



# Spring Camp: Getting Set for Summer

Chickaloon Retreat Center Serves as a Perfect Setting for Transition

BY DAVID RURIK

Connecting college students with opportunities for success is a high priority for Covenant Youth of Alaska. Last week, Nuya finished her third year at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. She is one of the core participants in CYAK's college-age ministry called Aarigaa.

In the spring of 2015, Nuya participated in the first CYAK Spring Camp at Chickaloon Retreat Center (CRC). Though she has lived in Anchorage for a number of years, she still recognizes the value of spending time outside of the city. Nuya shares,

***“I went to Spring Camp because I needed time away from Anchorage, to celebrate being done with the semester and just be able to breathe again from my hectic life.”***

CRC rests in the shadow of the Talkeetna and Chugach mountain ranges, just an hour and a half north of Anchorage and can host groups of

up to 20 in two cabins. The wilderness setting provides a perfect opportunity for retreats like Spring Camp.

Filling the gap between the end of the academic season and the beginning of summer jobs or travel, Spring Camp allows students from Aarigaa and Alaska Christian College (Soldotna, AK) to celebrate accomplishments and look forward to what is ahead.

This retreat also creates an opportunity for students to think about and answer the question ‘How do I remain connected to God this summer?’ knowing that they may not be surrounded by encouraging community in the months ahead.

Last year, CYAK Executive Director Byron Bruckner led conversations with the group of students during the four-day retreat. The discussions revolved around maintaining faith and staying the course, all while sitting around the fire, hiking, or simply spending time in God's creation.

The stories from last year's Spring Camp confirm that it was a special

time, and that Chickaloon Retreat Center is a special place. Nuya shares,

***“What makes CRC special is that it is a beautiful campsite; when I am there I feel one with God, nature, and especially the people who go.”***

This week, Nuya returned to CRC as one of 13 students for the second year of Spring Camp. Praise God for the impact that a place and a time such as this has on young adults from across the state of Alaska. God's presence is being felt and His glory is revealed!

## CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

Seeing young adults like Nuya experience oneness with God through nature and community is something to celebrate! You can impact other youth and young adults and open up opportunities like this by giving to CYAK's Subsist Ministry.

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