

Press Advisory: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Christi Banks, Cordova Chamber of Commerce 907-424-7260
Cathy Renfeldt, Cordova Chamber of Commerce 907-424-7260
Nathan Wesely, USFS Chugach National Forest 907-424-4742

PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNGUS: CORDOVA FESTIVAL CELEBRATES FUNGUS, FOREST & SEA Guided Forest Forays, Fungus Display and Art Workshops

CORDOVA, ALASKA. August 23, 2021 - While Cordova's fishing fleet is out gathering nets full of Copper River & Prince William Sound salmon, its land-based foragers are hunting wild blueberries, yellow-footed chanterelles, and king boletes! Those swift salmon that make it past Cordova's keen fishermen will head upstream, spawn, and leave abundant nutrients on the creek shores. These nutrients are then picked up and transported by fungi to nourish the entire forest. At this time every fall, the community of Cordova welcomes fungus-pluckers, lichen-lovers, and friends of the forest & sea to the Cordova Fungus Festival. Our 15th annual festival will be held as a hybrid (virtual + in-person) event on **September 10-12, 2021**, adjusted to include safe and fun activities that can be enjoyed from Cordova or wherever you call home. The event is again partnering with Girdwood Fungus Fair, which has in-person activities scheduled for September 3rd - 4th, 2021. Plan to attend one or both locations for in-person events and/or tune in for the virtual events online. Excursions will occur throughout the Chugach National Forest and surrounding lands. The weekend's activities explore the northernmost coastal temperate rainforest and celebrate the interconnected life cycle of fungus, salmon, and the forest.

Each of our events are planned so they can be quickly adjusted as-needed based on the safety concerns and the recommendations of our Medical Response Team. At this time, forays led by visiting mycologists and local experts will take place outdoors in a socially distanced environment, with participants providing their own transportation. The festival will also include presentations by Noah Seigel and Shannon Adams, a raffle, a Mushroomer's Mixer, fiber and art workshops with local handcrafting gurus from *The Net Loft* and *Copper River Canvas*, and kids' activities from the *Prince William Sound Science* and others. More event details are available on the festival [schedule](#), offering the safest format based on local case counts.

Cordova Fungus Festival is a partnership between the Cordova Chamber of Commerce, the Chugach National Forest - Cordova Ranger District, and others. Together, partners work to promote conservation education and increase environmental literacy by inviting locals and visitors to explore and appreciate the natural world around them. Registration is required and is \$10/adult, \$5/student & senior. Kids 12 and under are free. Sign up online at cordovafungusfest.com or by calling 907-424-7260. Fiber & Art workshops with The Net Loft and Copper River Canvas include a materials fee and require pre-registration. To register and see schedule updates for Cordova Fungus Festival activities, visit cordovafungusfest.com or facebook.com/cordovafungusfest. Press passes and high-resolution images are available upon request.

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