get another hiker to assist you in getting a message to the nearest Park Warden or Ranger. Give the name, exact location, time and description of the accident and related

injuries, whether first aid is being administered and if possible any related medical problems. **Injured hikers should not be abandoned to wait for assistance on their own!**

### **HIKING & CAMPING IN BEAR COUNTRY**

The Chilkoot Trail is located in an area home to both black and grizzly bears. Bears have an acute sense of smell and are attracted to human food, garbage, and other items with strong odours. Bears who obtain human food/garbage quickly develop a taste for it, and can become bothersome as they become increasingly persistent in their attempts to obtain more.

You can help promote the harmonious co-existence of bears and hikers on the Chilkoot by ensuring that you are not presenting bears with opportunities to get a hold of food and garbage. During the day when on the trail, **always keep your backpacks within arms reach. Immediately upon arrival in camp, securely stow all food and other attractants.** Bear poles or food-storage caches are provided at each campground. You need to bring your own rope (9 m / 30') for use with bear poles. **Prepare food and eat only at shelters or near food storage areas; not at tent sites.** Avoid smelly foods (use dried or pre-packaged food instead). Plan meals carefully to reduce leftovers. Store all food leftovers/garbage, dishes/pots/utensils, stove, fuel and toiletries with food.

Familiarize yourself with the principles and practices of safe travel in bear country. Read the "[You Are in Bear Country](#)" brochure and see the Bear Safety video in Skagway before starting your hike. Hikers are asked to report all bear sightings to Park staff. **Bear activity can result in area closures and /or travel restrictions.**

You may carry Bear spray on the Chilkoot Trail as long as it is clearly labelled for use on animals and the package weight/volume does not exceed 500 gr/500 ml. Any product intended for protection against people (mace, tear gas, etc.) is not legal in Canada. Be advised that it is not permissible to carry bear spray on a commercial airline, even in your checked baggage.

### **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

*Over this trail, thousands of goldseekers trekked en route to the Klondike goldfields irrevocably establishing a non-native presence in the territory. Prior to, as well as during the Gold Rush, this route was also an important trade and travel link for First Nations.*

Modification of the landscape by the stamperders is an irreplaceable record of Gold Rush activity on the Chilkoot Trail. Stone tent platforms, rock quays at the shores of a lake, the routing choices of the trail, and other cultural landscape features are not always obvious, but speak of the lives of the stamperders and can serve to trigger the imagination as to what life was like for those who came over Chilkoot Pass. An apparent jumble of rocks observed from one angle may upon closer inspection reveal itself to be the foundation of a hotel; tampering with these features will destroy the story of their past. **Please do not move rocks; they tell a story.**

Please respect the artifacts and the cultural landscape; your stewardship of the Chilkoot Trail will benefit all. **Destroying, damaging, collecting or removing natural or cultural resources is an offence under the National Historic Park Regulations.**