



FALL PROJECT PLANNING SUMMIT



WHEN:
SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2011
WHERE:
SPRING CREEK FARM IN PALMER

10 far-flung teens gathered to transform ideas...

PALMER – Last weekend, Aurora Hoeffler, 17, committed to film a documentary showing Dillingham’s cultural history and threats from the proposed Pebble Mine.

Fairbanks teens Alea Hale, 14, and April Norsby, 13, chose to partner with

Calypso Farm and the Ester Library to create a home gardening “Seed Library.”

Ten far-flung Alaskan teens gave up their Labor Day weekends to gather in Palmer. Their mission: to defend wild Alaskan salmon and promote Real Food in their own communities. AYEА’s

annual Fall Project Planning Summit brought together rural and urban teens to learn how to turn ideas into action.

Over three days, the youth gained skills in public speaking, storytelling, detail-oriented planning and direct action at Spring Creek Farm, an 800-acre hay



STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS



THE ALASKAN FOOD SYSTEM



A HIKE TO SUMMIT LAKE

...into ACTION!

farm at the foot of the Chugach and Talkeetna mountains. It was a serene, focused place to create community action project plans that the teens will accomplish during the 2011-2012 school year.

The atmosphere was like the formation of a new superhero league. Most of the teens had met at past AYEА summits, like Juneau's Conservation & Civics Summit held every March. Some worked together on our last statewide campaign, Save Our Wild Alaskan Salmon.

"The thing I learned was how bad the salmon are in trouble," said Jaymes Kelly, 14, from Pilot Station.

Everybody felt that the group bonded unusually quickly. Good thing. These ten left the summit as AYEА's first class of Youth Organizers. The title carries a responsibility to support each other through organizing highs and lows.

"My favorite part was the people. They made me very happy," said Alea Hale.

Follow these youth organizers' projects at www.AYEА.org. Staff will be updating the site all year with stories, photos and videos from their lives across Alaska.

YOUTH ORGANIZERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND LEADING A YEAR LONG PROJECT WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES RELATING TO THE THEME OF WILD ALASKAN SALMON.

YOUTH ORGANIZERS WILL SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS WELL AS REMAIN IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH AYEА STAFF THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, DOCUMENTING AND EVALUATING THEIR WORK.

FINALLY, AYEА YOUTH ORGANIZERS WILL HAVE AMAZING EXPERIENCES, CELEBRATING THEIR SUCCESSES AND FACILITATING REAL CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES!



ALEA, 14
FAIRBANKS

"IT'S A BIG IMPACT FOR ALASKA TO LOSE EVEN A PERCENTAGE OF SALMON. MANY THREATS, ARE UNCONTROLLABLE BUT WE SHOULD CONTROL THE MAN-MADE IMPACTS ON THIS IMPORTANT SPECIES."



AURORA, 17
DILLINGHAM

"WILD ALASKAN SALMON ARE PART OF MY FAMILY'S HISTORY AND CULTURE. WE'VE GROWN UP HUNTING AND FISHING OUR ENTIRE LIVES. WE BOND OVER SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES."



AMANDA, 15
YAKUTAT

"I CARE ABOUT WILD ALASKAN SALMON BECAUSE I KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE DEPEND ON IT IN MY TOWN. IT WOULD HURT MY TOWN BIG TIME IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO THE SALMON!!"