



Western Alaska Youth Worker Training

Partnership equips volunteers to reach youth in western Alaska

BY DAVID RURIK

Each spring Covenant Youth of Alaska gathers a growing group of volunteers for a weekend of encouragement, equipping and rest. CYAK's reach can go far beyond that of our staff who are limited in their geographical reach by engaging with people who already are in relationship with students in villages across Alaska.

Last month, 25 individuals gathered in Bethel for this year's CYAK Volunteer Youth Worker Training representing three regions of the state. Teachers, lay leaders, community volunteers and CYAK staff engaged in three days of worship, youth ministry training seminars and fellowship.

Several participants offered feedback saying, "I really enjoyed the fellowship worship, and sharing time. I think it is a great way to connect more people to CYAK and CYAK workers" and "Youth ministry in rural AK is unique! It was helpful meeting with other workers from similar locations who 'get' the joys and struggles specific to this

region. The perspective other workers gave provided encouragement, new ideas, and ultimately spurred me on to love and good deeds."

CYAK's work only goes so far as there are people equipped and in relationship with students in Western Alaska. For many years village Christian school teachers, counselors and others have partnered with CYAK to engaged with students. They meet with students outside of school hours, lead Bible studies, open their homes, and help students fundraise to go to events like camp. This effort allows many more young people to experience the saving love of Jesus.

Your support of CYAK allows us to reach out and equip those who do youth ministry across Alaska. You

Youth ministry in rural AK is unique! It was helpful meeting with other workers who 'get' the joys and struggles specific to this region. The perspective others gave provided encouragement, new ideas, and ultimately spurred me on to love and good deeds.

help fill a valuable need in allowing us to engage with incredible volunteers.

One participant wrote, "I am so thankful I was able to attend the CYAK weekend in Bethel. The timing of this training put wind in my sails. Seeing others serving faithfully where the Lord has placed them, hearing stories from their ministry, and feeling less alone in a place that can feel isolated meant so much! Thank you CYAK for investing in this event."

This event is critical for our volunteers to feel connected, engaged and prepared for the kingdom work that they are doing. It is because of our faithful partners that CYAK is able to put on these training retreats, which have broad and deep impact.

CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

You are a part of the excitement and energy of our volunteer team through your financial giving to Covenant Youth of Alaska. Right now, you're invited to give to our mission fund for these programs. Consider the impact you will make with a \$25 per month gift, making trainings possible for our volunteers. Thank you!

www.cyak.org/YourImpact



PO Box 203356
Anchorage, AK 99520
(907)625-1525
www.cyak.org

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.