Please contact us at:
161 E First Ave. Door 15
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1635
Laurie Evans-Dinneen, Director
907-272-5302
ledinneen@akhf.org
fax: (907) 272-3979
Teacher applications and information are available online at:
http://www.
roseurbanruralexchange.org/campscisipbook/

The Alaska Humanities Forum

Educator Cross-Cultural Immersion Program
SUMMER 2013

Culture Camps

Shared Experiences
Understanding
Appreciation
Respect

Ways of Knowing

Alaska Teachers
Creating New Stories in the Humanities

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education
The humanities are the stories...

In a story about school, this elder said she was given a box of 8 crayons. In her culture, they had some colors that exactly match with what most of us are used to for example, black, blue, and green. These colors had different names in Athabaskan, but there was always one name for identifying each of these colors. However, in her language, they only had one name for any color that was reddish-orange-ish, brownish and similar colors. They did not distinguish between these colors, they were one color with one name. The point of this story in my opinion is that teachers need to be aware of the culture of our students and not assume that our expectations, values, language, and perceptions are shared by everyone.

Dennis Drinka
—Taabeetka Camp in Allakaket

...the ideas that may have never crossed our minds...

The idea or meaning of the experience for me, what I will take with me, is to make every child who enters my classroom everyday, every person who enters my home or comes into my life, want to make each of them feel as welcome, honored, respected, and valued for who they are and where they came from as I did at Dig Afognak. I also want to work at helping others get in touch with their culture, whatever it may be. My eyes are swollen from all the tears.

Shelly Youngberg
—Carayaq Music Camp in Kodiak

...they introduce us to people we have never met...

I must have asked 50,000 questions. Each question was answered patiently. I think I learned more than many of the student campers. What I didn’t learn is how to learn by watching. Many times I heard descriptions about learning by watching others then practicing that task later. When I think back to my behavior at the camp—I was so Western. Perhaps I was like a journalist. Question after question. I feel fortunate to have been able to attend EARTH Camp at Dig Afognak. I met some amazing people from elders to student campers. I learned about a culture different than mine. I learned about the sea. This camp is an amazing resource that needs to exist forever.

Douglas Bourne
—Adventure E.A.R.T.H. Camp in Kodiak

—and places we have never visited.

This whole experience was what you put into it is what you will get out of it. I could have sat in the smoke house and been warm the whole time and talked to whoever walked in and out but I would have been selling myself short. The people of Allakaket were so kind and always willing to help us in any way they could. I wish there was more I could do to thank them.

Kelly Rosenbahl
—Taabeetka Camp in Allakaket

Educator Cross-Cultural Immersion Program (ECCI)

The ECCI accepts applications from teachers in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Mat-Su school districts. Additionally, under the Content Area Project, we are now accepting applications from educators at University of Alaska Anchorage.

This program offers a unique opportunity to learn, work, and play at an Alaska Native summer culture camp. The camp experience gives teachers insights into Alaska Native people, their culture, their ways of teaching, learning and living. Educators participate in Alaska Native culture to better inform their teaching and support their students.

As a participant, you receive these benefits:
- An invitation to visit a rural Alaska Native culture camp
- All expenses paid, round-trip airfare, meals and accommodations
- All expenses paid for two-day sessions of cultural training and debrief
- Receive 3.0 CR-grade multi-cultural course through UAA

Program Requirements:
- Attend required two-day cultural training and two-day debriefing sessions
- Submit a reflective journal and a reflective paper
- Submit a community presentation based on your experience
- Enroll in a 3.0 credit graduate level course on communication and culture

http://www.rossurbanruralchange.org/campscrapbook/