

SERVE TEAM ALASKA

July 20-27, 2019

This is a Level 3 trip. See back for explanation. Open to all age 17+

Why Alaska? Why Fairbanks?

Alaska has one of the most culturally diverse populations of any state. Despite its beauty, it is not without great need. Poverty, suicide, mental illness, homelessness, drugs and alcoholism plague all parts of the state at rates that are far higher than in the lower 48. This is an opportunity to partner alongside ministry leaders who are serving in one of the most difficult places in our Nation, and serve other Americans in a place where few others go. Only 140 miles south of the Arctic Circle, Fairbanks is the largest city in the interior of Alaska, with a population of around 33,000. Because so many jobs depend on the oil industry or are highly seasonal, Alaskan unemployment rates are the opposite of the lower 48, and on the rise. Fairbanks has the highest unemployment rate in Alaska (between 8% in summer and 9% in winter) although that number is widely regarded to be low due to underreporting.

How will we serve? What will we do?

There are multiple ways to bring your talents, skills and gifts to Fairbanks. During the day you can serve on the **Construction** team, **Relational** team, or both (see below). All participants will be assisting with **Community Outreach** during breakfast hours.

Construction: With 24 hours a day of sunlight available during the summer, it's really the only time meaningful construction work or outside projects of any sort can be completed. But it's also the time when more paying jobs are available, which leaves the local church without adequate help to perform their own maintenance. Projects are sometimes put off for years until the right people are able to help complete the project.

Projects will be identified and planned for in advance depending on the skills, talents and abilities of those serving on this team.

Relational: Creating a weeklong VBS program in Alaska is difficult because this is also the time of year when most adults are busy with work. We will be partnering with a local church to create a weeklong VBS for their children and others in the community.

Community Outreach: Mornings will be spent helping a local outreach that serves breakfast each day to homeless Native Alaskans and those in need who need a hot meal before beginning their work day. Food scarcity is a major issue in Alaska. 95% of staples come from the lower 48, and the prices are astronomical. Diets everywhere are almost always supplemented in part by salmon and caribou to save money.

Where will we stay?

We will be floor sleeping at a local Fairbanks church that has kitchen and shower facilities. Air mattresses will be provided. There will be separate sleeping areas for males and females.

Logistics and Travel

We will be partnering with Praying Pelicans Missions for this trip. They have extensive connections and long term relationships with local pastors in Alaska. A Praying Pelican staff representative will be with our group 24 hours a day during our trip. We will be flying from O'Hare with a stop in either Seattle or Anchorage. Fairbanks is -3 hours CST.

What will we do for food and fun?

With the exception of departure and arrival hours, three meals will be provided each day. An entire day will be devoted to exploring the ranges and glaciers of Denali National Park. Because of the never ending daylight, this is the best time of year to explore!

What is the weather like?

Fairbanks climate is subarctic. Late July temps average 71 degree highs and 52 degree lows with low humidity levels. July skies are sunny 1/3 of the time, cloudy 1/3 of the time and rainy 1/3 of the time.

How much will cost and what will it include?

\$1695 - \$1795. Final cost determined by flight and materials cost 90 days prior to departure.

Flight, baggage charges and airport transfers.

Floor sleeping in a church. (Air mattresses will be provided).

Transportation to all serve and recreation sites each day.

Three meals a day in Alaska.

Any construction or relational materials required onsite.

What is not included?

Anything not mentioned above, such as spending money, personal insurance, recreation activities, snacks, offering money and meals to/from Alaska.

Who is leading this Team?

John Butler. There will also be a representative from Praying Pelican Missions with our group 24 hours a day.

Timeline for sign-up and reservations

Please make your check for \$200 payable to First Christian Church with "Alaska 2019" in the memo. Place in a green labeled envelope available in the main lobby and include with the Sunday morning offering. You may also pay via credit or debit card online through the church website. Select "Serve Teams" from the dropdown list and note that the funds are for "Alaska 2019".

Reservations accepted until we reach capacity or until March 3

3/15/2019 – Additional \$600 is due. See above for payment instructions.

March 2019 – Monthly team prep meetings begin.

5/20/2019 – Balance of your trip cost is due.

What happens if I need to cancel?

Cancellations are not a problem, but there are some important dates to be aware of.

Cancel prior to 3/15/2018 - 100% refund of any deposit.

Cancel after 3/15/2018, but before 5/20/2019 - 100% refund of any deposit less \$800.00

After 5/20/2019 there are no refunds.

Questions:

Email Sam at wright@kenoshafcc.com or call, 262.857.4743 x116

FCC Serve teams are broken down into five levels, each with an increasing level of responsibility and maturity.

It is recommended that Serve participants complete a lower number trip before serving on the next, higher level trip.

Level 1 – Neighbors: Serve teams that help, impact, or partner with our neighbors within the local community or within an hour of the church. Typically these are day trips. Serving within the church as a volunteer also qualifies as a Level 1 opportunity.

Level 2 – Community: Teams that serve outside the local area, but are still within a 2-5 hours driving time each way. Trips have a minimum duration of two days, but can include camps or family serving events.

Level 3 – National: Teams that serve outside the local area with moderate to extensive travel involved. Trips are usually out of state, with a travel time of at least 3 hours each way, and have a duration of 3 nights or longer. Serving on a Level 1 or 2 level trip is recommended. Additional requirements may be required, and are trip specific.

Level 4 – International: Long distance serve teams that serve outside the continental United States including US Territories with a duration of 6 or more nights. Serving on a Level 3 level trip is recommended. Additional requirements may be required, and are trip specific.

Level 5 – International (+) : Complex, long distance trips with specific requirements OR international trips with a duration of longer than one week.

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