

CYAK impact UPDATE

YOUR SUPPORT
AT WORK

January 2018



For many, Bible Camp has already started

Bible Camp may only last five weeks, but excitement is already building

BY DAVID RURIK

Travelling up the Unalakleet river from the coast provides an experience of peace and calm as you delve deeper into the Alaskan wilderness. Local residents will share stories of growing up with the river and which cabin or camping site belongs to which family. One common theme you will find relates to a piece of property up the North River, about 10 miles from town. Covenant Bible Camp holds a special place in the hearts of many from across Western Alaska and beyond.

Many hear the gospel of Christ as wonderful news for the first time or are reunited with God. Camp is a safe place to ask questions, seek healing and express unrestrained joy.

As the cold of January envelops Alaska, youth are already gearing up for the week of their lives. For many youth in Alaska, the first time they walk into Camp is like a breath of

fresh air. Youth have confided in staff that camp is one of the few places they get an honest hug each year.

Regularly, we hear that it is a place where campers feel safe, feel loved, feel heard. It is a welcome respite from a challenging home life, a chance to meet and enjoy time with friends and cousins, and freely be themselves.

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For many, it's hard to wait a whole year till the next camp season.

During the winter season, communities across Alaska are hosting bake sales, selling crafts, running raffles and hiring students for odd jobs so they can raise money to cover travel and registration costs for camp. It takes a huge effort to get kids to camp each year as travel costs alone can cost as much as \$600.

Each year our camper registrations and travel payments cover about

70% of the real cost of making camp happen. While kids are eagerly gearing up for and working hard at raising funds, the ministry heavily relies on financial partners who may have never seen camp to make sure that campers are fully cared for once they arrive.

CYAK staff member Drew Williams commented, "My favorite is when kids from our village ask if there is a registration form available in July (just after camp) for the following summer. And then they ask every subsequent month as well."

This impact ripples throughout the state as campers go home, create excitement for the ensuing year with their peers and begin raising the funds to make it back to the special piece of land up the North River out of Unalakleet.

CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

You are a part of the excitement and energy of camp and are invited to give specifically to help that continue! Consider the impact you can make in a young life with a gift! Thank you.

Will you continue your impact?

Visit cyak.org/YourImpact



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Covenant Youth of Alaska is a relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry for Alaska youth and young adults. A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, we work in partnership with 19 churches across Alaska for the cause of ministry to young people. To join our efforts or to learn more, go to www.cyak.org.