



Covenant Youth of Alaska

"We covenant to be a catalyst for the development of ministry to the youth of Alaska."

Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in serving Covenant Youth of Alaska (CYAK). CYAK has been the youth ministry department for the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska for 13 years. Our mission is to be a catalyst for the development of youth ministry in Alaska.

The dynamics for doing youth ministry in rural Alaska are unlike those of the lower 48. Many of the villages are without youth leaders or workers. The churches don't have the funds for this position, so we are continually looking for creative ways to fill this need in rural Alaska. Isolation is also another reason doing youth ministry in rural Alaska could be challenging. The villages are only accessible by air.

There are two objectives CYAK has to meet these needs. One is to develop the "Continuum of Care." This is ministering to youth from ages 12 to 25. This continuum includes Winning students to Christ, Building them in their faith, and Sending them out to serve others. Part of the continuum includes developing Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet, AK, coordinating regional youth events in the fall, and getting students from rural Alaska involved in leadership development and supporting college ministries such as: Campus Christian Fellowship at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Alaska Anchorage, Job Corp in Palmer, Amundsen Educational Center, and Alaska Christian College.

Another objective for CYAK is to create synergy between the youth workers and volunteers through team building. To avoid feeling isolated and discouraged by the challenges they face, we create a sense of connection for youth workers and volunteers by networking at camp, regional youth events, and times of training. We also recruit and train volunteers. Volunteers who are well equipped make a very real and significant difference in the lives of kids. Feeling unequipped is a major reason for burnout. CYAK also helps youth workers and churches strategically plan for effectively reaching youth.

Thank you for your desire to reach the youth of Alaska. Volunteers are very much needed and appreciated. As you consider serving in Alaska pray that God will show you where best to use your talent and gifts.

Crystal Johnson
Associate Director
Covenant Youth of Alaska

A Note From the Director

Thanks for considering serving Christ in Alaska!

As Christ washed his disciples feet, he gave us a clear example of serving others. Thanks for considering serving the youth in Alaska. God has a thing for those who were poor and powerless. Many youth in Alaska fit this description. They don't have much of a voice; yet many of them are crying out in the wilderness to be loved. If you look at the stats in Alaska, they are serious. You will see many of the youth are at risk for suicide as well as other harsh related behaviors. Many of the kids we are working with come from broken families that live in small villages where ministry options are limited. Through Covenant Youth of Alaska we are finding creative ways to support youth and youth workers through a team network. We work in partnership with local churches creating a continuum of care for students between the ages of 12 and 25. Whether you choose to serve in a small village or on the road system, one thing is sure - your work serving Christ will impact the lives of kids who are hurting and literally dying. Please come and help us. Thanks again for considering Covenant Youth of Alaska.

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Byron Bruckner
Covenant Youth of Alaska
Director

Descriptions of Ministry/ Volunteer Needs

Youth Leader in a Village: We are looking for people who love being outdoors, have a heart for cross-cultural experiences, and a gift for relational ministry as opposed to program ministry. Villages range from 200 to 1,000 people and have no roads connecting them, with most of the villages being located on a river or the ocean. Youth leaders are connected with other CYAK youth leaders and staff to help train and resource. Because there are very few opportunities for full-time employment in the remote villages, the churches cannot afford youth leaders. There are many youth who are hungry to grow in Christ, but have no one to foster their spiritual hunger and growth.

Covenant Bible Camp: A summer opportunity to serve, Bible camp has unique qualities compared to lower 48 Bible camps. Set in a remote and rustic environment 7 miles upriver from the village of Unalakleet, our camp does not rely on fancy facilities or high tech entertainment; it is about forming relationships and sharing the love of Christ with the campers. The camp is fully staffed by volunteers and all the typical camp positions are needed (counselors, cooks, “handy- man/woman”, lifeguards, nurses, worship leaders, program director, recreation director).

Regional Program Director: We are looking for people with the gift of administration and who enjoy traveling. This administrative role helps to coordinate regional youth events and youth ministry training events that are a part of CYAK’s Continuum of Care not only on the road system, but in the villages of western Alaska as well. Although this position requires a lot of behind the scenes activity, working directly with the youth happens as well.

Marketing/ Public Relations: We are looking for people who love travel, are good at public speaking and relating with people. For this position, you would be living in the lower 48 states to create awareness of the ministry here in Alaska and how CYAK is involved in that ministry to the churches of the lower 48. Can work very well for people who are still in school and are willing to spend weekends traveling. Coming to Alaska will be in the plan as well so you can experience first-hand the culture, people, and ministry.

Administrative Help/ Support: We are looking for people who have the gift of program ministry. This position includes helping with grant writing, coordinating events, connecting with volunteer youth leaders in the villages, helping provide resources for youth workers in the villages

College Ministry: As a part of our continuum of care, Alaska Christian College, Amundsen Educational Center, and Campus Christian Fellowship are a way that we reach out to students between the ages of 18 and 25 to follow up on, support, and help further grow their walk with Christ.

Alaska Christian College: A daughter ministry of CYAK, ACC is an intensive discipleship school that is “committed to encouraging the growth of the whole person – body, soul, mind, and spirit through whole-life discipleship.” Positions such as RA, and administrative assistant are available.

Amundsen Educational Center: A daughter ministry of CYAK, AEC is a vocational school that primarily serves Alaskan Native students from Rural Alaska. AEC’s mission is to provide a village-like Christian campus where the students can move forward with their education, be equipped with the vocational skills and attitude to be productive workers, and to be encouraged in their walk with Christ.

Campus Christian Fellowship: CCF works through both the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the University of Alaska Anchorage. Their mission is to “exist to give positive support to college students from bush/rural Alaska through Christian fellowship.” This fellowship is portrayed through Bible studies & worship, retreats & getaways, group activities, etc.

Youth Ministry/ Seminary Internships: People who are looking to serve an internship are definitely welcome to join the CYAK team as well. Just let us know what your areas of study are and we can talk with you about options that will fit with your educational needs.

Suggested Books

Do you like reading? Check out these books for insight into Native Alaskan culture ...

- *Jesus & The Eskimo* – Fred Savok
Chronicles the generational stories of a courageous, God-seeking family who became missionaries for Jesus among their own people.
- *Ada Blackjack: A true story of survival in the Arctic* – Jennifer Niven
- *Authentic Alaska: Voices of its Native Writers* - Susan B. Andrews
A collection of narratives about late 20th century life in northwestern Alaska
- *Growing Up Native in Alaska: Interviews* – Alexandra J. McClanahan
Twenty-seven Alaskan Natives talk about what their cultures and traditions mean to them today. A good look at contemporary Native American lifestyles and cultures.
- *The Last Light Breaking: Living among Alaska's Inupiat Eskimos* – Nick Jans
One man's insight into the lives of the Inupiat people.
- *A Place Beyond: Finding home in Arctic Alaska* – Nick Jans
Captures the norms, customs and ways of the people in the Northwest Arctic region.
- *Alaska's Daughter: An Eskimo Memoir of the early Twentieth Century* – Elizabeth Pinson
One woman's account of Alaska's emergence into a new and modern era, bearing witness to history in the early 20th century as she recalls it.

Suggested Websites

Don't have the time for a book? Check out these websites for some quick info ...

- Alaska Culture Exposed: a blog that "depicts the cultural life and time in rural Alaska relating rural issues and trends. All observations collected by the people who live here in Alaska."
<http://alaskaexposedculture.blogspot.com/>
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems/Alaska Native Ways of Knowing
http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/curriculum/Articles/BarnhardtKawagley/Indigenous_Knowledge.html
- Alaska Native Values
<http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/ANCR/Values/index.html>
- Iceberg Analogy
<http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/IKS/iceberg.html>
- Alaska State Facts
<http://www.50states.com/alaska.htm>

Information You Want To Know

Daylight/Darkness

How much light you lose/gain each day depends on where you are in Alaska:

Anchorage and surrounding area lose about 4 minutes of sunlight each day after the summer solstice; and gain about 4 minutes of sunlight each day after the winter solstice.

This results in only 7.5 hours of sunlight on the shortest day of the year in December, and 4 hrs of daylight during the month of June.

Areas more north lose 5 to 7 minutes of sunlight each day after the summer solstice; and gain 5 to 7 minutes of sunlight each day after the winter solstice. This results in only about 4 to 5 hours of sunlight during the day during the winter months, and 24 hrs of daylight for much of the summer months.

Populations

To show how some villages are bigger than others, and show how Anchorage may be the biggest city in Alaska, but is still quite small compared to other major cities in the lower 48.

Anchorage (+ Eagle River): approx. 300,000

Unalakleet: approx. 800

Nome: approx. 3,500

Bethel: approx. 6,000

Elim: approx. 300

Weather Averages

(www.weather.com)

(continued on next page)

Anchorage:

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Mean	Avg. Precip	Record High	Record Low
Jan	22°F	9°F	16°F	0.68 in.	56°F (1934)	-35°F (1947)
Feb	26°F	12°F	19°F	0.74 in.	57°F (1943)	-38°F (1947)
Mar	34°F	18°F	26°F	0.65 in.	56°F (1926)	-24°F (1971)
Apr	44°F	29°F	36°F	0.52 in.	69°F (2005)	-15°F (1920)
May	55°F	39°F	47°F	0.70 in.	82°F (1947)	1°F (1945)
Jun	62°F	47°F	55°F	1.06 in.	92°F (1931)	29°F (1920)
Jul	65°F	52°F	58°F	1.70 in.	84°F (2003)	34°F (1922)
Aug	63°F	49°F	56°F	2.93 in.	82°F (1978)	31°F (1984)
Sep	55°F	41°F	48°F	2.87 in.	73°F (1957)	19°F (1992)
Oct	40°F	28°F	34°F	2.09 in.	63°F (1929)	-6°F (1935)
Nov	28°F	16°F	22°F	1.09 in.	62°F (1920)	-21°F (1956)
Dec	24°F	11°F	17°F	1.05 in.	53°F (1940)	-36°F (1917)

Unalakleet:

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Mean	Avg. Precip	Record High	Record Low
Jan	10°F	-4°F	3°F	0.40 in.	47°F (1961)	-59°F (1989)
Feb	13°F	-4°F	4°F	0.31 in.	46°F (1986)	-50°F (1956)
Mar	20°F	2°F	11°F	0.39 in.	47°F (1954)	-50°F (1971)
Apr	32°F	14°F	23°F	0.35 in.	62°F (1960)	-30°F (1977)
May	47°F	32°F	40°F	0.55 in.	78°F (1969)	-11°F (1971)
Jun	55°F	43°F	49°F	1.25 in.	86°F (1951)	25°F (1956)
Jul	62°F	49°F	55°F	2.15 in.	87°F (1992)	32°F (1961)
Aug	60°F	46°F	53°F	2.92 in.	85°F (1977)	28°F (1970)
Sep	51°F	36°F	44°F	2.10 in.	75°F (1981)	-11°F (1971)
Oct	34°F	19°F	26°F	0.89 in.	57°F (1950)	-20°F (1953)
Nov	20°F	5°F	13°F	0.66 in.	48°F (1995)	-36°F (1994)
Dec	14°F	-1°F	6°F	0.47 in.	43°F (1983)	-52°F (1974)

Nome:

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Mean	Avg. Precip	Record High	Record Low
Jan	13°F	-2°F	6°F	0.92 in.	43°F (1977)	-54°F (1989)
Feb	14°F	-2°F	6°F	0.75 in.	48°F (1986)	-42°F (1978)
Mar	18°F	1°F	9°F	0.60 in.	43°F (1984)	-46°F (1971)
Apr	27°F	12°F	20°F	0.65 in.	51°F (1988)	-30°F (1968)
May	43°F	31°F	37°F	0.74 in.	78°F (1981)	-11°F (1949)
Jun	54°F	41°F	47°F	1.14 in.	83°F (2004)	23°F (1974)
Jul	59°F	47°F	53°F	2.15 in.	86°F (1977)	28°F (1924)
Aug	56°F	45°F	51°F	3.23 in.	83°F (1966)	23°F (1913)
Sep	49°F	37°F	43°F	2.51 in.	71°F (1979)	9°F (1992)
Oct	34°F	23°F	29°F	1.58 in.	59°F (1954)	-10°F (1966)
Nov	23°F	11°F	17°F	1.28 in.	50°F (1928)	-39°F (1948)
Dec	16°F	1°F	8°F	1.01 in.	43°F (1969)	-42°F (1929)

Bethel:

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Mean	Avg. Precip	Record High	Record Low
Jan	12°F	1°F	7°F	0.62 in.	49°F (1942)	-48°F (1989)
Feb	14°F	1°F	8°F	0.51 in.	51°F (1927)	-40°F (1925)
Mar	22°F	7°F	14°F	0.67 in.	53°F (1934)	-42°F (1956)
Apr	33°F	18°F	26°F	0.65 in.	63°F (2004)	-31°F (1956)
May	49°F	33°F	41°F	0.85 in.	80°F (1993)	-5°F (1949)
Jun	59°F	43°F	51°F	1.60 in.	90°F (1926)	28°F (1962)
Jul	63°F	49°F	56°F	2.03 in.	86°F (1951)	30°F (1934)
Aug	60°F	47°F	54°F	3.02 in.	87°F (2003)	28°F (1984)
Sep	52°F	39°F	45°F	2.31 in.	76°F (1935)	18°F (1970)
Oct	35°F	25°F	30°F	1.43 in.	65°F (1954)	-6°F (2001)
Nov	23°F	12°F	17°F	1.37 in.	60°F (1936)	-31°F (1939)
Dec	16°F	3°F	9°F	1.12 in.	49°F (1936)	-44°F (1948)

Fundraising

Something you should definitely know is that working for CYAK is not a fully funded deal. Raising your own support is a requirement. If you decide to join the team and are accepted, you will receive more information on how much will be needed for what you will be doing with CYAK, and ideas on how you can go about raising support effectively.