



The Arctic Institute of North America presents the 2019 – 2020

# Arctic Speaker Series

## Girls on Ice Canada

**Speaker:**

Eleanor  
Bash

**Date:**

Thursday,  
February 27, 2020

**Time:**

5:00 – 6:00 pm

**Location:**

University of Calgary;  
Science A 106



A new educational program, Girls on Ice Canada, aims to dissolve barriers that hinder women's participation in scientific fields by providing Canadian girls with the opportunity to engage meaningfully in some of the country's wildest lands and to perform field science studies. On February 11 the United Nations marks the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, to recognize the vital role of gender equality in achieving the sustainable development goals for 2030. UNESCO data from 2014-2016 shows that only 30% of women globally choose science related fields in higher education. Barriers to these fields include a lack of resources, few women role models, and societal expectations that discourage women from getting dirty or pursuing quantitative studies. The tuition-free 12 day Girls on Ice Canada expeditions are led by female instructor teams of professional field scientists, artists, and guides who strive to bring out participants' natural curiosity, connect their interests in science and art, and encourage trust in their physical, intellectual, and leadership abilities in an inclusive environment. By providing young women with female role models, Girls on Ice Canada helps participants to see themselves in these fields in the future and directly helping to increase diversity in outdoor pursuits and the sciences.

**Biography:** Eleanor is a postdoctoral associate at the University of Calgary specializing in image based analysis for monitoring glacier melt and modelling of glacier mass change. As a female scientist she is passionate about supporting young women in the pursuit of their own career and life goals. Eleanor serves as President of the Board for the Girls on Ice Canada Society, a Revelstoke-based non-profit. In partnership with the Alpine Club of Canada and Inspiring Girls Expeditions, Girls on Ice Canada offers an annual field science program for high school girls to promote female participation in natural sciences and outdoor pursuits. In addition, Eleanor has worked extensively in outdoor education for the past 12 years, including instructing for Girls on Ice Canada and its sister program Girls on Ice Cascades, guiding interpretive hikes in the national parks, instructing high school and university level field courses, and volunteering for Girl Guides of Canada.

This event is **free and open to the public**

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