

ALASKA IMPACT/MIDDLE SCHOOL GO TEAM PARTICIPANT 2023 FAQ

Application Deadline: Monday, January 9, 2023

Trip Dates: July 8-16, 2023

Trip ID# AK0723

IMPACT MINISTRY

B BLACKHAWK CHURCH

Apply online at blackhawkchurch.org/serve/world/

What are we doing?

Blackhawk Church partners with [Eaglecrest Alaska Missions](#), whose mission is to serve the people of Sutton, Alaska through the power of the Holy Spirit. They do this by addressing physical, emotional and spiritual needs through day camps for local students.

Our main objective for this summer team is to come alongside Eaglecrest as they build long-term relationships with local middle school & high school students. We will partner with Eaglecrest by helping run a Day Camp for local students. Likely activities include running daily Skill Clubs and games, participating in Life Skills sessions with local students, individual devotional times, nightly group worship gatherings, and opportunities to experience the Alaskan outdoors.

This is an opportunity for Blackhawk students to grow in their leadership and interpersonal skills, as well as an opportunity for significant personal spiritual growth and exploration.

What are the dates?

We will be leaving 7/8/2023 and returning 7/16/2023, depending on available flights*.

*These dates may change by a day on either end depending on available flights.

How is the team selected/when will I be notified?

Applications will be accepted until Monday, January 9. Our plan is to notify individuals of their application status within 3-4 weeks of the deadline. It is important to fill out the application in its entirety; *an incomplete application (e.g. lacking reference addresses) will not be considered.* Typically, the number of applicants exceeds the size limit of the team.

How many people are on a typical team?

Approximately 16-18 students and 8-10 leaders per team.

How much will it cost and how will I pay for my trip?

Each participant will have an individual support raising goal. We're estimating this goal to be between \$1900 – 2000, however we may alert you to changes in this goal at the first team meeting once the final number of team members is determined. This includes airfare, transportation and lodging in Alaska, meals, etc. All funds support the entire team and we'll work together to reach our goal. The team leader will help you raise funds through support letters that can be sent to parents, extended family, friends, co-workers, teachers, coaches etc. *Each team member is expected to send 70-90 support letters.* Instructions will be given soon after the team is finalized.

Where do we stay?

We will spend most of our time in Sutton, Alaska. We will stay at the Eaglecrest camp facilities; there is a large bunkroom for sleeping areas for each the guys and girls, and modern bathrooms and showers.

What sorts of characteristics are you looking for in team members?

We encourage all students who are interested to apply, regardless of gifting. It is likely that there will be more applicants than spots available. We are looking for students who are hungry to grow in their faith, are servant leaders, work well with others, and can be flexible in new environments.

Students are eligible if they are currently in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade. Priority will be given to students actively involved in Home Group.

Adult leaders are volunteers invested in the Blackhawk Student Ministries Ministries or parents of students.

Do I need a passport or photo ID?

No, minors do not need an ID to fly domestically. However, it is suggested that students carry some form of ID (school ID, etc.) for travel. See more information [here](#).

What are the risks of traveling to Alaska?

The US Department of State has issued a general worldwide travel caution in response to threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens throughout the world. Though there are high risk places throughout the world for which additional warnings are issued, Alaska is not considered a high-risk location. Please visit <http://travel.state.gov> to read warnings and for more information on traveling.

Do I need shots or medications?

You will need to bring ample supply of whatever medications you take on a regular basis. We also encourage you to discuss your travel plans with your doctor to ensure you are up to date on all check-ups and immunizations and discuss any additional immunizations your doctor may recommend.

What about COVID?

COVID-19 has had a big impact on how people travel throughout the world. CDC guidance on travel is fluid, based on current national and local situations. We will ask that you abide by CDC guidance and any national, state, local, or partner-identified COVID restrictions. This may include any masking, possible isolation that may require a student to stay behind (with at least two adult leaders) for a period of time after the scheduled end of trip, etc.

Currently, Blackhawk does not require COVID vaccination for GO Team participants unless required by our partner (Eaglecrest Alaska Missions), transportation providers (airline, bus, etc.), or local government. (As of October 2022, Eaglecrest has no vaccination requirement; we will monitor and communicate any changes in policy that may happen.)

Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> for more information about travel and COVID.

What happens if someone on the team contracts COVID (or has some other illness or injury)?

In addition to partner policies for COVID testing and verification, the following will be in place:

- Any team member or leader who is COVID positive and still within their [COVID isolation timeframe](#) at the time of the trip's departure will not be able to participate in the trip. (As is true for any team member who cannot travel with the team for any reason, no refund will be able to be issued.)
- If a team **member** (student) tests positive for COVID while on the trip, that student may need to be quarantined at Eaglecrest for a duration past the scheduled end of the trip, until cleared to travel. A minimum of two leaders would need to stay behind with the student, per Blackhawk child protection policy.

When will we start meeting as a team?

We will begin meeting as a team in February 2023. There will be 4 team meetings and an overnight retreat. *Attendance at all meetings is mandatory, and it is expected that prospective team members communicate about a personal need to miss a meeting at the time of application.*

Sunday, February 19: 3:00-5:45 PM – Meeting with students & parents (first 30-60 minutes with parents)

Sunday, March 12: 3:30-6:00 PM Team Meeting

Sunday, April 16: 3:00-5:30 PM Team Meeting

Overnight: June 3 (morning) - June 4 (afternoon) (Location TBD)

Thursday, June 22: Final Preparations Meeting (Time TBD)

Celebration Trip Presentation: Sunday, July 23 – time and date subject to confirmation

Questions?

Contact either:

- Heather Stahley, Trip Leader
 - hstahley@blackhawkchurch.org | 608.828.4216
- Jim Ferwerda, Impact Ministry Teams Coordinator
 - jferwerda@blackhawkchurch.org | 608.828.4219