

# Covenant Youth of Alaska

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

Volume 12, Issue 5  
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## Aarigaa Fairbanks is Thriving!

### Compelling Aarigaa Ministry is Reaching Young Adults with Christ's Love through Community.

An Inupiaq word, Aarigaa means, 'sweet', or 'so good'. CYAK's young adult ministry is called Aarigaa because fellowship with God, with his Word, and with his people is sweet. CYAK's Aarigaa Fairbanks ministry gathers young adults from all over the state who have come to Fairbanks for school or work.

Tricia Ivanoff serves as the Aarigaa Director in Fairbanks - leading the group into compelling community. Thanks to the strong foundation that was put down by past directors, and Tricia's ability to connect with students, the group is thriving! We are so grateful for Tricia's leadership. Continue reading to hear about Aarigaa from Tricia's perspective:

**Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.**

**—Hebrews 10:24-25**

*When I first made my decision on which college I wanted to attend, I didn't factor in the type of community I wanted to be a part of. My decision was largely based on the opportunity to play volleyball. Into my third term,*

*I realized that although I enjoyed playing the sport, I lacked the type of environment that would foster growth in me. At that crucial period in my life, I needed to be surrounded by others who would uplift, encourage, and challenge me to grow deeper in my faith.*

*That summer, I felt the Lord nudge me elsewhere. I began attending North Park University, and immediately immersed myself in a healthy community on campus that had allowed for me the space to grow more in Christ and undergo healing. That is the type of community that Aarigaa, CYAK's young adult ministry, fosters and provides for Alaskan college students, especially those coming from rural Alaska.*

*I have had the pleasure of serving as the Director of Aarigaa-Fairbanks for 8 months now. The students are an absolute joy to serve, and I count it as an honor to be able to walk alongside them during this crucial time in their life. The previous director and his wife have done an incredible job fostering a healthy community, one that allows for each student and volunteer to*

*spur one another on in their faith and love and good works. The presence of God is palpable each time we gather and meet with one another. At the end of last semester, the students started referring to Aarigaa*  
**Continued on back page...**

## Ministry Highlights



### Youth Group!

Youth groups are in full swing across the state! Above: Scammon Bay Youth Group



### Tom Serving MatSu

Longtime CYAKer Tom Mute is now serving as Associate Pastor for Youth at MatSu Covenant in Wasilla!



### Retreat Season!

High School Fall Blast in Nome, the Young Adult Retreat and the High School Road System Retreat in Big Lake to name a few!

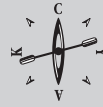


...from front page

*Fairbanks as their "Aarigaa family." I have been blown away by their willingness to invite and easily welcome others into the family. Chelsey Zibell, a graduate student at UAF, has been involved in Aarigaa for over 10 years and now hosts Aarigaa in her home once a month. When asked what she thought was so compelling about the Aarigaa Fairbanks community, she said "the feeling that you are safe and loved and welcomed." This is what makes for a compelling community, one that fosters growth, teaches and encourages others to truly love God and love one another, and allows for the Lord to do His good work in the lives of His people.*

It is such an encouragement to know that the Aarigaa Fairbanks community is thriving and growing together in Christ. Please continue to lift up Tricia, the other volunteers and the young adults involved in this ministry in prayer. Quyanna.

## Connect and Partner



### Website/Contact:

Visit **cyak.org** to learn more about CYAK's ministry. Contact us at **info@cyak.org** to learn how to get more involved!



### Instagram:

See photos and updates on Instagram!

**Search: @covenantyouthofalaska**



### Facebook:

See photos and updates on Facebook.

**Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska**



### YouTube:

Watch videos about CYAK's ministry.

**Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska**

## Ministry Highlights Continued...



### Aarigaa House Retreat

Setting a foundation for the semester!



### Scammon Young Adults

Weekly meetings in Scammon Bay.



### MatSu Cov Youth Group!

Bocce Ball is always a good time!



### Aarigaa Anchorage

Sharing a meal with church elders!

## High School Fall Blast Report

**A wonderful weekend together in Nome!**

In late September, 30 high school students gathered together from different communities across the Norton Sound region for CYAK's annual Fall Blast Retreat. Together, the high schoolers heard from a variety of leaders about God's healing in each of their lives. These talks, along with games, great food, awesome worship and small groups, made for an encouraging weekend together! We are so grateful for all those who helped make Fall Blast happen - we're looking forward to next year!



## PRAYER PRAISES & REQUESTS

**Sign up to receive monthly prayer updates, visit [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org).**

**Praise:** For the way God works in people's lives through retreats!

**Praise:** For the blessing of new staff members and volunteers.

**Praise:** For growing leadership teams at both Aarigaa sites.

**Prayer Request:** Aarigaa House - continued growth as a community!

**Prayer Request:** Upcoming High School Road System Retreat.

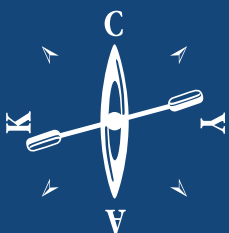
**Prayer Request:** Guidance for leadership as CYAK continues to grow!

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

## CURRENT MINISTRY NEEDS

**Van for Nome:** Nome is in need of a 15 passenger van to safely transport kids both around town and on outings in the country. Join with us!

**Yurt at CRC:** The Chickaloon Retreat Center is in need of a yurt. This will provide indoor meeting space for groups. Consider partnering in this!



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A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

**Website:** [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org)

**Email:** [info@cyak.org](mailto:info@cyak.org)

**Phone:** 907-625-1525

**Address:** PO Box 203356  
Anchorage, AK 99520