



2023 Alaska Communications' Summer of Heroes

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND FAQ

Now in its 13th year, Alaska Communications' Summer of Heroes is a partnership program between [Alaska Communications](#) and [Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska](#) to promote awareness and support for youth development programs throughout the state. Running May 1 through June 18, 2023, Summer of Heroes includes two main components: a youth recognition program and cause-related sales promotion targeting both businesses and consumers. Summer of Heroes events raise awareness for Boys and Girls Clubs - Alaska and engage Alaskans in a meaningful way. Through the pandemic, Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Alaska are continuing to serve youth in non-traditional methods and they could use our support now, more than ever.

From its roots as a local telephone company, to becoming the state's leading provider of broadband and managed IT services, Alaska Communications is committed to the local communities where its people live and work. The company recognizes investing in youth and their futures is critical to building local communities that are positive, healthy places to live. That's why youth and education—including leadership and learning opportunities, promoting positive environments to learn and grow, and access to technology—are the core focuses of Alaska Communications' commitment to responsible corporate citizenship.

YOUTH RECOGNITION PROGRAM

What is the Summer of Heroes youth recognition program?

Studies show youth who are engaged in community service tend to do better in school, avoid risky behaviors, and maintain positive relationships with adults and peers. Through Summer of Heroes, Alaska Communications is partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs - Alaska to recognize five outstanding young heroes, plus one hero from the Employee Program, who are making a difference in their local Alaska communities.

What defines a hero?

A hero can be any Alaska resident between the ages of 6 and 18 who is making a positive difference in his or her community. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following types of efforts:

- Volunteering or raising funds for a cause,
- Making a difference in school through education or sports,
- Making a significant contribution to his or her community,
- Considering others' needs before their own, or
- Inspiring others to take action.

Whether it's to support others during the pandemic or an ongoing effort to support the community, we want to hear about young people who have made their Alaska community better.

How and when will the heroes be recognized?

Alaska Communications and Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska will select five outstanding local heroes based on their nomination forms and short answer questions. The heroes will receive:

- a \$2,000 scholarship through the Alaska 529 college savings plan*, and
- special recognition in their local community.

If the youth chooses not to receive the scholarship, a donation to a community non-profit may be made in lieu of the scholarship, at the sponsor's direction.



What are the criteria for nominating a youth for the Summer of Heroes program?

Any youth who meet the above criteria can self-nominate or be nominated by someone they know. The winners will not be selected based on school grades, but rather the positive impact the youth makes on the community and those around them. The nominator could be a parent, guardian, sibling, teacher, coach, mentor, friend or anyone who has a relationship with the child and believes they should be recognized as a local hero.

How do I nominate someone for the Summer of Heroes program?

Starting May 1, nominations can be submitted one of the following two ways:

1. **Online nomination form:** Visit the [Summer of Heroes website](http://www.alaskacommunications.com/summerofheroes) (www.alaskacommunications.com/summerofheroes) and follow the instructions for completing and submitting the nomination form.
2. **Hardcopy nomination form:** Obtain a hardcopy nomination form from any [Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska Clubhouse](#) or by downloading the PDF from the [Summer of Heroes website](http://www.alaskacommunications.com/summerofheroes). Complete the form and submit it in-person at a Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska Clubhouse or via email to SummerofHeroes@alaskacommunications.com.

All nominations must be received **by 11:59 p.m. AKDT on June 18, 2023.**

Can I nominate a youth related to an Alaska Communications employee?

Yes. Alaska Communications recognizes one additional youth hero through its Summer of Heroes Employee Program. The internal Employee Program is separate from the external Summer of Heroes program, and only Alaska Communications employee family members are eligible for this single \$2,000 scholarship and recognition.

Participants who would like to nominate a child or grandchild of an Alaska Communications employee must complete the Summer of Heroes nomination form and fill out the special section for the Employee Program. Employee Program nominations should be submitted via the online form or by email to EmployeeHeroes@acsalaska.com by 11:59 p.m. AKDT on June 18.

Alaska Communications will recognize the selected Employee Program youth hero with a \$2,000 scholarship and local recognition in the hero's community.

See official rules for full details, available at www.alaskacommunications.com/summerofheroes.

What is the timeline for the Summer of Heroes youth recognition program?

May 1	Nomination period opens. Forms are available online and at Boys & Girls Clubs - Alaska locations .
June 18	Nomination period closes. Completed forms must be submitted online or in person by 11:59 p.m.
July	Judging panel reviews nominations and selects 2023 youth heroes
July/August	Heroes are recognized during a special celebration in their local community. Date is dependent on local schedule.
September	Alaska Communications presents donation to Boys and Girls Clubs - Alaska



Where can I find more information about the Summer of Heroes program?

For more information, please visit www.alaskacommunications.com/summerofheroes or any Boys & Girls Club - Alaska Clubhouse. Stay up-to-date on Summer of Heroes initiatives and events by connecting with Alaska Communications on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

SALES PROMOTION TO SUPPORT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

How can I participate to help support Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska?

Alaska Communications recognizes that youth education and development programs, such as the programs provided by Boys & Girls Clubs, are critical to helping children succeed in life. During the Summer of Heroes, Alaska Communications will contribute \$25 to Boys & Girls Clubs - Alaska for every new Unlimited or Business Internet connection established between May 1 and June 18, 2023, up to \$15,000 total. This donation will help support Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska’s programs and expand the organization’s capacity to positively impact the lives of young people in Alaska.

Alaskans can also make individual or business donations directly to Boys & Girls Clubs - Alaska by visiting www.alaskacommunications.com/summerofheroes.

Where can I find more information about the Summer of Heroes promotion?

For more information, please visit www.alaskacommunications.com/summerofheroes.

About Alaska Communications

Alaska Communications is the state’s leading provider of broadband and managed IT services in the state. The company operates a highly reliable, advanced statewide data network with the latest technology and the most diverse undersea fiber optic system connecting Alaska to the contiguous U.S.

Alaska Communications in the Community

Alaska Communications started as a local telephone company and today is Alaska’s leading provider of broadband and managed IT services. As part of its ongoing commitment to the communities it serves, Alaska Communications engages in activities and programs to support causes that are most important to its employees and customers – youth education and development. Through cash and in-kind donations, employee volunteers, and community involvement programs, the company strives to improve the quality of life for all Alaskans.

More information can be found on the company’s website at www.alaskacommunications.com.

2022 HEROES

Anna Boltz is an Anchorage teen blazing a trail for young athletes with disabilities, is a role model and mentor to children and adults, and is a strong voice for inclusion and well-being for all. She has spina bifida which causes paralysis of her lower body. Anna knows that with a little effort and a lot of grit, she can do anything. She’s inspiring other kids and adults to adopt that same mindset and get out there and try new things.

Kenny Iyatunguk is a prolific Iñupiaq dancer who is actively contributing to, preserving and sharing his Shishmaref community’s traditions and ways of life. After high school, Kenny would like to learn a trade to bring his skills back to his village and contribute to the local economy.

Recognizing the importance of language recovery, **Mia Wiederspohn** created a weekly podcast on a local radio station teaching Tlingit words and phrases. These podcasts illustrate that even students can have a positive impact on something important to them, no matter how complicated or important. Mia’s contributions in her high school and Wrangell community make her a role model--not just for her peers but for everyone who wishes to make their community a little better than they found it.



After participating in a first aid class, **Salome Hanauer** took the next step and jumped in to help overhaul the Salcha Fire & Rescue cadet/junior fire fighter program. Knowing that other young adults need opportunities to learn leadership skills and try new things, Salome encourages other cadets to take officer positions, training them and helping them as they learn. Salome wants to show other young adults that being willing to interact with and serve their community is rewarding and gives a sense of purpose.

Tyler Neumann is known to have a strong work ethic, both in his job and his volunteer activities. When he's not working or at school, he gives his time as an assistant soccer coach, at the local food bank and selflessly supports his grandparents when they need extra help. Tyler's father, Derek Neumann, is a field technician foreman and serves the Fairbanks community by helping provide essential telecom services in the region.

Wes Stutzman is known in his southeast community of Thorne Bay as a young man who can be counted on to help others. He collects, chops and delivers wood; shovels snow; helps care for pets in the community; and provides support and assistance to elders in a variety of capacities. And, he does it all free of charge. He is an example of considerate and compassionate service to those needing a helping hand. Wes comes to their aid over and over again, offering his services for nothing in return.

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