

WSIKF

NEWS & INFORMATION

WSIKF SPONSORSHIPS

We're excited to introduce the new Limited Edition WSIKF Sponsor Poster, created exclusively for our 2026 festival supporters. Designed in celebration of WSIKF's 45th anniversary, this vibrant poster captures the color, motion, and joy of kite flying on the Long Beach Peninsula. Each print is individually numbered and produced in a small, one-time run, making it a true collector's piece. Sponsors will receive this poster as a special token of appreciation, recognizing their partnership and helping commemorate this milestone year for our festival and community. As you travel through the Long Beach area, keep an eye out for how many posters you can spot... and be sure to thank those businesses for being WSIKF sponsors. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please email us at Info@WSIKF.com.



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WSIKF Flyer Registration Just Got Easier

We're excited to share that registered flyers will be able to complete their WSIKF registration online in advance. By registering early, your name badge, parking pass, and event materials will be ready for pickup when you arrive. Also, to ensure you can get event apparel before it sells out, you'll have the option to preorder merchandise during registration. All your items will be waiting for you at check-in.

This new preregistration system will make the entire check-in experience smoother and more enjoyable for our flyers. It also helps our volunteer team better prepare. Overall, preregistration creates a more efficient, organized, and welcoming start to your festival week.

Preregistration should be available no later than May 15, 2026.



Event Program Returns in Print!

Due to popular demand, we are bringing back the printed event program. This year's edition will also be available in a downloadable digital format for everyone to access. The 2026 program will be a special 45th anniversary edition, commemorating this milestone year for WSIKF.

There may be a nominal fee to purchase the printed program to help cover production costs. However, all flyers who preregister for WSIKF will receive one complimentary copy. Your program will be ready for pickup when you arrive. Please note that the printed event pocket guide will still be available for free.

2026 marks the 45th anniversary of WSIKF, and we're celebrating with a special limited-edition signed poster. During the festival, you may purchase the poster at the World Kite Museum tent on the beach approach. Posters will also be available inside the World Kite Museum, where you can enjoy a display featuring every past WSIKF poster. Limited quantities of select past posters are also available for purchase at the museum.



Field Map Planning Update

We are currently working on a revised field map for WSIKF 2026. The 2025 field layout was not set up according to the map provided to the city and tent vendor, so this year we are taking additional steps to ensure accuracy. We have already met with the city and provided all the necessary preliminary placement information. As setup day approaches, we will meet with them again to review final details and confirm the proper layout. In addition, our team will be on-site on setup day.

We plan to shift the entire field setup back by at least 50 feet, positioning it as close to the dunes as practical. This adjustment will allow us to maintain the planned field dimensions and avoid flooding during high tides. Last year, the field setup did not achieve the intended measurements, resulting in smaller-than-planned flying areas. A dedicated team will again work closely with the city to ensure proper placement and accurate dimensions.

During our recent WSIKF debrief meeting, one recommended change was to limit flying in front of the camps to smaller single-line kites. This adjustment addresses safety concerns caused by sport kites flying over spectators. We have also reduced the distance between the camps and Field "A." Please note this does not reduce the area designated for parking and camps. Camps will still have plenty of room, with 100 feet allocated for their setup, along with an additional 100 feet of clear space before Field "A." Below Fields "A" and "B," we have expanded both the length and width of the sport-kite and multi-line flying areas.



Long Beach, WA resident Bald Eagle can be frequently spotted early mornings

Progress is being made on the rebuild of the boardwalk. The city plans to have it complete well before WSIKF 2026. The construction crew has already made great progress.



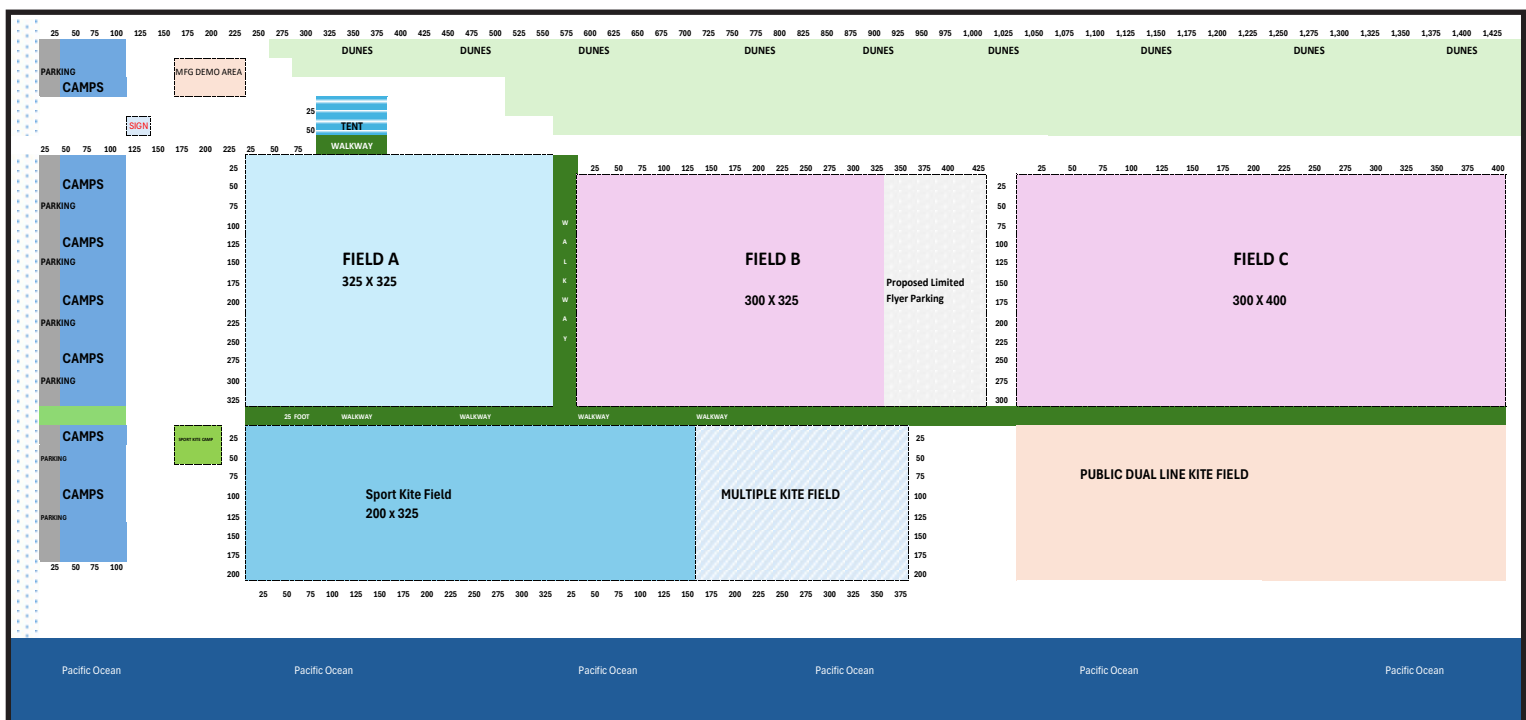
Field Map Planning Update (cont.)

On the south end of Field “B,” you’ll notice a proposed limited-parking area. If approved by the state, this will significantly improve accessibility for flyers, making Field “B” more functional and easier for setting up camps. It also provides convenient access to the proposed Field “C,” creating ample space for teams, pairs, and individual flyers to practice, perform, and engage with the public. If approved, we anticipate issuing approximately 12–15 vehicle passes per day, depending on event needs. Vehicles in this area would be subject to designated entry and exit hours. More information will be shared once we receive official feedback.

For the large single-line kite area on the north side of the road, we are finalizing the layout now and will share full details in our next newsletter.

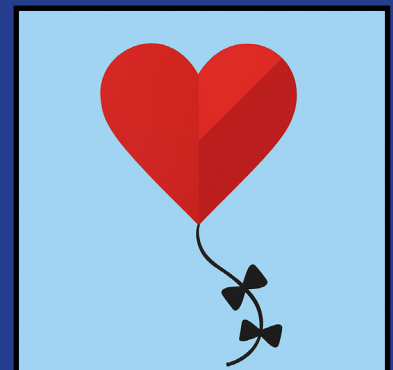


If approved, special parking passes will be required to park on south side of field “B”



To The Volunteers Who Make WSIKF Shine

We want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the incredible volunteers who make WSIKF possible. Your dedication, energy, and generosity bring this festival to life year after year. From helping with setup, guiding guests, supporting flyers, managing tents, and coordinating activities, you are the backbone of this event. Your willingness to give your time and skills ensures that visitors have a safe, welcoming, and memorable experience. WSIKF thrives because of people like you, enthusiastic, committed, and passionate about our community. Thank you for everything you do. We truly couldn't do it without you.



Registered Flyer Welcome Reception

We are excited to invite all registered WSIKF fliers to join us for a special Welcome Reception on Tuesday night, August 18, 2026, at the World Kite Museum. This gathering is our way of thanking the many talented and dedicated fliers who help make the Washington State International Kite Festival such an inspiring and unforgettable event. Enjoy light refreshments, connect with fellow flyers, meet our museum team, and share stories from past festivals as we celebrate the start of an exciting week ahead. Your passion, skill, and commitment bring color, energy, and joy to our skies, and we are truly grateful for everything you contribute to WSIKF. This reception is to honor your creativity and offer a warm welcome to a week filled with memorable flying and shared experiences.



303 Sid Snyder Drive West, Long Beach, WA

Honoring 45 Years of WSIKF: A Brief Look Back at a Legendary Kite Festival



Since its beginnings in 1981, the Washington State International Kite Festival has grown from a small community celebration into one of the most beloved and respected kite festivals in the world. What started as a local gathering on the expansive beaches of Long Beach quickly captured the hearts of flyers and spectators alike. Over the years, the festival evolved through the support of the City of Long Beach, the Long Beach Merchants Association, and eventually the World Kite Museum, which now proudly

produces the event. Across four and a half decades, WSIKF has become a vibrant showcase of creativity, skill, and international camaraderie, bringing together families, expert flyers, world-class performers, and kite enthusiasts from around the globe. Today, the festival stands as a cherished tradition that celebrates both artistry and adventure, offering a full week of demonstrations, competitions, cultural exhibits, and hands-on activities for visitors of all ages. Its legacy is carried forward by passionate volunteers, dedicated organizations, and the countless flyers who return year after year to share their love of kiting. The festival continues to honor the beauty of the wind, the artistry of kites, and the enduring spirit of community that has lifted WSIKF for 45 unforgettable years, inspiring new generations to experience the magic of flight, discover creative expression, and build friendships that stretch across borders and cultures.

Inside The Museum

Recently, I caught up with Eric Forsberg and Donna Davis who were busy inside the museum making some changes. The following is a short transcription of a quick Q&A interview I had with Eric.

Barry Matties: You're making some exhibit changes here at the museum. What kinds of changes are you working on?

Eric Forsberg: To begin with, the dragon's coming down, everything in the Chinese section's is also coming down, and it will become a Bill Goble exhibit.

Nice. So the museum has not had a lot of exhibit changes over the years. This seems like a new mission here that you're on to make changes.

Yes. If we don't make changes, people don't come back. And the only way we can do it is by taking stuff down, putting up new things. Now, we are looking at several different examples of what's going on in kiting, of different eras.

Tell us a little bit about the new exhibit.

The Bill Goble exhibit will be a cellular kite like a Kathy Goodwind Star or any of the others. And then the patchwork kites will be a kind of quilting, but just little teeny patches. I can show you some examples (see photo below).

Well, thank you very much, sir.

Thank you.



The 200-foot, three-headed dragon will soon stretch across the length of the museum



Eric and Donna working on the tail of the 200' dragon



Eric Forsberg holding Windspiele (1989), a vintage German kite book that features a photo of him flying one of his patchwork kites



No caption necessary... Eric's smile says it all

Community Support

Here in Long Beach, WA, there is no doubt that the community spirit is strong and deeply committed to supporting WSIKF.

We met several of our early sponsors while delivering their exclusive limited-edition sponsorship posters and the excitement on their faces, the conversations we shared, and their genuine pride in being part of something bigger reminded us just how meaningful this festival is to so many people.

Their encouragement fuels our work, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who has already committed to supporting the 2026 Washington State International Kite Festival. Your partnership not only helps make the event possible, it elevates the experience for every flyer, family, artist, and visitor who comes to celebrate with us.

With 2026 marking both the 45th anniversary of WSIKF and the 250th birthday of the United States, we are planning a week filled with color, creativity, and moments that honor both tradition and innovation. One of the highlights we are especially excited about is that each morning, local students from area schools will help us begin the day with a live performance of the National Anthem.



Kendra and Ownen at Oceanview Inn at The Arch



Stephanie and Jared at V-Coastal Market and Deli



Harley & Sam at Shop N Kart Sid's Market



Bautista at El Mar Mexican Restaurant



Lost Roo Restaurant and Bar

Community Support (cont.)

It's a beautiful way to bring the community together and set a tone of unity and celebration.

Sponsorship plays a vital role in making this vision possible. From expanded field activities and educational moments to improved amenities and special anniversary elements, sponsorships directly shape the quality and reach of the festival. Their involvement signals a commitment to creativity, community, and shared celebration.

As we continue building toward 2026, we invite businesses and organizations to join us in shaping a landmark anniversary year for WSIKF, one that reflects the pride, generosity, and collaborative spirit that define Long Beach and this extraordinary festival.

We'd like to thank the sponsors who have already committed, your early support is helping shape a strong and successful 2026 festival.

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor or learning more about the festival, please contact us at info@WSIKF.com.



Rosie and Robert, Long Beach Kites



Dawn & Brent at B&D's Food Hut



Blaine at 42nd Street Café and Bistro



Hans Bruhner – Mortgage Broker



Sierra and Bee at Sierra's Place



The new 2026 WSIKF logo brings a fresh, vibrant look to the festival's 45th anniversary. Bold kite imagery anchors the design, while dynamic waves and a retro-inspired palette celebrate the energy of Long Beach's coastline. The elegant script of "Kite Festival" adds warmth and movement, creating a friendly, welcoming identity. Modern, versatile, and instantly recognizable, this logo reflects the festival's spirit of creativity, color, and community.

World Kite Museum Team

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About The Newsletter

World Kite Museum Newsletter is a quarterly digital publication featuring updates from the Washington State International Kite Festival, the World Kite Museum, and our supportive community.

This digital online newsletter is free to anyone who wishes to receive it.

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For content suggestions, please email Barry Matties, managing editor, at Barry@WSIKF.org

