



## 2024 Alaska Communications' Summer of Heroes

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND FAQ

Now in its 14th 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 14, 2024, 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.

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.

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 \(www.alaskacommunications.com/summerofheroes\)](http://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](#). Complete the form and submit it in-person at a Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska Clubhouse or via email to [SummerofHeroes@alaskacommunications.com](mailto:SummerofHeroes@alaskacommunications.com).

All nominations must be received **by 5 p.m. AKDT on June 14, 2024**.

### **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](mailto:EmployeeHeroes@acsalaska.com) by 5 p.m. AKDT on June 14.

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](http://www.alaskacommunications.com/summerofheroes).

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

<b>May 1</b>	Nomination period opens. Forms are available online and at Boys & Girls Clubs - Alaska <a href="#">locations</a> .
<b>June 14</b>	Nomination period closes. Completed forms must be submitted online or in person by 5 p.m.
<b>July</b>	Judging panel reviews nominations and selects 2024 youth heroes
<b>July/August</b>	Heroes are recognized during a special celebration in their local community. Date is dependent on local schedule.
<b>September</b>	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](http://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](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## **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 14, 2024, 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.alaskacommunications.com).

## **2023 HEROES**

**Anchorage’s Dalton Ante is a super volunteer at the Alaska Humane Society, a non-profit organization whose mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome cats in Alaska. However, what sets Dalton apart is that he is the society’s youngest volunteer and often goes above and beyond traditional volunteer expectations.**

**Shawn Carter is an advocate for his rural community of Kotzebue. He is part of Kotzebue’s youth traditional singing, dancing and drumming group. He is developing his leadership skills in an effort to make real, positive change in his community, particularly about the indigenous lifestyle and the impacts of climate change in our state.**

**Elizabeth Djajalie makes positive contributions to the Juneau and Alaska community, particularly in the field of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). She notices problems facing the local and global community, and takes action to develop solutions through her passion for science.**



**The way Aaron Harkley carries himself, his charm and ambition, and his volunteerism make him stand out among youth. He's been a part of the Mountain View Boys & Girls Club in Anchorage for 11 years. In that time, he's volunteered more than 250 hours to the club helping develop youth programs, tutoring, playing games with members and mentoring younger children.**

**Josephine Herbert endured a traumatic upbringing until she was able to start again with a foster family in the Mat-Su Valley. Despite her challenging past, she's never let her situation hold her back. She enjoys helping others however they need it, even if it's to be a listening ear. Josephine wants to inspire others with her story and show it's possible to overcome significant challenges.**

**Noah Victoriano-Cruceta has a strong passion for service and dedicating his time to making a positive impact in the world. He demonstrates leadership qualities by taking the initiative to identify a problem and taking steps to solve it.**

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