

Application Form

Profile

Jessica

First Name

Tran

Last Name

Email Address

Valdez Mailing Address (PO BOX # or HCI BOX #)

Home Address

City

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Suite or Apt

State

Postal Code

Valdez City Schools

Employer

Teacher

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Parks & Recreation Commission: Eligible

Question applies to multiple boards

**Required Time Commitment: All board/committee members and commissioners are expected to (1) be physically present at most, if not all, board/committee or commission meetings and (2) review agenda materials prior to arriving for the meeting to be best prepared for discussion and decision making. Are you aware of the time commitment involved in serving on this particular board, committee, or commission? Are you willing and able to commit to regular meetings plus work sessions every month for your full term?**

Yes

Question applies to multiple boards

**Regular attendance at meetings by commissioners/board members is crucial to the commission/board's ability to conduct business. Attendance for commissioners/board members is tracked. Under current City Council policy, the seat of a board/committee member or commissioner will be considered vacant following three consecutive absences from regular meetings. At that time, the member will be asked to either resign or be removed by formal action of Council to allow other interested citizens a chance to serve. Are you committed to in-person attendance at most, if not all, commission/board meetings? Do you understand you must provide your commission/board staff as much notice as possible if you must be absent to ensure a quorum is available to conduct commission/board business?**

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Yes

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**How did you learn about this vacancy?**

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☒ Other

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## **Interests & Experience**

**Why are you interested in serving on a City of Valdez board or commission?**

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I would love the opportunity to collaborate with others that are passionate about creating more opportunities for community members to engage with our dynamic environment. I believe my experience in the outdoors and with other outdoor programs will help expand future programming for our community.

**Please outline your education, work, and volunteer experience which will assist you in serving on a City of Valdez board/commission.**

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I am teacher at the local elementary school, I have volunteered with local outdoor programs around the state, and recreate year round in Alaska. I am an avid backcountry skier, ice climber, fat biker, fisher, hunter, and novice snow mobile rider.

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Upload a Resume or Letter of Interest

Application Form

Profile

How did you learn about this vacancy?

☒ I am a Current Board/Committee/Commission Member

Benjamin Rush  
First Name Last Name

Email Address

Valdez Mailing Address (PO BOX # or HCI BOX #)

Home Address Suite or Apt  
  
City State Postal Code  
  
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Prince William Sound College Professor  
Employer Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Parks & Recreation Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards  
**Required Time Commitment: All board/committee members and commissioners are expected to (1) be physically present at most, if not all, board/committee or commission meetings and (2) review agenda materials prior to arriving for the meeting to be best prepared for discussion and decision making. Are you aware of the time commitment involved in serving on this particular board, committee, or commission? Are you willing and able to commit to regular meetings plus work sessions every month for your full term?**  
  
Yes, I am available

Question applies to multiple boards

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yes

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## Interests & Experience

**Why are you interested in serving on a City of Valdez board or commission?**


I work with the Outdoor Leadership program. I already collaborate with Parks and Recreation as far as my student's internships and work opportunities. I think being on the board could help the town of Valdez. I have experience in both the academic and practical world. I have currently served 3 years on the P & R board.

**Please outline your education, work, and volunteer experience which will assist you in serving on a City of Valdez board/commission.**

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please see attachment

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Upload a Resume or Letter of Interest

**BENJAMIN L RUSH**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA-VALDEZ**  
**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COLLEGE**

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## **OBJECTIVE AND HIGHLIGHTS**

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Leverage my proven track record of successfully instructing and developing others with my passion for the outdoors to help develop Valdez outdoor programs.

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|--|---|---|
| • Master Educator<br>Course Instructor -                                       | • Instructor - Stone<br>Hearth Open Learning                            | • Emergency Medical<br>Technical - Wilderness                             |
| • First Responder - SOLO<br>Wilderness   | • American Institute for<br>Avalanche Research and<br>Education (AIARE) | • Instructor, Level 1-3,<br>American Canoe/Kayak<br>Association           |
| • WEA International<br>Conference/ Key Note<br>Speaker 2019, Taipei,<br>Taiwan | • Director-SOLO<br>International  | • Outdoor Instructor -<br>National Outdoor<br>Leadership School<br>(NOLS) |

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## **EDUCATION**

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**National Taiwan Sport University, Taoyuan City, Taiwan PhD Coaching Services. Dissertation: Quantitative study on the Risk Management Protocols in Relation to Accidents in Taiwan**

**University of Memphis, Memphis, TN MS - Physical Education and Outdoor Experiential Education**

**University of Memphis, Memphis, TN BS – Outdoor Recreation**

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## **HONORS**

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- Extreme Life, Documentary on life Of Benjamin Rush and Outdoors – Taiwan 2012. This was a one-year filming project of my life in Taiwan and the Outdoors.
- Outstanding Teacher Award – National Dong Hwa University - Hualien City, Taiwan 2006
- Outstanding Teacher Award – National Dong Hwa University - Hualien City, Taiwan 2009

## **CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS**

- WEA conference/Honey Rock, Wisconsin 2020
- AEE Regional Conference / Becket, Massachusetts 2019
- The Teacher Professor Conference / Atlanta, Georgia 2018
- Vermont Healthcare and EMS Preparedness Conference / Burlington, Vermont 2017
- Wilderness Risk Management Conference / Atlanta, Georgia 2014
- Wilderness Risk Management Conference / Boston, Mass 2012

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT INVITATIONS**

- WEA International Conference, Key Note Speaker, Taipei, Taiwan 2019
- Northeast Adventure and Trip Symposium / Lake George, New York 2019
- Asia Adventure Experimental Education Conference / Taipei City, Taiwan 2012
- Asia Adventure Experimental Education Conference / Taipei City, Taiwan 2011
- Wilderness Education Association Conference / Estes Park, Colorado 2010
- Asia Adventure Experimental Education Conference / Taipei City, Taiwan 2009

## **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

- Academic Standard Committee
- Campus Planning Committee
- Campus Safety Committee
- Lyndon State College, Advisor Christian Club
- Lyndon State College, Advisor to MRM students

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Valdez Adventure Alliance- Board Member
- Valdez Search and Rescue/Fire Department
- Lyndon Walk Bike Safety Action Plan Steering Committee •
- Lyndon Outing Club Steering Committee
- Lyndon Rescue Team
- Pemi Search and Rescue, New Hampshire

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## APPENDIX

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### CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

- Denali Expedition 2023
- Kayaking expedition(Whittier to Valdez) 2022
- WEA, Certified Outdoor Educator 2020
- A.C.A., Level1 – Level 2, Instructor Trainer (I.T.) Current
- American Canoe/Kayak Association White Water Level 1-2, Instructor Course Current
- American Canoe/Kayak Association (A.C.A.), Level 1-3, Instructor Current
- America Canoe Association Swift Water Rescue Level 4 Skills Certification 2014
- ACA Sea Kayaking Instructor Development Workshop 2014
- Mountaineering and Climbing Seminar. 2014
- Rock training program -12 days , Red Rocks, Nevada 2014
- Sea Kayaking Seminar for N.O.L.S. Instructor Class 2014
- Alaska Avalanche Seminar-Level 1 2012
- Alaska Sea Kayaking Seminar for N.O.L.S. Instructors 2012
- Leadership Education And Development Seminar (LEADS) 2012
- Rock Climbing Seminar for N.O.L.S. Instructors 2012
- Fast and Light Seminar for N.O.L.S. Instructors 2011
- International Mountain Guide (I.M.G.) Winter Expedition Ascent Training 2011
- A.M.G.A., Single Pitch Instructor Course 2010

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS**

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- Rush, B. and Chen, M., 2014. The prediction of the consistency of collegiate athletes' perceived coaches' leadership behavior on their motivation - The Mediating Role of Coach-Athlete Relationship  
Journal of National Taiwan Sports University
- Rush, B. and Hsieh, C. M., 2014. Females in the Outdoors: Going Against Culture  
Journal of Asia Adventure Experiential Education
- Rush, B. and Wu, G., 2013. The How and Why of the 10 Essentials in the Outdoors,  
Journal of Asia Adventure Experiential Education, 7, 1-10
- Rush, B. and Wu, G. J., 2012. Leadership and Risk Management: Learning from Our mistakes  
Leisure Study, 4(1), 71-85
- Li, T. L. and Rush, B., 2009. The effects of prolonged strenuous exercise on salivary secretion of IgA subclasses in men  
International Journal of Sport and Exercise Science, (3): 69-74

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## **LANGUAGES**

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- English – native language
- Mandarin – fluent

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## **ASSOCIATIONS**

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- American Canoe/Kayak Association
- American Mountain Guides Association
- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics
- Maine Inter-Trail Association
- Wilderness Education Association



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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

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Leisure and Tourism in Society, Leadership and Small Group Dynamics, Backcountry Leadership, Hiking and Backpacking, Outdoor Expeditions, Adventure Programming 1&2, Outdoor Expeditions, Wilderness Minds, Outdoor Practicum, Wilderness First Responder, LNT Master courses, Sea Kayaking, White Water Kayaking

- **University of Alaska, Prince William Sound College** 2019- current  
Assistant Professor, Outdoor Leadership Department
- **Northern Vermont University, Lyndonville, VT** 2015-2019  
Assistant Professor, Outdoor Education, Leadership and Tourism Department
- **University of Memphis** 2015  
Adjunct Professor, Health and Sport Sciences Department
- **National Taiwan Sports University, Taoyuan City, Taiwan** 2011-2014  
Adjunct Professor, Sports Promotion Department
- **National Dong Hwa University, Taoyuan City, Taiwan** 2002-2011  
Adjunct Professor, Sports and Leisure Department

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## RELATED EXPERIENCE National Outdoor Leadership School

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Outdoor Instructor 1990-Current

- Teaching and instructing in various NOLS core curriculum, including but not limited to: technical outdoor skills, effective communication, problem solving skills, team building and management, wilderness emergency medicine

### **U.S. National Park Service, Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, ME**

Park Ranger: Law Enforcement Patrol

1986-1990,

- Patrol acreage, provide safety and assistance to visitors as needed. Interface with local law enforcement agencies. Member Search and Rescue team.

## Profile

☒ KVAK E-News  
☒ Word of Mouth

Jillian  
First Name

Reiss  
Last Name

Email Address

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Home Address	Suite or Apt
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City	State
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

N/A	Stay at Home Mom
Employer	Occupation

### Parks & Recreation Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

**Required Time Commitment:** All board/committee members and commissioners are expected to (1) be physically present at most, if not all, board/committee or commission meetings and (2) review agenda materials prior to arriving for the meeting to be best prepared for discussion and decision making. Are you aware of the time commitment involved in serving on this particular board, committee, or commission? Are you willing and able to commit to regular meetings plus work sessions every month for your full term?

Yes, I am aware of the time commitment and am willing and able to commit for the full term.

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yes

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## Interests & Experience


### Why are you interested in serving on a City of Valdez board or commission?

I am a stay at home mom of two young boys that we plan to raise in Valdez. I have the time to dedicate to a commission and want to do my part to keep Valdez an amazing place to live, play and grow. I am interested in the Parks and Recreation commission because my family uses so many of the facilities and services. We hike, bike and ski on the trails, participate in many of the 5k's, attend most holiday and special events, regularly attend Mighty Mites and use the pool, and frequently visit most of the parks.

### Please outline your education, work, and volunteer experience which will assist you in serving on a City of Valdez board/commission.

I am currently on the Valdez Imagination Library Board and the Valdez Gold Rush Days Board. Several years ago I was on a volunteer fire department board in Connecticut where I held several positions over approximately 9 years. I am familiar with following bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order. I have an Associates degree from University of Alaska Anchorage in Fire and Emergency Services. I have attached my resume which outlines my work history, most of which has been for state and borough government in emergency services.

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 Upload a Resume or Letter of Interest

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## ***Jillian T. Reiss***



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<b><i>Objective</i></b>	To earn a position on the City of Valdez Parks and Recreation Commission
<b><i>Education</i></b>	University of Alaska, Anchorage AA in Fire and Emergency Services GPA: 4.0 Associates Degree awarded August 2010
<b><i>Employment</i></b>	<p>12/2019-2/2024: Firefighter/Fire Captain <i>Denali Universal Services, VMT, Valdez, AK</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Respond to fire, rescue, and EMS calls</li><li>▪ Maintain fire apparatus and equipment</li><li>▪ Perform preventative maintenance on fire systems</li></ul> <p>12/2017-12/2019: Deputy Fire Marshal <i>Division of Fire and Life Safety, State of Alaska, Anchorage, AK</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Perform fire and life safety inspections</li><li>▪ Investigate fires for origin and cause</li><li>▪ Enforce fire laws and regulations</li></ul> <p>5/2009-7/2019 (On-call): Lieutenant/Instructor <i>Central Mat-Su Fire Department, Wasilla, AK</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Respond to fire, rescue, and EMS calls</li><li>▪ Perform fire prevention/public education activities</li></ul> <p>8/2013-12/2017: Building Plans Examiner <i>Division of Fire and Life Safety, State of Alaska, Anchorage, AK</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Examine construction plans for code compliance</li><li>▪ Examine fire systems plans for code compliance</li></ul>
<b><i>Volunteer Experience</i></b>	<p>9/2024-present: Board Member <i>Valdez Imagination Library</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Maintain records and legal paperwork</li><li>▪ Fundraise for and promote the organization</li></ul> <p>5/2025-present: Board Member <i>Valdez Gold Rush Days Board</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Assist with event planning and set up</li></ul> <p>3/2000-10/2008: Firefighter/Company Board Member <i>Center Groton Vol. Fire Company, Groton, CT</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Responded to fire, rescue, and EMS calls</li><li>▪ Coordinated/performed fire prevention/public education activities</li></ul>

Application Form

Profile

How did you learn about this vacancy?

- ☒ City Newsflash or Email
- ☒ Word of Mouth
- ☒ I am a Current Board/Committee/Commission Member

Sarah Jorgenson-Owen

First Name Last Name

Email Address

Valdez Mailing Address (PO BOX # or HCI BOX #)

Home Address Suite or Apt

City State Postal Code

Primary Phone Alternate Phone

City of Valdez Communications Manager

Employer Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Parks & Recreation Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

**Required Time Commitment: All board/committee members and commissioners are expected to (1) be physically present at most, if not all, board/committee or commission meetings and (2) review agenda materials prior to arriving for the meeting to be best prepared for discussion and decision making. Are you aware of the time commitment involved in serving on this particular board, committee, or commission? Are you willing and able to commit to regular meetings plus work sessions every month for your full term?**

Yes; Yes

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Yes

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## Interests & Experience

### Why are you interested in serving on a City of Valdez board or commission?

I am passionate about the role Parks & Recreation plays in supporting the health, happiness, and well-being of Valdez. We live in a beautiful community with outstanding recreational opportunities and amenities—many offered free of charge—and I believe PRCS works tirelessly to ensure everyone has access to them. My background includes service as a Valdez Parks & Recreation Event Coordinator (2014–2015) and over a decade of volunteer leadership with Valdez Gold Rush Days. Since 2018, I have served on the Parks & Recreation Commission, acting as Chair since 2020. Highlights include helping see Nayurluku Park at Meals Hill through from planning to completion and contributing to the development of the current Parks & Recreation Master Plan. I also currently serve as Chair of the Alaska State Firefighters Association, Port of Valdez Chapter. I would be honored to continue serving our community by contributing to the growth of our park system and expanding the master plan to meet the evolving needs of Valdez.

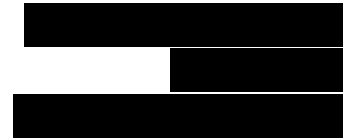
### Please outline your education, work, and volunteer experience which will assist you in serving on a City of Valdez board/commission.

2000-2006 - BS degree in Social Studies Education; Maranatha Baptist University 2014-2015 - Event Coordinator; Valdez Parks & Recreation - created and facilitated community recreation events, such as the Run Series, Healthier You, and the COV Employee Wellness program 2010-current- Volunteer, former President, Vice President, current Secretary; Valdez Gold Rush Days - organized, hosted, various community events for Valdez Gold Rush Days, currently active in the online presence of the organization 2018-present; Valdez Parks & Recreation Commission (Chair since 2020) 2022-present; Alaska State Firefighters Association, Port of Valdez Chapter Chair

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Upload a Resume or Letter of Interest

# SARAH JORGENSEN-OWEN



Dear Council Members,

OCTOBER 1, 2025

I am writing to express my interest in continuing to serve on the Valdez Parks and Recreation Commission. I have a deep love for Valdez and for all that it offers its citizens through both indoor and outdoor recreation. We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful place with incredible amenities—the majority offered free of charge—that truly enhance the health, happiness, and well-being of our community. I believe Valdez Parks & Recreation works diligently to ensure our citizens have access to these opportunities, and I would be honored to continue supporting that mission as a Commissioner.

Valdez City Council  
Clerks Office  
212 Chenega Ave  
Valdez, AK 99686

I have been honored to serve on the Valdez Parks & Recreation Commission since 2018, acting as Chair since 2020. In this role, I was proud to support the development of Nayurluku Park at Meals Hill—the crown jewel of our parks system—from concept through completion. I was also actively involved in the creation of the current Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and I look forward to expanding that plan further to meet evolving community needs.

Additionally, my professional role as Communications Manager for the City of Valdez has given me a unique understanding of municipal operations and the importance of clear, consistent communication with the public. This experience, paired with my Parks & Recreation background, allows me to bring both organizational knowledge and community perspective to the Commission.

I am eager to continue giving back to my community by helping guide the growth and development of recreation in Valdez. Serving on the Commission has been a rewarding opportunity to support initiatives that strengthen our city's wellness, and I would welcome the chance to contribute further to its success.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue serving on the Valdez Parks & Recreation Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Jorgenson-Owen".

Sarah Jorgenson-Owen