

Discovering Alaska

Eagle River United Methodist Camp – Auke Bay / Juneau, Alaska

August 21 - 29, 2009

Travel to Alaska's capital to experience the natural beauty of the state and the realities of life in Alaska. This event will be hosted by Eagle River United Methodist Camp, a ministry of Southeast Alaska United Methodist Churches. Participants will retreat into a peaceful, God-given environment, living simply without television, internet, newspaper, or cell phone and staying in rustic cabins with basic bunk beds. The common bathhouse with showers and restrooms is a 100 yard walk away from the cabins on a gravel path. While the amenities are simple, the environment at the camp is peaceful and full of natural beauty. Within the five-mile radius of the camp, the topography changes from glacier ice to salt water of the Pacific Ocean, making it an excellent location for wildlife, botanical, and environmental studies.

Through the lens of the first book of Genesis, this event will examine the creation story while taking in the beauty of God's creation in Alaska – the earth and the water, the animals and the people. See the expanse of land, water, and sky through a trip to Auke Bay. Look out over an iceberg-dotted lake and see the 12-mile long Mendenhall Glacier. Through daily walks, learn how to live in harmony with the wonders of God's temperate rain forest flora and fauna. Sample the bounties of berries and fish in Southeast Alaska, learning the importance of God's abundant blessings to the local people. Gain an understanding the importance of fishing to the culture and economy of this land-locked community through an insider's tour of a local fish hatchery. This event will also include a whale watching excursion, where you will see whales, bald eagles, seals, sea lions, and much more.

This Primetimers event will also be an opportunity to learn about the daily life of Alaskans, both historically and today. Travel to the Alaska State Museum where the exhibits of art and historical artifacts tell the stories of the diverse communities in Alaska. Meet with tribal representatives and native dancers to experience the cultures and histories of Native American tribes, including the Haida and Tlingit tribes, and examine how various cultures co-exist in Alaska. After hearing a presentation about the economy of Southeast Alaska, the group will travel to a local homeless shelter, "The Glory Hole" to prepare and serve food to community members who are struggling and hear about the challenges of daily life for some in Juneau. Through daily excursions, compare and contrast life in Juneau to life in your home community.

Primetimers

A Mission Volunteers Program of the General Board of Global Ministries

The United Methodist Church

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EVENT CODE: 1ERUMC

EVENT HOST:

Eagle River United Methodist Camp
PO Box 211385, Auke Bay, Alaska www.methodistcamp.org
(Eagle River has projects #931004 & #931005 of The Advance. Give at www.advancinghope.org.)

EVENT DATE:

August 21 – 29, 2009

EVENT COST PER PERSON:

\$940.00 [includes housing, meals, local transportation, supplemental accident insurance, entrance fees, and a GBGM administrative fee]. Participants are also responsible for the cost of their transportation to and from the event.

ROOMS:

Participants will be housed in rustic cabins, with approximately 4 single beds per cabin. Heated bath houses with showers, toilets, and laundry facilities are centrally located within about 100 yards of most cabins. (There are also outhouses just outside most cabins.) Participants need to bring their own sleeping bags, pillows, towels, and washcloths.

MEALS:

A light after dinner snack will be provided for those arriving in the evening on Aug. 21. The first full meal of the event will be breakfast on Sat., Aug. 22 and the last meal will be breakfast on Fri, Aug 29.

TRANSPORTATION:

Participants should not make travel arrangements until instructed to do so by the Event Coordinator. Persons flying to the event will fly into Juneau International Airport. Alaska Airlines is the only commercial airline which flies into Juneau. It is also possible to drive to various cities and take a ferry to Juneau. These cities include: Haines, AK, Skagway, AK, Seattle, WA, and Prince Rupert, BC. Transportation from the airport or ferry terminal will be provided by the host site.

ESTIMATED PHYSICAL DEMANDS OF THE EVENT:

Description of terrain: Temperate rain forest at sea level
Amount of walking per day: Participants should be able to walk approximately 1 mile per day
Average: 30 minutes. Maximum: 2 hours
Number of flights of stairs per day: 0
Requirements for entering/exiting transportation: step up into van
Distance participants will have to transport their luggage: 0
The camp and surrounding areas have gravel paths.

REGISTRATION:

The registration deadline for this event is: **May 19, 2009**
Please send completed registration and deposit to:
Primetimers, Mission Volunteers, General Board of Global Ministries
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1400, New York, NY 10115

REGISTRATION LIMIT:

Min: 16 participants Max: 40 participants

EVENT COORDINATOR:

Lori Fredenberg, Camp Manager, Eagle River United Methodist Camp
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