

Covenant Youth of Alaska

*A relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry
for Alaska youth and young adults*

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Checkpoint - an Answered Prayer

Checkpoint Youth Center is a place of light for Nome's youth.

Checkpoint Youth Center in Nome was first a dream - a dream and vision to see a brightly lit building where any youth from Nome could come for warmth, friendship, advice, a meal, counsel, prayer and the excellent news about Jesus. Over the course of the last several

years, we have seen this dream in reality. Checkpoint Youth Center is a ministry of Nome Covenant Church and serves hundreds of youth every year. James Ventress is a CYAK staff person that

serves as the Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries at Nome Covenant and as the Director of Checkpoint Youth Center. He, along with his wife Rachel and a community of committed volunteers help to make Checkpoint a reality.

From warm meals, to tutoring, to game nights, to worship and Biblical teaching, Checkpoint is open to serve the youth of Nome. Many of the kids who come to weeknight gatherings at Checkpoint are kids who walk in off the street. Often the kids who need the building the most

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are not the busy, high academic achieving student athletes or the kids with a part time job. It is mostly the poorest of the poor: kids from broken homes, lots of siblings, few or no positive adult role models, substance abuse temptations or budding addictions, a history of adverse childhood experiences and often have some sort of cognitive impairment or mental health need like FASD (Fetal Al-

cohol Spectrum Disorder) or Bi-Polar or Schizophrenia/Schizoid Personality Disorder.

Almost none of these families attend any church and the youth have little to no familiarity with the scriptures.

Often times, the young people James and his team spends time with can't count on much from their home situation and so they don't make realistic plans for the future and they don't dream very big dreams. It is hard for anyone to make good decisions or even know what a good decision is without support. Part of the hope of Checkpoint is to provide some

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Ministry Highlights



Covenant Bible Camp

Bible Camp is in full swing through the month of June! Join in prayer for this season!



CHIC Coming Up!

CHIC is a week-long conference in July where thousands of high schoolers gather together from across the country to learn about God. Above: Two students work at a fundraiser for CHIC in Nome!



Aarigaa House

The Aarigaa House is accepting applications for the fall semester! We are excited to see how God continues to use this ministry for his glory!

level of encouragement and support to walk alongside kids as they navigate some of these difficulties. Checkpoint offers a safe place for kids to hang out and learn about Jesus; to eat a hot meal, get help with their homework, and have fun!

Over the course of the last calendar year, James and Rachel estimate that just under 2,000 meals were served to the youth of Nome. What a blessing! Checkpoint relies on donations of conventional groceries and fish or game meat. Last year, moose was often on the menu. Volunteer and soon to be intern Bethany Johnson loves to cook meals at Checkpoint. She shared, *'I enjoy cooking and especially enjoy it when a youth genuinely wants to learn by helping me. I also love building relationships with the youth that come. I love being at Checkpoint because I can see the Lord working in the lives of the young people throughout the year.'*

While Checkpoint is an incredible gift to the community and the team of staff and volunteers, it can also be a challenging place to serve. It can sometimes be discouraging work as the hearts of those who serve are continuously being broken and healed by the things they see and hear. Pray for the team at Checkpoint that they will have joy and not grow weary or lose heart. Please pray too for healing for people in Nome - for kids, youth and adults!

Your partnership with CYAK helps support critical ministries like Checkpoint. Kids are experiencing the life and hope of Christ through this ministry, and your prayers and support are key to its success. If you are interested in supporting Checkpoint specifically, please contact us at info@cyak.org or 907.222.1432.

Quyana, thank you!

PRAYER PRAISES & REQUESTS

Sign up to receive monthly prayer updates, visit www.cyak.org.

Praise: For team - those who share a heart for youth and young adults.

Praise: For summer and subsistence - fishing and berry picking soon.

Praise: For wonderful interns both past, present, and yet to come.

Prayer Request: Continue to pray for camp - especially as it is in session!

Prayer Request: Pray for Checkpoint in Nome - and for all those who serve!

Prayer Request: Pray for safety in all of the traveling of summertime.

Thank you for your faithful support of CYAK's ministry through prayer.

CONNECT AND PARTNER!

Website: Visit cyak.org or contact us at info@cyak.org

Instagram: Search: [@covenantyouthofalaska](https://www.instagram.com/covenantyouthofalaska)

Facebook: Search: **Covenant Youth of Alaska**

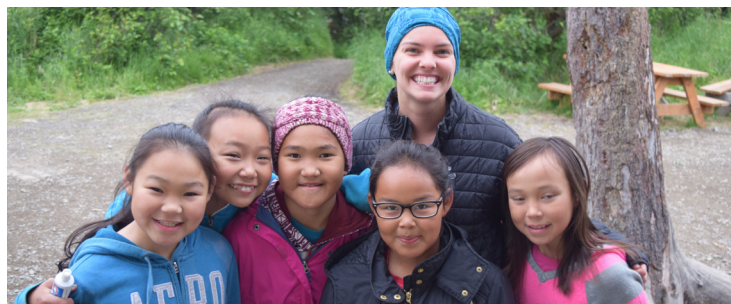
YouTube: Search: **Covenant Youth of Alaska**



Covenant Bible Camp 2018

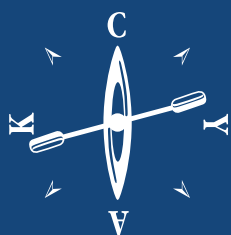
Theme: Live in his love and fullness! John 15:9-11

Covenant Bible Camp is in full swing in Unalakleet! Every year, we are grateful to see so many campers travel from across the state to have fun and learn about Jesus in a safe and encouraging environment. Putting on a wilderness camp in Alaska is no small task, and it is only through the prayers of all of you and the hard work of volunteers and staff that camp is a success year after year. Please be in prayer for the rest of the camp season - and for campers as they head home. Pray that they will have the courage to connect with their local church and know God is with them wherever they go!



CURRENT MINISTRY NEEDS

Internships: Seeing interns take what they have learned and apply it to serve others is incredibly rewarding. Each year, CYAK offers paid internships to young adults who are interested in exploring what it is like to serve God in a ministry setting. Help make this opportunity possible! **Visit cyak.org/mission to give.**



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A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

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