

**Rec Commission Updates**  
**November and December 2018**

Hello Rec Commission,

As of mid-December, I am excited to be the new Adult and Youth Programs Coordinator. I will be working with Bridget Irish to facilitate recreation opportunities in the community through the use of the community's gyms, ski hill, rock wall, and Recreation Center facilities. We will also be designing recreation programs that harness the natural opportunities surrounding us in Valdez. There will be some additional outdoor programs to look forward to in the coming months, such as a snowshoeing group and ski/snowboard lessons. In the meantime, here is a brief summary of our recreation program stats for November and December.

Cheers!

Madi McConnell

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In November and December, we offered Adult Basketball, Volleyball, Open Gym, Family Climb, Adult Climb, Open Climb, and Pickleball, engaging nearly 800 participants in over 120 hours of gym time. Rockwall and Adult Basketball continue to be the most popular gym activities, according to attendance records. Attendance for each activity was as follows (as of 26 Dec):

**Adult Basketball:** 142 participants in 17 sessions. Sessions lasted between 1.5 to 3 hours, for a total of approximately 40 hours.

**Volleyball:** 48 participants in 4 sessions. Sessions lasted 2.5 hours, for a total of 10 hours of net time. More volleyball times will be available in January!

**Open Gym:** 54 participants in 4 sessions. Sessions lasted a total of 12 hours. More Open Gym time has been scheduled for January. We will also be adding Family Gym back into the schedule in January.

**Pickleball:** 74 participants in 9 sessions. Sessions lasted around 1.5 hours for a total of 13.5 hours of net time.

**Rockwall:** We held a total of 29 Rockwall Climbs in November and December, including one Rockwall Birthday Rental. There were 470 active participants at the Rockwall during these months. We held 16.5 hours of Family Climb, 16.5 hours of Adult Climb, 12 hours of Open Climb, and 2.5 hours of rental time for a total of 47.5 hours of climbing. We had one climber complete the Climb Denali Challenge during these months. He reached the top of the wall more than 549 times since September, completing the

challenge for his second time! This continues to be a popular challenge across all age groups, and several other climbers are making a push for the top.

**Family Climb:** 218 of these participants attended during the 11 Family Climb sessions.

**Adult Climb:** 91 of these participants attended during the 11 Adult Climb sessions.

**Open Climb:** 144 of these participants attended during the 6 Saturday Open Climb sessions.

**Rental:** 17 participants attended a Birthday Rental at the Rockwall.

**Summary:** Excluding Climbing, we held a total of 75.5 hours of gym activities, in 37 different sessions, with a total of 318 participants. Combining Gyms and Climbing, we had a total of 788 participants in November and December at 66 different sessions, and 123 hours of gym time.

### Looking Forward:

- In the upcoming January schedule, we added around **8 hours of additional gym time each week**
- We increased Pickleball and Volleyball court time, and added Family Gym back onto the schedule (as requested by people in the community)
- We are hoping to have the Ski Hill open by Saturday 26 January. **Ski and snowboard lessons** will follow, beginning in February.
- We will offer a **free Avalanche basics** class to the community on Sunday 27 January, in partnership with the AAIC
- We hope to host a **Spring Break Camp** for kids in March, which will include snow sports such as skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, and snowshoeing
- We plan to add occasional **Reels and Rocks** movie nights at the Rockwall once we receive our new portable projector in late January or early February. We will project climbing movies on one wall while people climb on the rockwall.
- We are planning to start a **snowshoe group** in upcoming weeks, to get people outside and active in a social setting. Snowshoe groups will also have a 30 minute technical share-out before each excursion for those who are interested in learning additional winter travel skills.
- We are working with UAF's Cooperative Extension Services to host their 3 hour class on **Emergency and Remote Energy** in February or March.