



## **2024 SOWERS VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES**

*We call our summer volunteer teams "Sowers" because they sow God's love into the lives of our students through their service and prayers.*

Thank you for your interest in being a part of the Alaska Christian College  
SOWERS SUMMER WORK TEAMS!

**WHAT IS ACC?** *The mission of Alaska Christian College is to empower Alaska Natives through biblically-based higher education and Christian formation to pursue excellence in character, learning, and service as followers of Christ.*

ACC was formed over 20 years ago to address the unique needs of Alaska Native students. Our program provides a small staff-to-student ratio, Christian residential life, mentoring, academic support, and an emotionally safe environment in which to excel.

**WHY DOES ACC NEED VOLUNTEERS?** Summer volunteer teams, "Sowers" are crucial to the mission of ACC as they perform many of the construction, maintenance, and improvement tasks on our campus. By having volunteers serve in these roles, we can keep tuition costs as low as possible for our students.

**WHAT DO SOWERS DO?** Our main goal during the summer is to accomplish maintenance and construction work on campus. Volunteers with a background in construction or physically capable of general labor are ideal. During the week, work will be assigned based on the skills of volunteers and the priority of the projects. Unfortunately, we do not know the exact jobs teams will do until they arrive on campus. *It is important that each volunteer comes with a flexible, servant attitude.*

If you don't have a background in construction, don't worry, we have projects available for all volunteers 12 years of age and older, regardless of work experience. Vital campus needs also include annual cleaning, landscaping, painting, sewing projects (July 6 – August 10 only), vehicle up-keep, organizational tasks, administrative tasks, and more.

Our Sowers program is primarily run by dedicated, full-time volunteers, and they oversee numerous projects throughout campus. There is little time to teach skills. If your team includes unskilled labor, please make sure that you bring enough people who can guide and oversee them.

The work schedule is **Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm** and **Friday from 8:00 am - Lunch**. The remainder of Friday will be a free day.

### **WHAT CAN I EXPECT WHILE I'M AT ACC?**

**Lodging:** Most lodging consists of basic dorm rooms with two twin beds and a sink. An attached bathroom with a shower and commode is shared with the adjacent room.

Though we cannot guarantee them, we will do our best to accommodate special lodging requests (i.e. ground floor rooms, single rooms due to medical condition, etc.) Please coordinate with your team to create a roommate list and determine any special needs.

On-campus amenities also include free laundry facilities and a small exercise room with treadmill, elliptical, and free-weights.

**Meals:** Our kitchen staff will prepare meals for the teams. Your online **Volunteer Application** will provide you an opportunity to describe any special dietary needs you may have.

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Mealtimes are as follows:

- **Breakfast** (7:30-8:00 am) is "self-serve" cereal, heat-able menu items, toast, and bagels
- **Lunch** (12:00-1:00 pm) sandwich/salad/soup bar, entrée
- **Dinner** (5:00-6:00 pm) full meal and sandwich/salad bar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Breakfast							
Lunch	*						*
Dinner	*					*	*
Meals served at times listed.				*Off campus, sightseeing time. <u>No on-campus food service.</u>			

\*Sunday and Friday afternoons are open for sightseeing. Meals are at your own expense.

**Group Meetings:**

- Each team can organize their own devotional schedule.
- Each weekday at lunch, ACC Staff or Student Ambassadors will share their personal testimonies, give talks on Alaska history, and share about the ministry and history of Alaska Christian College.
- ACC President Dr. Keith Hamilton will host dessert for your group one night during the week as he is available.

**Off-Campus Activities & Sightseeing:** There are many options for recreational activities here on the Kenai Peninsula. During the summer months, we are blessed with extended daylight, so there is plenty of time to enjoy outdoor activities at the end of the workday. We strongly recommend that each team assign one person as an **Activities Coordinator** to research and organize activities that appeal to a majority of team members and fit with the available transportation. See [www.AlaskaCC.edu/sowers](http://www.AlaskaCC.edu/sowers) for a detailed list of recommended activities, tips, and special discounts.

- Fishing- Limited gear for salmon fishing in the river is available on campus, along with facilities for cleaning & packaging fish. Guided fishing for salmon and ocean charters are also available nearby. If you hire a fishing guide, they will provide equipment.
- Hiking- We have local trails and beaches within a 20-45 minute drive, which suit all kinds of physical ability.
- Church- If you are interested in attending a local church on Sunday morning, we would be more than happy to recommend a service for you to attend.

**ACC Staff Host:** Each week, a member of our staff volunteers their time to serve as a host. They aim to provide a personal connection with the ministry and share their experience and local knowledge to help your team maximize free time.

**Student Ambassadors:** ACC employs several students each summer to serve alongside and connect with Sowers teams. For many students, this is a HUGE stretch. They are learning to speak publicly and meeting large groups of people who are curious about their life, culture, and experience. They are often much more reserved than 18-20 somethings you may be used to. Please be considerate.

## ALASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE- SOWERS VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

**WHAT DOES IT COST?** Below are the costs associated with volunteering at Alaska Christian College. Airfare and eating off-campus are the volunteer's responsibility and not included in these costs.

**\$400 Accommodation Fees**

**\$550 Materials donation per person:** this amount covers the purchase of construction and other supplies for the projects throughout the summer. 10% of this donation is applied towards administrative costs for operations related to summer work teams or other college-related projects.

**\$950 Total per person**

**WHAT DO I BRING?** Jeans, sweatshirts, work clothes, casual clothes, shoes/boots, rain gear, light jackets, personal hygiene supplies, etc. Your casual work clothes are fine for church and sightseeing. Sturdy shoes or boots, eye protection, bug spray, N-95 dust masks, and work gloves are also recommended. Local temperatures will generally be a low of 40 degrees and a high of 65-70 degrees. Be prepared to work inside or outside, depending on the weather.

**WHAT DO I LEAVE AT HOME?** Tools, bedding, and towels (they are provided); groceries (with multiple grocery stores and Walmart nearby, you should be able to purchase anything you might need); firearms, pets, tobacco, drugs, and alcohol (not allowed on campus).

**DEADLINE:** By **March 15<sup>th</sup>**, all team members must complete the online Volunteer Application.

Online **Volunteer Application**, recommended activities, travel tips and discounts, and more available at [www.AlaskaCC.edu/sowers](http://www.AlaskaCC.edu/sowers).



**Thank you for considering serving at Alaska Christian College!**