



An American Tour: 124



Alaska's North Pole

North Pole is a small city in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska, United States. It is part of the Fairbanks, Alaska metropolitan statistical area. The area that formed the central city of North Pole was homesteaded in 1944 by Bon V. and Bernice Davis. Their son, T. Neil Davis, wrote *Battling Against Success* in 1997, a fictionalized account of homestead life. The Alaska Railroad established a siding on the Davis homestead as part of its spur line to Eielson Air Force Base, naming the siding Davis.

In 1952, Dahl and Gaske Development Company purchased the Davis homestead, subdivided it, and re-named it North Pole, in hopes of attracting a toy manufacturer to the area. The City of North Pole was incorporated on January 15, 1953 from portions of the Davis homestead and the adjacent homestead of James Ford. Ford was named the first mayor, with Everett Dahl serving on the first city council.

Each year the North Pole community starts the holiday season with a Winter Festival including fireworks, a candle lighting ceremony, 'Christmas in Ice' ice carving festival and a community tree lighting in December. The Santa Claus House, the "official" home of Santa Claus greets all visitors who pass through the city on the Richardson Highway. Live reindeer and an opportunity for a photograph with Santa Claus at the Santa Claus House are available year round.



Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
<u>1960</u>	358	—
<u>1970</u>	265	−26.0%
<u>1980</u>	724	173.2%
<u>1990</u>	1,456	101.1%
<u>2000</u>	1,570	7.8%
<u>2010</u>	2,117	34.8%
Est. 2016	2,232	5.4%

U.S. Decennial Census



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