



Covenant Youth of Alaska Rural Alaska Youth Worker Job Description

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” - Eph. 4:11-13

The purpose of this position is to minister to the needs of Native youth through outreach, discipleship, and prayer. Workers will live and minister in a small and isolated village. The villages range in size from a few hundred people to a few thousand, and are hundreds of miles from the nearest road. Most villages have one store, one school, one gas pump, and all have internet and phone access. The winters are cold and long and the days short. Over 80% of village students come from a home where some sort of abuse is happening (alcohol, marijuana, sexual, and/or physical). Most students have had their lives affected by suicide. Your primary work is showing the kids of the village the hope and love of Christ. Three central components of ministry are:

- 1) *Discipleship care.* Leading students into becoming disciples of Christ through by example and teaching. A major component of this process is showing them that cyclical abuse can change—that there is hope in Christ for healing and transformation.
- 2) *Integrating the students into the life of the Church.* The sustainability of the faith of these students long term is dependent on them building relationships with older Christians, and recognizing that they have a role to play in the body of Christ. There is a huge chasm between the youth and the elder generation in these villages, due in part to rapid cultural change. The development of indigenous leaders is a central goal of our ministry. Identifying student leaders and facilitating the *Leaders for Life* program at the local level is crucial to realizing this goal.
- 3) *Engaging in the Local Community.* It is imperative to your health and success in the village to build relationships with local people. Learning by listening and watching are important in Native culture, and a good way to see how people relate to one another. Reaching out to students effectively is only possible through prayer and building friendships.

QUALIFICATIONS

The most important qualification to do this sort of ministry is an active personal relationship with Jesus Christ with a sense of calling towards relational ministry. Concern for Native youth and their spiritual lives is important. Experience working in youth ministry and a desire for further training and growth are valuable. Workers must be willing to live and serve in a non-Western culture with humility and openness. Cross-cultural ministry experience is preferred. Experience with snow machining, Scouting, and wilderness first aid are ideal but not necessary. Workers will have opportunities to participate in subsistence

culture (hunting, fishing, gathering). In small communities, workers must be open to work with people who are different and work through conflict in a loving manner.

STAFF STRUCTURE AND RELATIONSHIPS

- 1) Ministry in the village is a round the clock venture, but observe the Sabbath! Most work weeks are around 50 hours. However, much of the ministry will be spent with students in an informal setting: going fishing, snow machining, watching movies. Students will daily stop by to hang out in a safe place.
- 2) You will be accountable directly to the senior pastor and then to the Church Board, but also to CYAK. (Local church-CYAK Team Partnership).
- 3) Cooperation with church leaders is a must (e.g. plans and policies).
- 4) Recruit local adult leaders to serve as volunteers in youth programs.
- 5) Learn from locals how to survive when going out into the backcountry and how to be a part of community life (Native cultural values). Learn from the local church leaders about cultural communication differences.

SUPPORT CRITICAL TO SUCCESS

- 1) CYAK will help you find a mentor to meet with regularly.
- 2) Practice spiritual disciplines to remain active and growing in your faith.
- 3) CYAK can help you find out how to partner with people in your ministry financially. Many churches can take care of housing, but do not have the resources to fund a stipend. You will need to fundraise between \$7,000-\$10,000 in support. There is potential for part-time local employment-substitute teaching jobs are readily available and pay well. This could offset the fundraising amount. Workers need to raise at least \$1,200 before they begin their ministry.
- 4) If possible, bring a friend to serve with! We ensure that you have at least one other young adult Christian in the village for mutual encouragement.
- 5) An experienced Christian counselor donates her time to the support of village youth workers (for personal use or for help as you counsel).

GENERAL MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Faithfully attend church services and seek out a mentor in the local church.
- 2) Pray for the students, and parents of the youth ministry.
- 3) Develop relationships with the youth and members of the community.
- 4) Oversee and coordinate the activities of the youth program. This would include senior high and junior high youth group and student leadership meeting, and could open gym nights, movie nights, Bible study, etc.
- 5) Attend the one week of Schnupp's Crisis Counseling Training in 11/2008.
- 6) Provide monthly reports to the Church Board.
- 7) Aide CYAK spring and fall Regional Youth Events and participation in Bible Camp (near Unalakleet) in the summer. Be flexible !

HOW TO APPLY: See <http://www.cyak.org/serve.html> for an application. If you have questions or comments about anything in this job description, contact us, and we can talk. May God bless you as you seek his will in the years to come!