

News Release

DATE: Sept. 18, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cat Clarke, 907-265-2671

Alaska Railroad Open House returns to Fairbanks

Accessible, family-friendly event is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) invites the public to its community open house in Fairbanks, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026. The Alaska Railroad event features free admission, free parking, free shuttle service, free train rides and many more free family-friendly activities.

The Alaska Railroad's open house is returning to Fairbanks next weekend. This community event is an opportunity for the public to meet railroad employees, enjoy a free ride aboard a train, and learn more about railroad equipment and safety. For children and adult railfans alike, the open house features static displays of a locomotive, rolling stock and track maintenance equipment. Knowledgeable employees will be on-site to talk about the equipment, travel routes and rail safety.

"We are excited to once again open our Fairbanks depot to the public and offer free train rides. The open house is a great opportunity to meet families and share our passion for railroading," said Meghan Clemens, External Affairs Director for ARRC. "September 21-27 is national rail safety group Operation Lifesaver's 'See Tracks? Think Train®' Week, and we hope that everyone who comes to the open house will take a few moments to speak with our staff and learn how they can be safe around railroad tracks and rail equipment. We want all of our guests to leave with great memories and a better understanding of railroad safety, like crossing only at marked crossings and remembering that it can take a train as much as a mile to stop."



Alaska railroad employees hosting safety display at the Fairbanks depot in Sept. 2024. Photo Courtesy: Alaska Railroad Corp.

The open house is a family-friendly, accessible event with several activities geared toward children, including a balloon artist, coloring station, photo booth, temporary tattoos, and train safety giveaways.

Additional off-site parking will be available at the nearby Anne Wien Elementary School, with easy access to the depot through free shuttle service from the school.

Food and beverages will be on sale by a Fairbanks PTA-operated booth. The railroad's depot gift shop and rail ticket counter will be open, with employees available to answer questions about the Alaska Railroad, travel routes and plans. This year, the gift shop will be releasing and selling a special edition hooded sweatshirt that celebrates Fairbanks.

To help the public plan their open house day, ARRC's public events webpage includes activity descriptions, an activity locator, parking map and train ride schedule. A link to the webpage can be found here: <https://www.alaskarailroad.com/corporate/community/public-events>. A detailed list of open house activities is also included on page 3.

The Alaska Railroad is a state-owned corporation providing year-round inter-city public rail transportation and freight service from Seward to Anchorage to Fairbanks. Safety is at the core of its operations. More information about passenger service schedules, fares and depot locations is available at <https://www.alaskarailroad.com/>.

Alaska Railroad 2026 Fairbanks Open House Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fairbanks Railroad Depot – 1031 Alaska Railroad Depot Road

FREE to the attending public:

- 20-minute train rides offered between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (last train scheduled to board at 12:30 p.m.)
- Inside the Depot (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.):
 - ✓ Tattoos (kid friendly and non-permanent)
 - ✓ Giveaways and Rail Travel Door Prize Drawing
 - ✓ Historic Steam Engine 557 restoration project info
 - ✓ Tanana Valley Model Railroad display
 - ✓ Photo Booth
 - ✓ Balloon Artist
 - ✓ Coloring station
- Locomotives, passenger and freight railcars, and railroad maintenance equipment on static display
- Operation Lifesaver train safety information and giveaways
- Drawing for round-trip rail travel during 2026-2027 for:
 - One (1) family package with FOUR (4) tickets for travel between Fairbanks and Denali
 - One (1) family package with FOUR (4) tickets for travel between Fairbanks and Talkeetna
 - One (1) package with TWO (2) tickets for travel between Fairbanks and Anchorage (winter)
 - One (1) package with TWO (2) tickets for travel between Anchorage and Seward
 - Need NOT be present to win
- Free Parking & Free Shuttle Service (at the depot and off-site parking with shuttle service at Anne Wien Elementary School – 1501 Hampstead Avenue)

For purchase:

- Alaska Railroad Gift Shop Open – including special release hooded sweatshirt
- Alaska Railroad Ticket Counter Open – staff onsite to assist with rail travel booking
- Snacks, beverages and more from the Anne Wien Elementary PTA

The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance (including language) in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, zappasj@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired – dial 7 11 anywhere in Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate format.