

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST NAME A FERRY!

The vessel replacing the MV Tustumena needs a name, and DOT&PF is asking Alaska students to propose one.

WHO CAN ENTER

All Alaska students in grades 6 through 12. Public school, private school, and homeschool students are eligible.

DEADLINE

Entries must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Alaska Time on Monday, November 23, 2026.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Follow the QR code to submit online at:
dot.alaska.gov/nameaferry



WHAT TO SUBMIT

An essay of 300 words or less proposing the name of an Alaska glacier for the vessel, and explaining why it suits her.

THE RULES

1. The name you propose must be an Alaska glacier. This is required by state law.
2. 300 words or less.
3. One entry per student.
4. Essay must explain your reasoning for the name.
5. Names already carried by Alaska ferries are not eligible. See the list below.
6. Entries must include your name, grade, school, and community.

NAMES ALREADY IN USE

These names belong to current or former Alaska ferries and cannot be chosen:
Aurora, Chenega, Chilkat, Columbia, Fairweather, Hubbard, Kennicott, LeConte, Lituya, Malaspina, Matanuska, Taku, Tazlina, Tustumena, Wickersham

WHERE TO FIND A GLACIER

Alaska has 745 named glaciers. The Alaska State Library keeps a list at:
library.alaska.gov/asp/alaska_glaciers.html

ABOUT THE VESSEL

The Tustumena has served communities along the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands since 1964. DOT&PF awarded the construction contract for the replacement vessel on October 1, 2026.

HOW A FERRY IS NAMED

Under AS 19.65.020, Alaska Marine Highway System maritime vessels must be named for Alaska glaciers, and vessel names must be established by law.

A selection committee will review the entries and select one winning essay. DOT&PF will submit the student's proposed name to the Alaska Legislature for consideration during the legislative session beginning in January 2027. The proposed name will become official only if enacted into law.

The selected student will be recognized, and the winning essay will be framed and displayed aboard the vessel.



QUESTIONS?

dot.response.log@alaska.gov

