



# Culture Camp Directory and Resource Guide

Alaska Native Culture Camps

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## 2003 Spirit Camp Gathering: A Report June 6-7, 2003

Acting as convener and facilitator, the First Alaskans Institute brought together 42 individuals who have a passionate commitment to Alaska Native cultural preservation. The group included spirit camp directors and staffs, educators, philanthropists, operators of related programs, and Native Elders - people who have been active in organizing and supporting the spirit camp movement. The intent of this first-time gathering was to allow a statewide sharing of operational information and traditional teaching methods that focus on cultural preservation, healthy communities and academic success. It gave participants the opportunity to learn from one another and to network with peers and colleagues.

We are especially grateful for the support of the Rasmuson and Kellogg Foundations and for the organizational efforts of the Chugach Heritage Foundation. Sincere thanks also go to those who spent time and effort preparing presentations that were given at the 2003 gathering: Laurie Wolf, The Foraker Group; Panu Lucier, the Alaska Humanities Forum (Rose Urban-Rural Exchange); Jason Borer, the Chugach Heritage Foundation; Dawn Durtsche, the Gaalee'ya Spirit Camp; Yeda Hicks, the Saxman Youth Reach Program; Willard Jackson, the Ketchikan Indian Corporation; Trina Landlord, the AFN Wellness Program; John Johnson, the Nuuciq Spirit Camp; and Diane Van Epps, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

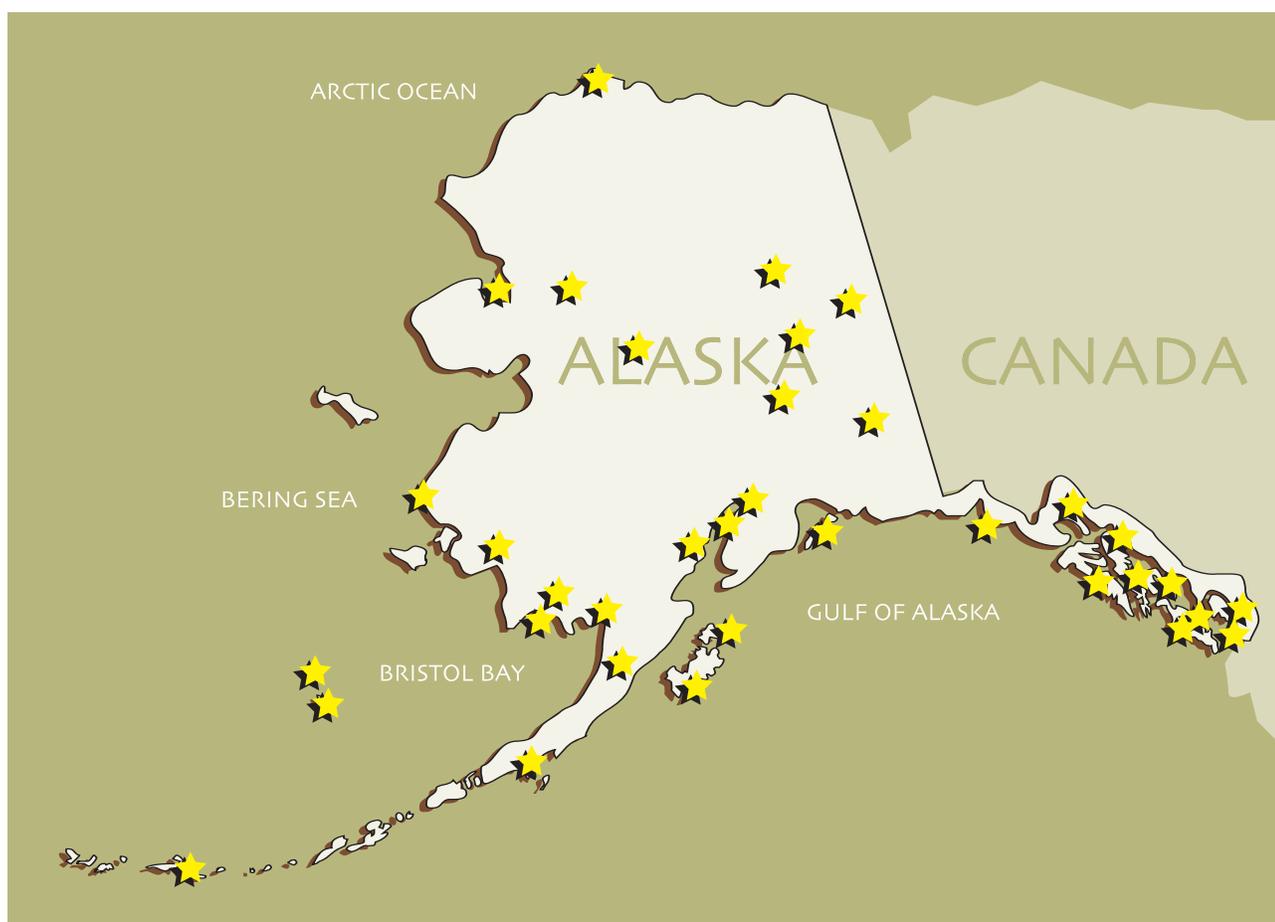
The First Alaskans Institute's role in spirit camps is not as a source of operational funds. Our endowment income cannot meet the needs of the many camps statewide. But we are prepared to help supporters and operators of this grassroots movement to meet and communicate with one another and to expand and improve their programs. More Native people are becoming aware of the need for cultural preservation and of its impacts on Native youth and their communities. If there is one thing that we, as Native people, should take away from this gathering, it is that - with a sense of pride in ourselves - we can accomplish anything.

First Alaskans Institute  
606 E Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 677-1700  
[info@firstalaskans.org](mailto:info@firstalaskans.org)





**Leadership Development** is one of the First Alaskans Institute's top priorities, and spirit camps help to produce the next generation of Native leaders. They teach traditional knowledge and encourage our youth to become strong, healthy adults and who lead strong, healthy communities. The map below shows some of various camps throughout Alaska.





## Concept of Alaska Native Culture Camps

Throughout Alaska, Native communities and organizations operate remarkable camping programs that provide spiritual and cultural guidance to their own people. No two of these culture camps are alike. Some are large and have functioned for years; others are new or small, operating on shoestring budgets. Some concentrate on children's programs in the summer months, while others serve adult groups at different times of the year.

But all such efforts rest on the assumption that traditional Native knowledge can be a beacon of common sense in a world of conflicting values. The success of these programs comes from Native peoples' reliance on their own intellects, rooted in the land, to guide themselves and their children in the present and future.

Alaska Native Culture camps stress community responsibility, not just individual rights. They teach sharing and hard work, respect for nature and for all people, celebration of language and heritage, the virtues of humility and cooperation, love of children and reverence for elders - in short, "family values."

Native children and youth often find themselves "walking in two worlds." - one world consisting of grandparents, ancient languages and close-knit villages - and the other composed of college degrees, internet technology and an evolving world economy. Anyone faced with such a difficult balancing act needs a place to stand - a sense of identity and self-worth. Spirit camps respond to that need.

For more information or online sources contact:

First Alaskans Institute  
606 E Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 677-1700 phone  
(907) 677-1780 fax  
[info@firstalaskans.org](mailto:info@firstalaskans.org) email  
[www.firstalaskans.org](http://www.firstalaskans.org)





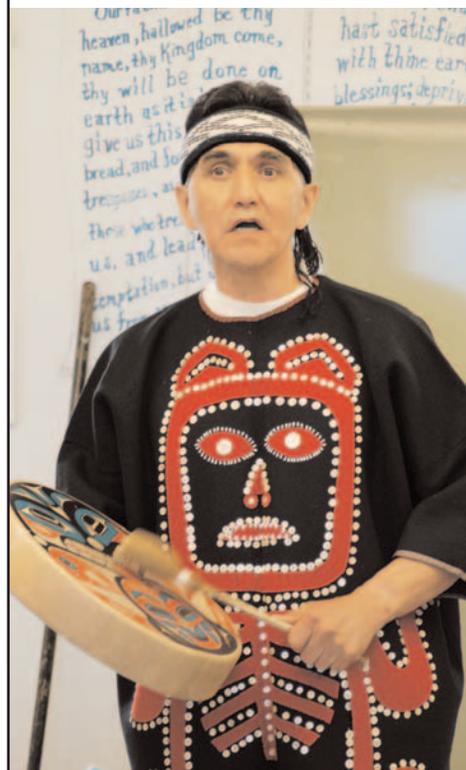
## Culture Camps and Wise Life Choices

For those working with individuals who struggle with the effects of alcohol and other substance abuse in their lives, it has become increasingly evident that the pathway to healing is substantially stronger for those who have been raised with traditional Alaskan values to reunite with those values. Over the past several years, treatment programs and communities have recognized this and have begun several successful treatment programs in a Culture Camp setting.

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP), which has sponsored the Rural Providers' Conference for 20 years, chose to focus on Culture Camps for its 21st conference in Seward, June 7-11, 2004. It is hoped that by providing a hands-on setting for both rural and urban providers to experience this return to traditional ways, that these ways will begin to be integrated into treatment programs.

By the same token, Culture Camps have proven to be a strong tool for prevention and an encouragement for healthier choices for youth and families who participate. Whether provided as a day camp experience or as week-long activities, individuals who participate are strengthened in their appreciation of their heritage and in their resolve to make wise life choices.

Marian Estelle, Wellness Coordinator  
Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.  
800-478-7227, 279-2511  
Fax: 800-478-6343, 278-2309





## Old Minto Culture Camps With the Cultural Heritage and Education Institute

Old Minto is located in the interior region of Alaska, on the Tanana River, 30 miles south by riverboat, of the town of Nenana. It is the historic and traditional home of the Lower Tanana Athabascan Indians. Although the Minto peoples had to relocate (due to flooding) in 1970, to a village they dubbed simply "Minto", on the Tolovana River, they continue to seek out Old Minto, as a place of their Ancestors, a place where they practice subsistence technology; hunting, collecting medicinal plants, and especially harvesting the all important Salmon. It is a place to reconnect with the land and reaffirm ones culture and spirituality.

Old Minto has another very important function, thanks to Athabascan Elder Robert Charlie and the Cultural Heritage and Education Institute, which Robert founded in 1984. It serves as the site of Athabascan Culture Camps. These camps strive to preserve, protect, and pass down Native Culture to the next generation of both native and non native peoples. These camps cover a wide variety of themes and resources, everything from simple retreats to youth at risk camps, substance abuse recovery, to the University Cross Cultural Orientation camps supervised by Ray Barnhardt. These are designed to acquaint teachers in training to Native culture and peoples.

The site is also used for the Cultural Atlas Mapping project, dedicated to the preservation of place names, language, and the environment of the greater Old Minto site. Students and Scientists and Elders are compiling cultural information together, and preserving it in a geo-spatial digitized format, with each student learning not only language and culture, but also about how to develop their own web-page in order to report and share what they have learned for future students.





The Elders are the camps unique and important components, for they are the knowledge-base of the people, and no text book can replace them. They tell stories, and are full of the Oral Histories of their peoples. At Old Minto, the Elders teach birch bark basket making, and subsistence technology such as fish wheel building or Salmon drying techniques. You may hear some old stories, for the Elders are well versed in the Oral Histories of their people.

Old Minto is adjacent to The Minto Flats state Game Reserve, one of the largest natural wetlands and waterfowl habitats in the world. Your boat journey will take you past nesting Bald Eagles and Moose sunning with their young on the numerous sand bars of the Tanana River. Many cultural and recreational activities are available during your stay, such as hiking or boating tours, collecting medicinal plants, or perhaps you may learn about Athabascan language and Native place names. At the end of camp, it is usual to have a traditional Potlatch, a sharing of traditional foods and everyone attends.

Please visit our website at [www.ankn.uaf.edu/chei](http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/chei) or call us at 907 4510923  
We welcome all inquiries! Baasee'!





## ROSE URBAN RURAL EXCHANGE

**The Alaska Humanities Forum** is a non-profit organization based in Anchorage which offers programs statewide that enrich the civic, intellectual and cultural life of all Alaskans. The Forum receives an annual \$1 million grant supported by Senator Ted Stevens and appropriated through the U.S. Department of Education to implement the Rose Urban Rural Exchange. AT&T Alascom has supported the program through an AT&T Foundation grant.

### **The Purpose and Goals**

The Rose Urban Rural Exchange aims to strengthen relationships between urban and rural Alaskans by building mutual respect, understanding and a statewide sense of community through cross-cultural exchanges of urban and rural students, teachers and sister schools. Through the exchange, participants experience family life, school and community activities in villages and urban centers. Students and teachers participate in pre and post cross-cultural orientation sessions to enhance their understanding of their host community's way of life. Round trip airfare is provided. Host families receive a stipend to assist with the costs of hosting a teenager or teacher in their home.

The Rose Urban Rural Exchange has facilitated exchanges between the communities of Anchorage, Fairbanks and Mat-Su and the villages of Akiachak, Alakanuk, Aniak, Bethel, Chevak, Cordova, Dillingham, Eek, Emmonak, Ft. Yukon, Galena, Huslia, Holy Cross, Kaltag, Kiana, King Cove, Kodiak, Kotlik, Manokotak, Mekoryuk, Nanwalek, New Stuyahok, Old Harbor, Pilot Station, Port Heiden, Port Lions, Quinhagak, Ouzinkie, Ruby, Russian Mission, Scammon Bay, Shageluk, Shishmaref, Shungnak, Stebbins, St. Mary's, St. Michael, St. Paul, Tanana, Togiak, Toksook Bay, Tununuk, Upper Kalskag and Wainwright and the following spirit camps: Academy of Elders Science Camp, Arctic Subsistence Education & Experience Language Immersion Camp, Calista Elders Culture Camps, Camp Sivunniigvik, Dog Point Fish Camp, Hughes Tribal Council Culture Camp, Kake Culture Camp, Klukwan Traditional Knowledge Camp, Old Minto, Pribilof Islands Stewardship Program, Sand Point Culture Camp, and Unalaska. The program continues to expand statewide to include new host villages and spirit camps each year.

### **The Rose Urban Rural Exchange offers the following programs:**

- 1. Student Exchange:** Urban and rural students in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grades from Anchorage, Mat-Su and Fairbanks and participating rural host communities can apply for the student exchange, which occurs in the spring. Student ambassadors share their experiences through presentations at their schools and community organizations.
- 2. Teacher Training:** Middle and high school teachers from Anchorage, Fairbanks and Mat-Su gain first hand experience about Alaska Native culture and rural life by attending a regional culture camps during the summer months. Three graduate-level credits and camp fees provided.
- 3. Sister School Exchange:** Urban and rural teachers implement lesson plans into their classroom curriculum that engage and enhance long term sustainable relationships between urban and rural schools. Sponsoring teachers and a delegation of five students visit each other's schools and communities for one school week. Teacher addendums and substitute pay provided.

**For additional information about the programs offered by the Alaska Humanities Forum and the Rose Urban Rural Exchange visit our website at [www.akhf.org](http://www.akhf.org)**

**Region: Aleutian Islands**

Camp Type: Culture Camp

Camp Administrator: Allison Young-McCain

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.  
 Qagan Tayagungin Tribe, U.S Fish and Wildlife  
 Service, Unga Corp., and Eastern Aleutian Tribes  
 201 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
 Anchorage, AK 99501  
 (907)-276-2700  
 (907) 279-4351 - fax

**Sand Point Culture Camp**

Originated in: 1998

Located: Sand Point

Operating Budget: \$15,000 to 25,000

Cost to individual campers: Free

Number of campers per session: Day Camp K-4<sup>th</sup> graders -20 students,  
 overnight 5-12<sup>th</sup> – 25 students.

Description of campers: Day campers are Sand Point residents, and overnight capers  
 are residents of Cold Bay, King Cove, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point, etc.

5-8 mentors at least 10 volunteers staff positions: mentors, directors, naturalists,  
 volunteer cooks.

Program and activities: Traditional cultural arts and crafts, traditional ecological  
 knowledge linked with western ecological research, seasonal subsistence preparation,  
 and Aleut dance and Aleut language

Camp Safety: Clinic and first aid training

Community involvement: Parental involvement, volunteer cooks, provide food and help  
 with camp, activities are open to community

Other entities involved (support): U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Camp Dates: One to two weeks in August

Additional Information:

**Region: Aleutian Islands**

Camp Type: Culture Camp  
 Camp Administrator: Moses Dirks

Unalaska City Schools  
 PO Box 570  
 Unalaska, AK 99685  
 (907) 581-2920  
 fax - (907) 581-3152  
 mdirks@UCSD.net

**Camp Qungaayux**

Originated in: Unknown

Located: Humpy Cove

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers:

Number of campers per session:

Description of campers: Students entering grades 4 through 12 from Unalaska, Atka, Akutan, Nikolski, and Adak

Staff Positions: Elders – Unangas from throughout the Aleutian Region and Mentors – anyone with Unangan culture skills or knowledge that can be passed on.

Programs and activities: Culture camp designed to promote awareness and learning of Unangan culture and values by having elders and youth participate in hands-on Unangan activities in a traditional camp setting.

Purpose is to re-introduce Unangan cultural values, Introduce Unangan language, promote awareness of Aleutian natural resources and pass on knowledge of elders to younger generations.

Unangan basketry, Food Gathering, Preservation and Preparation, Tied Pool Study, Skin Sewing, Unangan Hunting Visor, Atlatl, Iqyax and Boat Safety, Unangan Story Telling, Unangan Dance, Plant Lore, Aleutian Archeology, Ulax

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement:

Other Entities Involved (support): Sponsors & Contributors: Alaska Rural Systemic Initiatives; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Unalaska City School District; Qawalangin Tribe; Ounlashka Corporation; City of Unalaska; City of Atka; APIA

Camp Dates: 2 weeks in August

Additional Information:

**Region: Bristol Bay / Iliamna**

Camp Type: Youth Culture Club  
 Camp Administrator: Steve Atwater, Chief School Administrator

Lake and Peninsula School District  
 101 Jensen Drive  
 King Salmon, AK 99613  
 (907) 246-4280  
 (907) 797-2210 - fax  
[satwater@lpsd.com](mailto:satwater@lpsd.com)

**Alutiiq Culture Camps**

Originated in: 2000

Located: Pilot Point, other villages

Operating Budget: \$5,000 to \$10,000

Cost to Individual Campers: Free for students

Number of campers per session: Twenty to forty

Description of campers: LPSD Students

Three to Ten Staff Positions: Teaching staff, site administrator, cook, aides, local and state cultural experts, artists, speakers, etc.

Programs and activities: Vary by camp, Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers, Orville Lind, Jane Lind, Local carvers, artists and story tellers. Talks with children Earl Polk Jr., a motivational speaker.

Camp Safety: Compliance with school district policies at all times.

Community Involvement: Sharing skills, traditions, stories and language

Other Entities Involved (support): Village councils play key role and provide most of the funding and directions. Schools act as hosts.

Camp Dates: During the school year.

Additional Information: Camps are vehicle to address LPSD's Cultural Awareness standards. They focus on local cultural practices, traditions, subsistence, history and language. Emphasis on building student self-esteem through self awareness and cultural pride.

**Region: Chugach**

Camp Type: Subsistence and Cultural Camp

Camp Administrator: John Johnson

Chugach Heritage Foundation / Chugach Alaska Corporation

560 East 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 300

Anchorage, AK 99503-4196

(907) 563-8866

fax -(907) 563-8402

[jjohnson@chugach-ak.com](mailto:jjohnson@chugach-ak.com)

**Nuuciq Spirit Camp**

Originated in: 1995

Located: Old Village of Nuchek

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers: Free

Number of campers per session: Approximately 30

Description of campers: Seventeen to twenty from the Chugach Region plus others as space is available.

Approximately 15 Staff Positions: Teachers, Elders, Interns, Maintenance, Security and Cooks

Programs and activities: Subsistence, culture and education related programs and activities

Camp Safety: on file with sponsoring agencies

Community Involvement: Villages in our region assist as needed

Other Entities Involved (support): none

Camp Dates:

Additional Information: This camp is dedicated to educating our Native youth and teaching skills for survival in this modern world. It also provides employment for our elders, staff and interns. It is our goal that the youth with some day take over running the camp. It has also been our goal that Nuchek is not just at stagnate historic site, but rather a place where this village will come out alive out of the past and continue to make history as we go into the future.

**Region: Cook Inlet**

Camp Type: Cultural Enrichment and Reforestation  
 Camp Administrator: Gloria O’Neill, CEO / President  
 and Courtney Sullivan, Director

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.  
 2700 Gambell Street Suite 400  
 Anchorage, AK 99503  
 (907) 297-2504  
 (907) 297-2575 - fax  
 www.citci.com

**C.I.T.C Summer Cultural Enrichment & Reforestation  
 Camp and Ninilchik**

Originated in: 1999

Located: Ninilchik, Alaska

Operating Budget: n/a

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: 22 campers

Description of campers: Alaska Native / American Indian residents of Cook Inlet Region  
 ages 14 - 18

Seventeen Staff Positions: Project Director, Cultural Enrichment Director, Lead instructor,  
 On-site Manager, Assistant Instructor, Intern, Maintenance, Medical Technical

Programs and activities: NYO, drum making, soap stone carving, set netting, conflict  
 resolution skills, and career development.

Camp Safety: Safety First

Community Involvement: To plant 100,000 spruce seedlings

Other Entities Involved (support): C1121, Kenai Borough, Alaska Native Resource  
 Consultants, Ninilchik Traditional Council, U.S. Forest Service, Different supporting  
 departments of C.I.T.C

Camp Dates: June

Additional Information: Campers receive and \$300.00 stipend and 1/2 elective credit  
 from Anchorage School District

**Region: Interior**

Camp Type: Renewing Family Harmony Through Cultural Sharing  
Camp Administrator: Teisha Simmons – Ch’eghutsen’,  
Robert Charlie – Old Minto Cultural Heritage Camp

Ch’eghutsen’  
116 Minnie Street Suite B  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 479-0673 x26  
fax -(907) 479-0683  
[childrenareprecious@fairbanksnative.org](mailto:childrenareprecious@fairbanksnative.org)

**Sharing Time**

Originated in: 2002

Located: On the bank of the Tanana River, downriver from Nenana, former Minto village site; Old Minto Cultural Heritage Camp.

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: One family from each served village, two from Fairbanks area

Description of campers: Primary target is Alaska Native families with a child experiencing disharmony. By referral

16 Staff Positions: Counselors, Youth Coordinator, Clinical Supervisor, Training Coordinator, Elders

Programs and activities: Various presentations on resources for families. Various activities for families. High level of participation and guidance by Elders of Old Minto and other participating villages.

Camp Safety: Strict and monitored by Robert Charlie of Old Minto Cultural Heritage Camp

Community Involvement: The staff and Elders from the Old Minto Cultural Camp and Elders from the villages of participating families.

Other Entities Involved (support): None at this point (First year of the camp)

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: Interior**

Camp Type: Cultural and Traditional Subsistence  
 Camp Administrator: Janet Bifelt, Tribal  
 Administrator

Hughes Tribal Council  
 PO Box 45029  
 Hughes, AK 99745  
 (907) 889-2239  
 (907) 889-2252 - fax  
[janet.bifelt@tananachiefs.org](mailto:janet.bifelt@tananachiefs.org)

**Hughes Tribal Council, Culture Camp**

Originated in: 1992

Located: four miles up river

Operating Budget: varies

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: twenty to thirty

Description of campers: open to anyone who wants to attend.

Two staff ten volunteers Staff Positions: tribal admin,  
 tribal admin assistant, and volunteers

Programs and activities: basket making with birch bark, cooking classes, story telling,  
 fishing, preparing subsistence food, drying fish

Camp Safety: none developed

Community Involvement: young men and women volunteer site renovation and set up.  
 Elders from other villages share story telling, basket making, sewing, beading,  
 Volunteers play with the children, cook and clean. Parents camp with their children.

Other Entities Involved (support): none

Camp Dates: third week in July

Additional Information:

**Region: Interior**

Camp Type: Substance Cultural Educational  
 Camp Administrator: Howard Luke

Gaalee'ya Spirit Camp  
 PO Box 73161  
 Fairbanks, AK 99707  
 (907) 451-9806  
 (907) 451-9806 x 51  
 gaaleeya@mosquionet.com

**Gaalee'ya Spirit Camp**

Originated in: 1990

Located: 12 miles out of Fairbanks on the Tanana River

Operating Budget: \$47,000.00

Cost to Individual Campers: free for students

Number of campers per session: twenty to forty

Description of campers: 12 - 16 years of age

One staff per six children Staff Positions: 2-interns, 2- cooks,  
 1-program coordinator, 1-2 boat runners

Programs and activities: beading, dancing, tanning hides, snare making, basket making, birch spoon making, plan/tree identification and use, clean graveyard, camp group chores, guest speakers, attend WEIO, fish wheel, fish cutting and fish smoking.

Camp Safety: Camp area is designated with posts and flagging tape. No walking on trails without adult supervision. River is off limits, no gum wrappers thrown on grounds, use tools with adult supervision and return them.  
 Wear life vest on boats.

Community Involvement: Festival of Native Arts, Howard Luke Academy, schools, community meetings, board meetings. Howard Luke speaks at many statewide and foreign countries where he distributes his book "My own Trail" which has a place name map.

Other Entities Involved (support): UAF / AISES Science Camp, FNA various treatment centers, Boy Scouts of America, Elementary schools within Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, Doyon

Camp Dates:

Additional Information: Gaalee'ya Spirit Camp is place that brings people together to learn about themselves, others and the relationship to the earth. Everyone is welcome to "come smell the balsam and feel good about themselves" per Howard Luke

**Region: Interior**

Camp Type: Cultural

Camp Administrator: Project AIPA Director

Association of Interior Native Educators (AINE)

1 Doyon Place, Suite 300

Fairbanks, AK 99701

888-478-4755 x 2144

(907) 459-2065

maguireb@doyon.com

[allisony@apiai.com](mailto:allisony@apiai.com)

**AINE Elders Academy**

Originated in: 1996

Located: Various locations

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers: no charge

Number of campers per session: ten to fifteen

Description of campers: Alaska Native certified teachers

Staff Positions: Generally 4 Native elders, curriculum specialist, plus program staff

Programs and activities: Elders teach traditional knowledge to Native teachers

Camp Safety: none developed

Community Involvement:

Other Entities Involved (support): Elders are selected from the host community.

Community often hosts gathering in honor of the participants

Camp Dates:

Additional Information: Participants develop curriculum units based on the camp activities

**Region: Kodiak**

Camp Type: Cultural Camp / Dance Camp  
 Camp Administrator: John Larsen and Teri Schneider

Native Village of Afognak  
 204 E Rezanof Drive Suite 100  
 Kodiak, AK 99615  
 (907) 486-6357  
 fax -(907) 486-6529  
[john@afognak.org](mailto:john@afognak.org)  
[tschneider@kodiak.k12.ak.us](mailto:tschneider@kodiak.k12.ak.us)

**Dig Afognak Cultural Camp**

Originated in: 1997

Located: Afognak Island

Operating Budget: n/a

Cost to Individual Campers: \$35.00 registration fee

Number of campers per session: 33 overnight for one week to three weeks

Description of campers: youth ages 7 -107

Staff Positions: Camp manager, cook, cook assistant,  
 camp assistant, traditional use instructor

Programs and activities: Subsistence, traditional harvest, environmental education from Native perspective, Indigenous Languages and Native ingenuity. Dance camp, language camp, science camp with traditional ways of knowing, Elders Camp documenting Elders oral histories, family recovery camp, archeological dig camp

Camp Safety: Native Village of Afognak on file

Community Involvement: Elder advisors, parent involvement

Other Entities Involved (support): EPA, Kodiak Housing Authority, KIBSD, KANA, Afognak Native Corporation

Camp Dates: summer months

Additional Information: Elders actively involved in teaching youth. Dance camp designed and hosted by the Native Village of Afognak seeks to re-establish the skills and knowledge necessary to continue traditional singing and dancing as well as prompt new dance songs.

**Region: North Slope**

Camp Type: Summer Culture Camps  
 Camp Administrator: Fannie Akpik, Assistant  
 Professor, Fine Arts

Ilsagvik College, Inupiaq Fine Arts  
 PO Box 749  
 Barrow, AK 99723  
 (907) 852-3333  
 fannie.akpik@tuzzy.org

**Arctic Subsistence Education and Experience:  
 Joining Traditional Knowledge with Modern Education**

Originated in: 2003

Located: Atqasuk area

Operating Budget: \$159,648.00

Cost to Individual Campers: free for students

Number of campers per session: five to fifteen

Description of campers: Junior and Senior High School and adults

Staff Positions: Recognized expert in language and camping, hunting guide,  
 Elder guide, faculty

Programs and activities: Piloting and Inupiaq Fine Arts Program course called  
 " Inupiaq Land Use Values and Resources" 3 credit course.

Camp Safety: Iilisagvik College liability and campus safety policies

Community Involvement: Atqasuk Corporation, City of Atqasuk

Other Entities Involved (support): North Slope Borough Fire Department, North Slope  
 Borough Health Department, North Slope Borough Search and Rescue, North Slope  
 Borough School District

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: Kodiak**

Camp Type: Education / Culture Camp

Camp Administrator: Teri Schneider

Native and Rural Programs Support, KIBSD

722 Mill Bay Road

Kodiak, AK 99615

(907)486-9276

fax -(907)486-9085

[tschneider@kodiak.k12.ak.us](mailto:tschneider@kodiak.k12.ak.us)

**Academy of Elders / Science Camp**

Originated in: 1997

Located: Dig Afognak Camp

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers: no charge

Number of campers per session: approximately 20

Description of campers: Students grades 2 – 12 and Alutiiq Elders from the Kodiak archipelago

32 Staff Positions: 10 educators, 8 Elders, 9 community members / scientists, 5 speakers / staff (manager, assistant manager, cook, assistant cook and camp intern)

Programs and activities: Strengthen the need for environmental education for Native Youth. Make science and math more culturally relevant to Native Youth. Provide an opportunity to build critical thinking skills and student confidence. The greatest advantage of teaching this method in a camp setting allows young people the opportunity to interact with Elders.

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement: Alaska Native Students, Elders, parents, teachers and community members (artist, cultural exchange guests, scientist, linguists, dancers and drummers)

Other Entities Involved (support): Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative, Kodiak Island Borough School District, Afognak Native Corporation, Kodiak Area Native Association, Native Village of Afognak, Shoonaq Tribe of Kodiak, EVOS, Kodiak Island Housing Authority, and other funding agencies.

Camp Dates: fourth week of July

Additional Information:

**Region: Kodiak**

Camp Type: Family Recovery and Spirit Camp  
 Camp Administrator: Robert Weldy / Arum Kone

Kodiak Area Native Association  
 3449 Rezanof Drive  
 Kodiak, AK 99615  
 (907)486-3438  
 (907)486-3475 - fax  
[arum.knoe@kanaweb.org](mailto:arum.knoe@kanaweb.org)  
[bob.weldy@kanaweb.org](mailto:bob.weldy@kanaweb.org)

**KANA Spirit Camp**

Originated in: unknown

Located: Held in a remote setting on a traditional use site

Operating Budget: n/a

Cost to Individual Campers:

Number of campers per session:

Description of campers: Children ages 10-18 for spirit camp, and families with children for Family camp

Varies by site and session Staff Positions: KANA personnel, project/ subject specialist, counselors, younger culture bearers

Programs and activities: Subsistence hunting, fishing skills, ecology, safe and healthy recreational activities, arts and crafts, kayaking, etc.

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement: Elders, parents, cultural bearers

Other Entities Involved (support):

Camp Dates: 7/4 – 7/24

Additional Information: KANA has supported other camps in the region and provides transportation and other levels of support.

**Region: Northwest Arctic**

Camp Type: Traditional and Cultural Subsistence Camp

Camp Administrator: Caleb Pungowiyi / Sue Norton

Aqqaluk Trust

PO Box 509

Kotzebue, AK 99752

(907) 442-1611

fax -(907) 442-2289

[caleb.pungowiyi@nana-reg.com](mailto:caleb.pungowiyi@nana-reg.com)

[sue.norton@nana-reg.com](mailto:sue.norton@nana-reg.com)

**Camp Sivunniigvik**

Originated in: 1981

Located: near Noorvik in a remote site

Operating Budget: Variable by donations

Cost to Individual Campers: \$50.00 on a sliding scale

Number of campers per session: fifty students

Description of campers: we have students ages from 7-15 any ethnicity

Fifteen to twenty per session staff positions: counselors, fishing, instructors, boat drivers, security guard and coordinators

Programs and activities: We have alcohol and drug abuse volunteers, counselors to help, companies come and share, leaders invited to share, dental service available once a week, water safety, and health aide visits once a week.

Camp Safety: We do not allow drinking or smoking if possible. We have curfew for everyone at 10:00 p.m.

Community Involvement: We have all the region support and send their workers as volunteers during camp season.

Other Entities Involved (support): We have different businesses sending their staff to volunteer to help

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: Pribilof Islands**

Camp Type: Culture and Environmental Camp

Camp Administrator: Karin Holser

Pribilof Island School District

PO Box 306

St. Paul, AK 99660

(907) 546-3190

(907) 546-2210 - fax

kholser@hotmail.com

[allisony@apiai.com](mailto:allisony@apiai.com)**Pribilof Island Stewardship Culture Camp**

Originated in: 1992

Located: St. Paul Island

Operating Budget: \$32,000

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: varies

Description of campers: any child living in the community of St. Paul

2 Staff Positions: Oversee camp activities for each day, positions vary

Programs and activities:

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement:

Other Entities Involved (support): U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, National Marine Mammal Lab (NMFS)

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: Pribilof Islands**  
 Camp Type: Cultural and Environmental Camp  
 Camp Administrator: George Kashevarof

Pribilof Island School District  
 PO Box 959  
 St. George, AK 99591  
 (907) 859-2205

**Pribilof Island Stewardship Culture Camp**

Originated in: 1992

Located: St. George Island

Operating Budget: unknown

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: varies

Description of campers: any child living in the community of St. George

2 Staff Positions: Oversee camp activities for each day, positions vary

Programs and activities:

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement:

Other Entities Involved (support):

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: South Central**

Camp Type: Rehabilitation

Camp Administrator: Diane Little Eagle, Walter Austin

Mat Su Spirit Camp

PO Box 4718

Palmer, AK 99645

(907)746-1412

[allisony@apiai.com](mailto:allisony@apiai.com)

**Walter Austin Camp**

Originated in: 2000

Located: Palmer, Alaska

Operating Budget: Variable by Donations

Cost to Individual Campers: donations accepted

Number of campers per session: seventeen

Description of campers: Native American Youth

Four to six staff positions: Elder group (story telling, teacher)

Mid-Age (youth helper, organization, teacher of traditional knowledge)

Programs and activities:

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement:

Other Entities Involved (support):

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: South Central**

Camp Type: Integrated (special needs inclusive)

Camp Administrator: Talyne Corlyn, Director

Love of Alaska Company  
7362 W. Parks Hwy., Box 633  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 745-3339  
fax -(907) 357-9656  
talyne1@mtaonline.net

**Camp Kobu**

Originated in: 2003

Located: 60 miles north of Anchorage at the Alaska State Elks Youth Camp

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers: 225

Number of campers per session: forty-eight

Description of campers: Anybody ages 1-14 can attend, special needs and wheelchair accessible welcome

2 counselor staff per eight children staff positions: Three directors, counselors and nurse

Programs and activities: Group visit after breakfast for Qi Gong, arts and crafts, music, canoeing, outdoor games, swimming, singing and telling stories, cook-outs, picnic, and theatre for camper performances. Nature hikes with biologist.

Camp Safety: Guidelines and rules enforced, secured drop off and pick up policy, etc...

Community Involvement: Recycling center presentation, Musicians and concert provided

Other Entities Involved (support):

Camp Dates: August 10- 15th

Additional Information: Love of Alaska's recreation program is launching Camp Kobu, and inclusive camp for children 7-14. The goal is to foster independence, while encouraging cooperation and communication with other children. Having an integrated camp encourages children to see one another in an ongoing recreational capacity, eliminating the prejudice and fear of those who are different from ourselves.

**Region: Southcentral**

Camp Type: Culture Camp

Camp Administrator: Joshua Salas

Native Village of Tyonek

PO Box 82009

Tyonek, AK 99682

(907) 583-2271

josh direct line (907) 583-2145

(907) 583-2442 - fax

[JoshSal9@aol.com](mailto:JoshSal9@aol.com)**Tebughna Cultural Camp**

Originated in: 2003

Located: 28 miles from Tyonek

Operating Budget: n/a

Cost to Individual Campers:

Number of campers per session: about 20

Description of campers: open enrollment

Six to eight staff positions: Camp director, cook chaperones, facilities maintenance, etc.

Programs and activities: Culture activities, bead working, talking circles, trapping, traditional food preparation, tanning hides, boating safety and swimming lessons.

Camp Safety: proposed policies and procedures

Community Involvement: open to the community

Other Entities Involved (support): hope to involve other agencies

Camp Dates:

Additional Information: Tyonek is starting a culture camp, renovating building facilities site restoration and camp programs are being established to provide a safe and healthy place for children to nurture in the culture.

**Region: Southeast**

Camp Type: Cultural

Camp Administrator: Yeda Hicks

Saxman Youth Reach Program

Route 2 - Box 1

Saxman, AK 99901

(907) 225-4166 x32

fax -(907) 225-6450

yeda77us@yahoo.com

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**Saxman Native Youth Cultural Exchange Camp**

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Originated in: 1995

Located: Nomadic – Camp Fox Village Mahoney Lake

Operating Budget: \$100,000.00 including in-kind contributions

Cost to Individual Campers: \$100.00

Number of campers per session: seventy-five to one hundred

Description of campers: seven to 18 year old youth

Twenty to thirty staff positions: Cooks, labor, instruction, life guards, EMT, Director, Drivers, youth workers, Set up and break downs crews.

Programs and activities: Canning / smoking fish, native singing and dancing, language, working with deer / seal skin, food gathering, Native games, swimming and story telling

Camp Safety: number one concern, very tight security using the buddy system. Children must be within sight of adult at all times. Perform background checks.

Community Involvement: Planning, cultural consultants, Elders and youth, food and equipment donations.

Other Entities Involved (support): School Districts, Local Businesses, public health, Forestry Service, local governments

Camp Dates:

Additional Information: Youth need free time as well as instruction time. Rules must be made plain and strictly enforced.

**Region: Southeast**

Camp Type: Culture Camp

Camp Administrator: Annette Wooten

Wrangell Cooperative Association, Petersburg Indian Association

PO Box 1418

Petersburg, AK 99833

(907) 722-3608

(907) 722-3637 - fax

psgwellness@yahoo.com

**Petersburg / Wrangell Culture Camp**

Originated in: 2002

Located: Island near Wrangell

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: 12 from Wrangell, 10 from Petersburg

Description of campers: age 11-17

11 from Wrangell and 4 from Petersburg staff positions: cooks, drum maker, counselors

Programs and activities: canoeing, drum making, talking circle, Tlingit language, smoke salmon

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement:

Other Entities Involved (support):

Camp Dates:

Additional Information: Petersburg will also be doing a day camp for 7 – 10 year olds. Activities will include stories, gumboot picking, jam making, Native art, Tlingit language and Elder celebration dinner. July 21-31

**Region: Southeast**

Camp Type: Middle School Students: Combination of Culture Camp, Canoe Trip, and Science skills, including research into Native ways of Knowing  
Camp Administrator: Peggy Cowan, Superintendent / Susan Arnold, Juneau School District, Assistant Superintendent's Office

Juneau School District  
10014 Crazy Horse Drive  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 463-1700 x 219  
fax -(907) 463-1712  
[Arnolds@jsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:Arnolds@jsd.k12.ak.us)

**Camp Water (Wilderness, Adventure, Traditions, Exploration, Research)**

Originated in: 1996

Located: Base of camp is in Juneau. Culture camps have been held in Haines (L'Kook Kwan), Sitka (Dog Point), and Juneau. Canoe trips have been stage in Angoon (Mitchell Bay), Admiralty Island, Port Frederic / Tenakee inlet, and Seymour Canal.

Operating Budget: \$92,000.00

Cost to Individual Campers: Free. Costs of safe, warm clothing, camping gear, or incidentals are absorbed by some families.

Number of campers per session: Maximum = 40

Description of campers: Juneau School District middle school students (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade) Focus on recruiting Native students and female students. Open to all students. Criteria for selection of students is based on the following: Teacher recommendations – Interest of participant, as indicated in the personal essay – Math / science performance and interest, as indicated in the application form, the personal essay and the site problem.

2 Naturalists, 4 teachers, 1 logistics coordinator for overall camp. Contracts for Culture Camp. (Coordinator, Cook, Elders, Camp Counselors) Evaluator for grant reports and effectiveness of program.

Staff/Activities: Naturalists hired by Camp W.A.T.E.R. are certified teachers. Coordinate, prepare and guide multi-day field trip for middle school students. Take primary responsibility for training in camping, survival and wilderness stewardship. Collaborate with teachers to design itinerary and education program for trip. Provide naturalist interpretation and science lessons to students on canoe field trip. Participate in spring planning session: Teachers hired by Camp W.A.T.E.R. are certified teachers. Instruct, supervise middle school students in classroom and camp settings, including wilderness canoe trip. Plan instruction collaboratively with team and individually for science or cultural lessons. Link Native Elders and scientists with instruction / curriculum. Logistics Coordinator – Provide logistical support to teachers and naturalist, such as providing connection between camp families and staff, arranging student transportation, coordinating guest speakers, coordinating with partner organizations, purchasing or arranging for camp materials as directed, assist with packaging and transport of camp supplies, supporting student recruitment and selection process and other camp duties as needed. Scientists – Volunteers, from various local organizations (Forest Service, Fish & Game, Auke Bay Laboratory, etc.) Elders – From local Native organizations. Are given stipends for their services and consultation.

Camp Safety: Naturalists are Safety Course Certified. Training for staff and students on wilderness issues: Bear Safety, Water Safety, etc. Behavior Contracts for students. Release forms for family signatures to participating agencies.

Community Involvement: Local News Coverage. Local outdoor recreation groups have assisted. Native Organizations have helped in recruitment and in some cases funding clothing allowances for needy students. Has provided a source of student interest and participation in Alaska.

Other Entities Involved (support): Originally funded by “The National Science Foundation” Secondarily funded by “Alaska Native Enrichment Grant – US Department of Education”, State of Alaska Marine highway use Contracts with SAGA (Southeast Alaska Guidance Association) for Ropes course, water safety Alaska Discovery for wilderness canoe excursions Juneau 4-H Club, Tlingit & Haida Community Council for Culture Camp (2003), Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative, and PITAS – Preparing indigenous Teachers for Alaska Schools.

Camp Dates:

Additional Information: Summer of 2003 is the last presentation of Camp W.A.T.E.R. Funding has not been awarded for another round of camps. The Juneau School District has found this program has been successful in meeting its goals. Strengthen students commitment, particularly Alaska Native student commitment to stay in school and enroll in math and science courses. 1. Model and exemplify the connections between Native Ways of Knowing and Western Ways of Knowing. 2. Illustrate the importance of math and science in our daily lives. 3. Emphasize career exploration and awareness of science / mathematics career potential. The Juneau School District would welcome a partnership with other organizations which would be willing to seek funding to provide similar experiences for students in the Juneau area.

**Region: Southeast**  
Camp Type: Culture Camp  
Camp Administrator: Roby and John Littlefield

NATIVE  
PO Box 2217  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907-747-6866  
fax - 907-747-4737  
robylittlefield@gci.net

**Dog Point Fish Camp**

Originated in: 1986

Located 8 miles north of Sitka

Operating budget: \$22,000

Cost to individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: ten to twenty five

Description of campers: children camp 8-16, family recovery camp open eligibility, language immersion camp-basic language skills

One to four staff position: volunteers, chaperones, linguists, camp directors, cook, assistant cooks, facilities maintenance, night watchman, bookkeeper, cultural specialist, Elders, subsistence specialists.

Programs and activities: language building, traditional subsistence harvesting and food preservation, Cultural knowledge, survival skills, hunting and fishing, Dog Point Children's Fish Camp 3 sessions per year, Dog Point Family Recovery Camp 2 sessions per year, Dog Point Language Immersion Camp one session per year, Dog Point Survival Skills and Culture Camps

Camp Safety: Safety First, many rules to provided guidance will be sent back to town if unable to be safe

Community involvement: volunteer Elders and parents, donations of money and supplies and food. Participation of fishermen, hunters and other health specialists

Other entities involved (support): Sealaska hosts language camp, State of Alaska host family recovery camp, SEARCH hospital

Camp Dates: March – August

Additional Information:

**Region: Southeast**

Camp Type: Cultural Spirit Camp

Camp Administrator: David Yates

Hydaburg Cooperative Association and Tlingit and  
Haida Central Council Wellness Program

PO Box 349

Hydaburg, AK 99922

(907) 285-3666

(907) 285-3667 - fax

[dcaytes31@hotmail.com](mailto:dcaytes31@hotmail.com)**Hydaburg Cultural Camp**

Originated in: 1997

Located: Boys and Girls Club of Hydaburg

Operating Budget: \$2,500 to \$7,800

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: 45 day campers

Description of campers: K -12 grades with community support

5 Staff and 2-5 volunteers per day staff positions: director, beading, carving, weaving,  
and dance instructorsPrograms and activities: Native dance, weaving, arts and crafts. Subsistence fishing  
and canning.

Camp Safety: Policy agreed by students during registration

Community Involvement: Culture bearers and parents

Other Entities Involved (support): SEARHC provides physical Ed and COHO provides  
mental health services for anger management and substance abuse counseling. POW  
METH Coalition provides drug prevention information.

Camp Dates: August two week camp for K -12

Additional Information:

**Region: Southeast**

Camp Type: Traditional Knowledge Camp

Camp Administrator: Lonnie Hotch

Chilkat Indian Village

PO Box 210

Haines, AK 99827-0210

(907) 767-5505

fax -(907) 767-5518

[lanihotch@wytbear.com](mailto:lanihotch@wytbear.com)

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**Klukwan Traditional Knowledge Camp**

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Originated in: 2002

Located: South end of Klukwan along Chilkat River

Operating Budget: \$47,000

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: 10-15 per session, year round sessions

Description of campers: Chilkat Indian Village Community members and neighboring communities

One year round employee and 1-3 Specialist / Elder per session staff positions:  
Director, Elders, Instructors

Programs and activities: Subsistence skills – hooligan, salmon, woodworking / construction, cedar basket weaving, Chilkat and Raven’s tail weaving, wood carving, traditional sewing and beading, Traditional song and dance.

Camp Safety: Camp rules designated

Community Involvement: School involvement

Other Entities Involved (support): University of Alaska, Sealaska Heritage Institute, Village Corp, School, Klukwan Church, Klukwan ANS

Camp Dates: Seasonal – year round

Additional Information:

**Region: Southeast**

Camp Type:

Camp Administrator: Archie Demmert III

Po Box 430

Klawock, AK 99925

(907) 755-2265

(907)755-8800 - fax

klawock@aitc.org

[allisony@apiai.com](mailto:allisony@apiai.com)**Klawock Cooperative Association**

Originated in: unknown

Located: merging with Kasaan / Klawock / Hydaburg

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers:

Number of campers per session:

Description of campers:

Staff Positions:

Programs and activities:

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement:

Other Entities Involved (support):

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: Southeast**

Camp Type: Youth Culture Club  
Camp Administrator: Shelley Bremner

Yakutat Tlingit Tribe  
PO Box 418  
Yakutat, AK 99689  
(907) 784-3238  
fax - (907) 784-3558  
shelly\_bremner@hotmail.com

**Yakutat Tlingit JOM Culture Club**

Originated in: unknown

Located:

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers:

Number of campers per session:

Description of campers:

Staff Positions:

Programs and activities:

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement:

Other Entities Involved (support):

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: Southeast**

Camp Type: Culture Spirit Camp

Camp Administrator: David Yates

Hydaburg Cooperative Associate and Klawock  
Cooperative Association, Tribe, Organized Village of  
Kasaan, Tlingit and Haida Central Council, AFN  
Wellness Program  
PO Box 430  
Klawock, AK 99925  
(907) 755-2265

**Annual Prince of Wales Culture Camp**

Originated in: 2002

Located: Kasaan / Klawock / Hydaburg

Operating Budget: \$7,800

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: Two day session 45 overnight campers

Description of campers: Prince of Wales Community Members

10 staff 5 or more volunteers staff positions: 10 instructors

Programs and activities: Native dance, weaving, arts and crafts. Traditional story telling

Camp Safety: Release and hold harmless

Community Involvement: Culture bearers and parents

Other Entities Involved (support): SEARHC Provides physical ed and COHO provides mental health services for anger management and substance abuse counseling. POW METH Coalition provides drug prevention information.

Camp Dates: July 12-13<sup>th</sup>

Additional Information: Kasaan offers significant historical sites and the Traditional Haida village site

**Region: Southeast**

Camp Type: Culture and Traditional Subsistence  
 Camp Administrator: Cheryl Evan

Organized Village of Kake  
 PO Box 316  
 Kake, AK 99830  
 (907) 785-6471  
 fax -(907) 785-4902  
 keexkwaan@starband.net

**Kake Culture Camp**

Originated in: 1985

Located: Mile North of Kake

Operating Budget: \$11,000 to 13,000

Cost to Individual Campers: \$30 day \$50 overnight

Number of campers per session: day 60 – 80 overnight 27 -45

Description of campers: Open to anyone who wants to attend. K – 6 grade day campers and 7-12 grade overnight

25 or more volunteers and 7 staff positions: Language specialist, cooks, two day chaperones and 2 night chaperone, culture specialist

Programs and activities: Tlingit dancing, Substance food gathering, goose tongue, sea asparagus, deer harvesting, seal harvesting, gumboots, octopus and other seafood. Language taught in Tlingit. Culture specialist teach along with Elder storytelling and guest artist teach their skills. Survival overnight camping trip for 7-12 graders.

Camp Safety: Goals and objectives are set, rules are read by the children who sign they will abide.

Community Involvement: Parents and volunteer donations

Other Entities Involved (support): Clinicians visit, Forestry instruction, VPSO sessions, ADF&G visitors as well as other specialist teach voluntarily. Local artist teach carving, silk screens, weaving, beading paddle making etc.

Camp Dates: Third week of July

Additional Information: Potluck with 300 or more people attend the ending celebration. Community monetary and volunteer contributions make this camp a success.

**Region: Yukon - Kuskokwim**

Camp Type: Subsistence Fish Weir Monitoring  
 Camp Administrator: U.S. Fish and Wildlife C. S. Operator

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 PO Box 1670  
 Kenai, AK 99611  
 (907) 262-9863  
 (907) 543-1009  
 (907) 262-7145 - fax

**Fish Weir Camp**

Originated in: proposed

Located: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge Fish Weirs

Operating Budget: Variable by donations and other funding

Cost to Individual Campers: free

Number of campers per session: 6 per session

Description of campers: High School age application process

Five to six staff positions: Weir technicians, USFWS, Tribal, Volunteer Student Conservation Association

Programs and activities: Provide and understanding of biology, fish weirs, and study and interpret information gathered.

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement: Teachers, Elders, Students of villages near and around weir

Other Entities Involved (support):

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: Yukon - Kuskokwim**

Camp Type: Elder / Youth Culture Camp

Camp Administrator: Mark John, Calista Elder Council Director

Calista Elder Culture Camp

PO Box 2716

Bethel, AK 99959

mjohn@gci.net

**Calista Elder Culture Camp Pilot Station / Marshall / Kwethluk / Umkomiut**

Originated in: 1996

Located: Yukon Kuskokwim Delta

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers:

Number of campers per session:

Description of campers: Two primary groups will share our culture camp experience. The first group is comprised of village Elders (one per five campers, an equal number of men and women) who will serve as the teachers and counselors of our traditional values and life skills.

Varies by site and session staff positions: Elders, Camp Directors, School Staff

Programs and activities: The activities of the camps will take on a daily rhythm similar to traditional subsistence camp setting. To facilitate to Elders' active participation and the young campers' individualized learning experience, one Elder will be assigned to every five campers. The Elders' responsibilities will be to act as their groups' supervisors, teachers and mentors. Learn Yup'ik / Cup'ik cultural skills, history and values. Subsistence hunting, fishing and harvesting activities appropriate to each camp location will be the focus of the camps, providing the Elders an opportunity to pass down traditional skills and values.

Camp Safety:

Community Involvement: Elders and parents and volunteers

Other Entities Involved (support): Calista Corp, AVCP, School Districts, Tribal Governments

Camp Dates:

Additional Information:

**Region: Statewide**

Camp Type: Math and Science Camp

Camp Administrator: Patrick Henry

Southeast Regional Resource Center

900 W 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 100

Anchorage, AK 99501

(907) 349-0651

(907) 349-0652 - fax

[patrickh@serrc.org](mailto:patrickh@serrc.org)

(907) 755-8800

**Alaska Native Student Wisdom Enrichment Retreat (ANSWER) Camp**

Originated in: 1997

Located: Galena, Palmer

Operating Budget:

Cost to Individual Campers: free, scholarship program for travel and other costs

Number of campers per session: 168 -292

Description of campers: Alaska Native 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, nominating processes determine eligibility

Staff Positions:

Programs and activities: Geared toward improving the math and science skills of seventh and eighth grade Alaska Natives. Combine traditional knowledge with middle school science and math applications.

Camp Safety: yes

Community Involvement: US DOE funded program, visiting teachers, program admin.

Other Entities Involved (support): Louden Tribal Council and Galena City Schools

Camp Dates: Galena: 6/11 -24 /02 Sitka: 7/3 -16, 18-31/02

Additional Information: Funding provided by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education

Region	Contact Name	Organization	Address	Phone/Fax	Email
Aleutian Islands	Karin Holser	Pribilof Island Stewardship Program	PO Box 306 St. Paul, AK 99660	907-564-3190 907-546-2210-Fax	kholser@hotmail.com
Aleutian Islands	George Kashevarof	Pribilof Island Stewardship Program	PO Box 959 St. George, AK 99591	907-859-2205	
Bristol Bay	Frank Woods		PO Box 216 Dillingham, AK 99576	907-842-3363	
Bristol Bay/Iliamna	Jack Hobson Brenda Trefon	Nondalton Tribal Council	PO Box 49 Nondalton, AK 99640	907-294-2220 #2 907-294-2234-Fax	nondalton@aitc.org
Bristol Bay/Iliamna	Metrona Andrew		General Delivery New Stuyahok, AK 99636	907-693-3151, 907-693-5507	mandrew@bbahc.org
Interior	Christy Young, Tribal Administrator		PO Box TTL Tetlin, AK 99779	907-324-2130 883-2021 Christi Young 907-324-2131-Fax	tetlin@aitic.org
Interior	Jeanne Boyle	Circle Village Council	General Delivery Circle, AK 99733	907-773-2822 907-773-2823-Fax	circle@aitc.org
Interior		Native Village of Fort Yukon	General Delivery Ft. Yukon, AK 99740		
Interior Yukon Flats	Betty Itta		PO Box KBC Birch Creek, AK 99740	907-221-2632 907-221-2611-Fax	e_itta@hotmail.com
Northwest Arctic	Virginia Commack	Native Village of Ambler	PO Box 47 Ambler, AK 99786	907-445-2196 907-445-2181-Fax	
Northwest Arctic	Kimberly Haviland	Maniilaq Addiction & Support Services	PO Box 256 Kotzebue, AK 99752	907-442-7644 907-442-7822-Fax	khaviland@maniilaq.org
Southcentral	Camp Director		504 W. 25th St. Anchorage, AK 99503		
Southeast	Archie Demmert III		PO Bpx 430 Kiawock, AK 99925	907-755-2265 907-755-8800-Fax	klawock@aitc.org
Southeast	Willard Jackson		PO Box 5551 Ketchikan, AK 99901	907-225-2957 907-247-0429-Fax	kliewaan@yahoo.com
Southeast	Rhonda Jensen	Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	PO Box 418 Yakutat, AK 99689	907-784-3238 907-784-3595-Fax	rhoda-jensen@hotmail.com
Yukon-Kuskokwim	Rebecka Napoleon		PO Box 190 Hooper Bau, AK 9904	907-758-4077 907-563-5398-Fax	atsaruaq@unicom-alaska.com
Yukon-Kuskokwim	Harold and Maggie Napoleon		1615 Stanton Ave. Anchorage, AK 99508	907-561-8180 or cell 907-230-4156 907-563-5398-Fax	inruuq@aol.com

## Yup'ik Region

### Calista Region Culture Camps

by Mark Miisaq John

Calista Elders Council (CEC) has received funding to run three ten-day culture camps in the Calista/AVCP region this summer of 2000. The first one will be at Umkumiute on Nelson Island June 4-14 for the coastal villages, the second from July 23 to August 2 near Kwethluk for the Kuskokwim villages and the third will be between Pilot Station and Marshall for the Yukon villages August 6-16.

The camps will incorporate two groups: village Elders, teachers and teacher aides who will serve as the camps' teachers and mentors to the second group of participants, seventh- and eighth-grade youth who will be attending the camps to learn Yup'ik/Cup'ik cultural skills, history and values. Subsistence hunting, fishing and harvesting activities appropriate to each camp location will be the focus of the camps, providing the Elders an opportunity to pass down traditional skills and values.

In keeping with the language and spirit of CEC's mission, two primary groups will share our culture camp experience. The first group is comprised of village Elders (one per five campers, an equal number of men and women) who will serve as the teachers and counselors of our traditional values and life skills. The second group is village youth (two per village, an equal number of boys and girls) who will be their students and partners in this culture-based learning experience.

Tribal governments from the three Calista regions (Coastal, Kuskokwim and Yukon) where the camps are to be conducted will recommend the camp Elders. In this way, the Elders of each camp will possess knowledge that is sensitive and relevant to each region's geography and the unique traditions and necessary life skills that evolved from it.

The process by which youth participants will be selected follows: first, seventh- and eighth-grade students will be targeted primarily because of their youthful enthusiasm, openness and conceptual maturity. Equally important is that this age group, after returning home from camp, can serve as ambassadors for their experience, excited and committed to sharing what they have learned with others as their roles and responsibilities grow within the village communities.

The timing and location of CEC's three camps will be based on each region's subsistence season and knowledge of the area's fruitful hunting, fishing and harvesting sites.

The activities of the camps will take on a daily rhythm similar to a traditional subsistence camp setting. To facilitate the Elders' active participation and the young campers' individualized learning experience, one Elder will be assigned to every five campers. The Elders' responsibilities will be to act as their groups' supervisors, teachers and mentors.

Each morning two of these groups will rise before the others and assist the camp cook in setting up, preparing, serving and cleaning up after the morning meal. They will continue to perform these responsibilities for the rest of the meals that day, their Elders reminding and modeling for them the importance their domestic chores play in fortifying the larger group for the day's subsistence work.

Following breakfast, the camp director, teachers, teacher aides and Elders will introduce the day's subsistence activities, the values associated with those tasks and what effect the groups' labors will have on those who will receive the benefits (i.e, their families, Elders, those who have lost their providers, etc.)

Each day the groups and their Elders will be assigned to different subsistence tasks with the understanding that every group will be able to participate in and learn each of the subsistence skills. During these activities, the Elders will supply the youth with the cultural knowledge necessary to perform each skill or task and teach the traditional values which infuse those tasks with meaning and spirit.

After lunch each day the students will spend two hours on science activities. The teachers and teacher aides will work with the students in developing science projects using subsistence activities that are taking place in the camps. The teachers should help prepare the students for science projects they can develop in the camps.

At the end of the day, after the evening chores and meal have been completed, the camp director will review the day's activities as a transition into a discussion of how subsistence tasks and values relate to those found in the western world. The goal will be to instruct our young people about how they can draw upon and apply their own traditional values to those of another culture so that they may survive in it-economically, spiritually and culturally.

The evening will conclude with recreational activities (hiking, lap games, Native Olympics) and an opportunity for each of the camp groups to meet with their Elders, ask questions, share experiences and hear stories celebrating their ancestors' rich history and mythology.

These three exciting camps will invite two students from each listed village. The pool of applicants will be incoming seventh- and eighth-grade girls and boys. The application deadline is April 21, 2000 and the names are to be submitted to Mark John at Calista Elders Council by May 4.

The Bering Sea Coastal Camp at Umkumiute will host 28 students from LKSD sites, 4 from LYSD, and 2 from Kashunmiut. The Camp dates are June 4-14, 2000. Coastal camp villages are Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay, Chevak, Newtok, Tununak, Toksook Bay, Nightmute, Cheforak, Mekoryak, Kipnuk, Kwigillingok, Kongiganak, Tuntutuliak, Eek, Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and Platinum.

The Yukon River camp in Cuilnguq will host 16 LYSD students and two from St. Mary's School District. The camp dates are August 6-16, 2000. Yukon camp villages are Russian Mission, Marshall, Pilot Station, Saint Mary's, Pitkas Point, Kotlik, Emmonak, Alakanuk and Sheldons Point.

The Kuskokwim River camp will have a base at a camp site inside Kuiggluk and a second camp set-up at Kialiq. This camp will host 16 LKSD students, 18 students from Kuspuk and 6 students from Yupiit. The camp dates are July 23-August 2, 2000. Kuskokwim Camp villages are Lime Village, Stony River, Sleetmute, Red Devil, Crooked Creek, Chuathbaluk, Aniak, Upper Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Tuluksak, Akiak, Akiachak, Kwethluk, Bethel, Oscarville, Napaskiak, Napakiak, Atmautluak, Nunapitchuk and Kasigluk.

As school districts that serve these village sites plan with Calista on this wonderful summer opportunity, we are anticipating strong support staff to assist the Elders. Culture camp applications are online at <http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/culturecampapplications.html> and need to be turned into Calista Elders' office by May 4. Students and parents will be notified before school closure.

## **2003 Spirit Camp Gathering Report Nuchek Island, Prince William Sound, Alaska June 6 – 7 2003**

Alaska Natives have passed on cultural knowledge and traditional ways of knowing. Through language, dance, subsistence and an overall sense of who we are as people. In recent years, these traditions are often over shadowed by economic and educational assimilations tearing at communities throughout Alaska. Culture camps provide a means of bringing these traditions back to light in a self-respecting and healthy way.

In a convening role, First Alaskans Institute gathered 42 individuals who share a common passion for Alaska Native cultural preservation. The group was made up of representative spirit camp directors, staff, educators, philanthropists, program directors and elders. Most of who have either organized or supported the spirit camp movement. The intent of the gathering was to allow for the first time a statewide sharing of information, networking and traditional teaching methods. All the while focusing on cultural preservation in regards to healthy communities and academic success.

In 2001, First Alaskans Institute began researching basic culture and spirit camp information. Who are these camps and where do they exist? We know most camps start out as a traditional fish camp or hunting grounds, while many were historic village sites. As it turns out, there are more than 45 spirit camps in the state of Alaska. First Alaskans Institute's mission is to build the capacity of our people through leadership development, education and access to public policy. Our goal is to assist that focus on youth and culture.

Thanks to support from the Rasmuson Foundation (Alaska) and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (Michigan), and the organizational efforts of the Chugach Heritage Foundation, this gathering took place at the major historical village site of the Chugach Region, Nuchek Island (Nuuciq). The Nuuciq Spirit Camp has a special history in Prince William Sound area of Alaska as an early trading post and site of the first Russian Orthodox Church for the region.

The diversity among spirit camps is immense. While some are starting out with limited funds and volunteers, others have built permanent camps with running water and power systems, No two are alike and all are operating today as a result of our belief in Native people, our youth and our future.

Interestingly enough, most participants voiced the need for discussions about fundraising, risk management and infrastructure. Most are funded by local and regional funding but "outside" grants are becoming more common as camps grow in size and programs. The magic comes from passionate staff and volunteers, along with Native Elders who prepare the next generation and fill them with pride.

In a traditional camp atmosphere, these challenges seem to be the furthest from our minds. Just being there and living the culture is proof that spirit camps are a great tool for learning. It's during the preparation for a new year or when something goes wrong when camp staff and volunteers are in most need.

As follow up to this gathering, First Alaskans Institute will provide not only participants, but those who could not attend, a highlight video or DVD of the weekend event. The video will explain why this gathering took place and can be used for informational as well as fundraising purposes. Additionally, camp profiles of all those we have made contact with will be printed in a resource booklet.

For continuation of the discussions, we plan to encourage an online forum for questions as well as answers of many camp challenges. The host site could be [www.firstalaskans.org](http://www.firstalaskans.org) . Finally, teleconferences are a great way to share information when lack of roads and high travel costs are a deterrent.

First Alaskans Institute's role may be that of a source of funding for spirit camps, our own funding income could not meet the needs of the many camps statewide. What we are prepared to do is help with collaboration and convening of supporters of this movement. If spirit camps in Alaska wish to form regional or statewide associations, we are here to help. May more are becoming aware of the benefit of cultural preservation and its impact of healthy communities and academic success. If there is one thing we as Native people should take away from this type of gathering, it's that with a sense of pride in ourselves, we can accomplish anything.

## Food That's In.....When School is Out!

### Summer food service program for children

"The Federal Government does have programs to provide summer meals, but only about 22 percent of the poor children who get a school lunch also get a summer meal. Common sense tells us that children's hunger does not go on vacation at the end of the school year."

Senator Richard Lugar

#### **Will there be children in your community who will be hungry this summer?**

That may be the case in many Alaska communities. Only a small percent of eligible Alaskan children who ate school lunches during the last school year had access to a child nutrition program lunch last summer.

#### **A Program That Can Help**

The summer Food Service Program for Children is a federally – funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered in the State by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED). EED reimburses local organizations that provide free meals to children at approved feeding sites located in low-income areas.

The summer food program provides an opportunity to continue a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals. The program helps lower income children have productive summers and return to school to learn.

#### **New Law Reduces Paperwork**

School Districts have long complained that the summer food program requires a lot of extra paperwork that they do not have to do for the school lunch program. Newly passed Public Law 106-554 makes the paperwork requirements for the 2 programs very much alike. It creates a 3 year pilot program in Alaska and 13 other States with lower summer food program participation. The pilot tests whether **REDUCES PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS** will result in more schools and other public organizations becoming program sponsors. Under the pilot program public sponsors:

- No longer have to maintain separate accounts and records of administrative and operating costs.
- No longer have to report their costs to the State Department of Education and Early Development.
- Will be paid based on the number of meals they serve multiplied by a set reimbursement rate rather than the lesser of meals x vs. costs.

So, if you did not become a Summer program sponsor before, because you thought there was too much paperwork, this is your chance to help the children in your community and show Congress and USDA that less administrative paperwork will result in feeding more children.

**To get more information about the  
Summer Food Service Program contact:**

Diane VanEpps  
Children Nutrition Services  
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development  
801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone (907) 465-4788  
Fax: (907) 465-8910  
Email: [diane\\_vanepps@eed.state.ak.us](mailto:diane_vanepps@eed.state.ak.us)

## Summer Food Service Program Information

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a neighborhood-based program that uses site eligibility to provide nutritious meals to children during the summer months. The SFSP was created to ensure that children in low-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. The SFPS is the single largest Federal resource available for local sponsors who want to combine a feeding program with a summer activity program.

In many communities, the SFSP bridges the summer childhood hunger gap. Being a Summer Food Service Program sponsor is not only challenging, it is also rewarding. SFDP sponsors receive payments for serving healthy meals and snacks to children and teenagers 18 years and younger at approved sites in low-income areas.

### Eligibility

Approved sponsors serve children 18 years of age and younger at approved feeding sites. Sponsors must document that at least 50% of the children who live in the area from which the site draws its attendance are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals in the NSLP (open site) or at least 50% of the children enrolled at the site are eligible for fee meal service based on family size and income level (enrolled site, applications provided for families). Camps are eligible to get reimbursement for meals served to those children determined eligible for free meal service based on family & size income level.

### Participation

Sponsoring organizations eligible to participate in the SFSP are limited to:

- Public or private nonprofit schools
- Public or private nonprofit summer camps
- Units of local, municipal, country, tribal, or state government
- Public or private nonprofit universities or colleges
- Private nonprofit organizations (must be tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1945, as amended)

### Reimbursement

Alaska Rates of Reimbursement-Summer Food Service Program 2003 (effective 01/01/03)

<b>Administration</b>	<b>Rural/Self – Prep</b>	<b>Urban/Vended</b>
Breakfast	\$0.2175	\$0.1725
Lunch or Supper	\$0.4000	\$0.3300
Snack	\$0.1075	\$0.0850
<b>Operating Costs</b>	<b>All Sponsors</b>	
Breakfast	\$2.19	
Lunch or Supper	\$3.82	
Supplement	\$0.89	

**Alaska is part of a pilot project.** The amount of reimbursement shall be paid at a flat administrative rate to eligible sponsors as opposed to being paid the lesser of actual administration costs or the flat rate. Sponsors are still required to maintain administrative cost paperwork during the pilot project. Private nonprofit organizations are excluded from the pilot project unless they are a residential camp.

### **Mandatory Training Requirements**

Child Nutrition Services will conduct spring training workshops on planning, administering and operating an Summer Food Service Program for new sponsors, and continuing sponsors that have experienced operation problems in the prior year or have new personnel.

Get involved, for more information contact:

Diane VanEpps

Child Nutrition Services

801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 465-4788

Fax: (907) 465-8910

Email: [diane\\_vanepps@eed.state.ak.us](mailto:diane_vanepps@eed.state.ak.us)

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, gender, color, national origin, age or disability. "USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

## Cross-Cultural Orientation at Old Minto Camp

Ray Barnhardt, Robert Charlie and Bill Pfisterer

For the past seven summers, the UAF Summer Sessions, in conjunction with the Cultural Heritage and Education Institute of the village of Minto, have been offering an opportunity for students in selected summer courses to spend a week at the Old Minto Cultural Camp on the Tanana River under the tutelage of the local Athabascan Elders. The program is designed for teachers and others new to Alaska who enroll in the Cross-Cultural Orientation Program (X-COP) course, as well as for students entering the UAF graduate programs in cross-cultural education. This year, the camp will be extended and will include additional activities associated with the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative.

Participants in the Old Minto Cultural Camp are taken 30 miles down the Tanana River from Nenana by river boat to the site of the former village of Minto, which was vacated around 1970 when the new village of Minto was constructed near the Tolovana River on the north end of the Minto Flats. The people from Minto set up the Cultural Heritage and Education Institute as a non-profit entity with Robert Charlie as director, to help them regain control over the old site and put it to use for educational purposes. In addition to the UAF Cultural Camp, the site has been used by the Minto Elders to provide summer and winter cultural heritage programs to the young people of Minto, as well as for other groups from as far away as New York. The Tanana Chiefs Conference has been using Old Minto as the site for a very successful alcohol and drug recovery camp as well. Despite State restrictions on the use of the site, participants in the various Old Minto programs, including the UAF students, have been able to restore several of the old buildings, clean up the cemeteries, clear two campsites, and construct a fish-wheel, a smoke house, drying racks, outhouses, kitchen facilities, a well etc.

Participants in the X-COP program spend eight days at the Camp, arriving in time for lunch on Saturday and then spending the remainder of the first day "making camp," including collecting spruce boughs for the tents an eating area, bringing in water and firewood, and helping with the many chores that go with living at a fish camp. Except for a few basic safety rules that are made explicit upon arrival, everything at the camp for the remainder of the week is learned through participation in the on-going life of the people serving as our hosts/teachers. Volunteer work crews are assembled for the various projects and activities that are always underway, with the Elders providing guidance and teaching by example. Many small clusters of people – young and old, Native and non-Native, experts and novices – can be seen throughout the camp busily working, visiting, showing,, doing, listening, and learning. Teachers become students and students become teachers. At the end of the day, people gather to sing, dance, joke, tell stories and play games. On the last evening, a potlatch is held with special foods prepared by the camp participants and served in a traditional format, followed with speeches relating to the events of the week to life and history of the area and the people of Minto. By the time the boats head back upriver to Nenana on Friday, everyone has become a part of Old Minto and the people whose ancestors are buried there. It is an experience for which there is no textbook equivalent. What is learned cannot be internalized vicariously, but is embedded in the learning experience itself, though not everyone comes away having learned the same thing. In fact, one of the strengths of the program is that each participant comes away having learned something different and unique to (and about) themselves.

The Old Minto Camp experience (which occurs during the middle of a three-week course) contributes enormously to the level of learning that is achieved in a relatively short period of time. Part of the reason for this is that students come back to class during the third week with a common experience against which to bounce their ideas and build new levels of understanding. More significantly, however, students are able to immerse themselves in a new cultural environment in a non-threatening and guided fashion that allows them to set aside their own predispositions long enough to begin to see the world through other people's eyes. For this, most of the credit needs to go to the Elders of Minto, who have mastered the art of making themselves accessible to others, and to Robert and Kathy Charlie, who make it all happen.

The greatest challenge when we return is to provide ways for students to carry over what they have learned at Old Minto to their future practice as educators, while at the same time helping them to recognize the limitations and dangers of over-extending their sense of expertise on the basis of the small bits of insights they may have acquired on the banks of the Tanana. By taking the teacher to a camp environment for an educational experience of their own, we hope to encourage them to consider ways to use cultural camps and Elder's expertise in their own teaching. Teachers, school districts and communities throughout the state have sponsored camps for a wide variety of purposes (as the articles in this issue of the SOP newsletter illustrate), but in many instances the camps are treated as a supplementary experience, rather than as an integral part of the school curriculum. We hope that graduates of Old Minto will lead the way in making cultural camps and Elders the classrooms and teachers of the future in rural Alaska, which is also why "Elders and Cultural Camps" is one of the five major initiatives that will be implemented through the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative in each region over the next five years.

### Additional Resources

Along with the examples of cultural camps described in this newsletter, following are some other resources that are available for anyone interested in implementing a camp in their own school or community. Copies of these resource items can be requested from the Alaska Native Knowledge Network at the cost of reproduction.

ANHRDP. (1980). The Drum: Gaalee'ya 'Bear Child' Camp. Anchorage: Alaska Native Human Resource Development Program.

Carter, P. (1995). Camping for the Spirit: A Directory and Resource Guide for Camps that Teach Subsistence Skills and Values. Anchorage: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Waahyi, J., & George, M. (1994). Knowing Something Different: The Savoonga Subsistence Science Project. Savoonga: Savoonga IRA Council.

**FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR***William Tandeske, Commissioner*

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**Department of Public Safety***Division of Fire Prevention*

June 17, 2003

Ms. Terri Campbell  
Department of Education and Early Development  
801 West 10<sup>th</sup>  
Juneau, AK 99801-1878

Ms. Campbell,

The Alaska Division of Fire Prevention enthusiastically supports awarding the Kuspuk Community Learning Center funding to support the summer Dragon Slayer Summer Camp program in Aniak.

A well-rounded basic education is essential to function as an emergency responder. Reading, writing and mathematics are the key components to learning new skills and understanding abstract concepts such as fire behavior and medical physiology. This camp will reaffirm the importance of a strong educational foundation allowing the students to acquire the necessary skills to enter a profession in the fire or medical fields. We believe an early, broad based, focus on reading, writing and math will prepare these students to enter the adult world and to become a responsible member of their community.

Not only does this program address the basic skills the student will need to build a solid educational foundation it also addresses community responsibility, participation and goal setting. Children in rural communities do not often get the opportunity to learn employable skills allowing them to become viable members of the community.

The summer camp program planned by the Kuspuk Community Learning Center and the Dragon Slayer program is the perfect avenue to reinforce the need for basic educational skills. The children will be required to use reading, writing and mathematics during the entire class. Because this will not be a classroom only setting they will learn how to apply those skills in a real life setting.

By delivering the information in a focused, creative atmosphere with practical application the students will have a better chance of internalizing basic skills. Visualization of practical basic skill application will aid the student during testing. An example would be a story problem requiring the use of a formula to figure the height of a building. If the student has used that formula in a real life application to decide how to remove a stranded victim from a building with rescue ropes; the test question would be easier to comprehend.

The material presented during the camp will be as simple as determining the pulse rate of a patient. The student counts the pulse for ten seconds then multiplies by six to learn how many beats per minute. The pulse is a key indication of what is happening to the patient's body during the emergency.

A more complicated example would relate to Fire Behavior – fire extinguishment:

To select the most efficient method of fire extinguishment the student must learn that a fire cannot burn if the four components of the fire tetrahedron are not present. By removing one of these factors the fire will be extinguished. One of the most effective forms of extinguishment is temperature reduction with a stream of water. The student must figure out how much water will be needed to extinguish the blaze. They will learn this in the classroom then see the actual application of the skills during the practical portion of the camp.

The subjects covered during the camp will meet many of the Alaska Content Standards for English/Language Arts and Life Skills.

English/Language Arts –

- A.4, A.5 – The students will be required to write patient reports describing actions taken on the scene of an emergency. The report must articulate the chain of events to others reading the report.
- A.6 – The students will be required to present a fire prevention education message to their peers.
- B.1, B.2, B.3 – The students will have reading assignments during the course. They must comprehend the technical meaning and be able to translate the information into action steps taken during a mock emergency situation.
- C.2, C.3, C.5 – The key to successful emergency response training is team building and decision making. The students will practice scenarios to learn proper strategies to mitigate the emergency. This includes understanding directions from senior responders, getting work done in a timely manner, selecting relevant resources to complete the task, working with other team members in a high stress environment, take responsibility for their role in the emergency response, and critique the response to improve future activities.
- D.2, D.4, D.6 – The students will be discuss actions taken during mock scenarios and defend their choice of strategies. They will discuss differing strategies to solve complex emergency scenarios.

Life Skills –

- A.2, A.3, A.5 – The students will learn basic human physiology and kinetics. How poor choices put people in harms way by not following established safety rules and recommendations. They will learn strategies to promote others to make safer choices.
- B.1, B.5 – The students will be required to demonstrate their ability to select and use the appropriate safety gear at all times during the course.
- D.2, D.4, D.6 – The students will be required to present a fire prevention education message to their peers and other members of the community.

The camp certainly seems to support the desired outcomes and strategies outlined in the Department of Education and Early Development and Department of Health and Social Service's "**Building Blocks – Developing Supportive Neighborhoods and Communities.**"

*Outcome #1 – Children are safer in their communities.*

**Strategy #2** The Dragon Slayers present safety programs to the local community and teach others life saving skills to prevent unintentional injuries. A recent study has shown that children who are exposed to courses detailing life safety skills have a lower rate of injury than children without that knowledge.

**Strategy #3** As the students return home from the camp they will share prevention information with other family members. Community members are involved in course development for the camp and participate in the practical training.

**Strategy #4** The entire community of Aniak is involved in the camp project. This coalition building even extends to the State level. The Department of Public Safety is working with The Department of Health and Social Services, Community Health and Emergency Medical Services to provide instructors and materials for the camp.

**Strategy #7** Rural Communities do not have adequate police, fire or emergency medical providers. Training the younger generation to fill those roles ensures future emergency response coverage in smaller communities. It will also encourage more local funding of prevention programs to reduce the need for emergency services.

**Strategy #8** The training and education provided during the camp and in progressive training already offered throughout the year will increase the awareness and knowledge for all community members about appropriate action when a child is hurt or in danger.

*Outcome #2*

**Strategy #4** To participate as a member of The Dragon Slayers students must maintain a drug and alcohol free life. Establishing such a requirement reinforces the student's ability to never participate in substance abuse and encourages others to quit.

**Strategy #5** The local community is very proud of the Dragon Slayers and their ability to provide services for Aniak and surrounding communities. They must be physically fit and choose healthy life styles to maintain their membership in the group. Several of the team members have spoken to other teens about the importance of choosing healthy lifestyles and setting goals. They say "Small Goals Lead to Big Goals."

**Strategy #7** The Dragon Slayers are working with community partners to increase safety awareness of safe choices. They are featured in a poster developed by the Alaska State Troopers to encourage kids to wear a helmet when driving ATVs.

For all of the above mentioned reasons the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention readily supports the funding request for the Dragon Slayer Summer Camp program in Aniak.

Sincerely,

Gary Powell  
State Fire Marshal  
Director, Division of Fire Prevention