



## AYEA Statewide Advisory Group (SWAG!)

*To inspire, educate and take action on issues facing our diverse communities*

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) is a youth leadership program that empowers young people to impact environmental health and conservation issues through skills training, visible community action projects, and civic engagement opportunities. AYEA is cultivating future generations of culturally diverse, diplomatic, and effective environmental leaders.

The **Statewide Advisory Group (SWAG)** is one way for current and veteran AYEA members to impact the direction of our program. AYEA teens partner with adult volunteers to help AYEA Program Staff identify and prioritize program goals, objectives, and activities on an annual basis.

### **What does the Statewide Advisory Group do?**

The Statewide Advisory Group provides meets with AYEA program staff to make decisions and set program priorities each year. Individuals on the SWAG promote AYEA by sharing information about upcoming AYEA trainings, projects, and youth opportunities throughout the state. Each SWAG member contributes specific skills and background to the Statewide Advisory Group and the AYEA program by serving on ad-hoc sub-committees to address specific issues or projects. All SWAG members are expected to help raise funds to support the AYEA program.

### **Who serves on the Statewide Advisory Group?**

The Statewide Advisory Group includes 8-10 volunteers (4-5 youth, 4-5 adults) who provide cultural, geographical, and political. We seek individuals with knowledge or skills in *one of the following areas*: skills training, youth development, public relations/outreach, strategic planning, governance, environmental health/justice issues, and/or fundraising. New members are paired with veteran members to provide a mentoring aspect.

### **What is the time commitment?**

Members of the Statewide Advisory Group must commit to:

- one “face-to-face” weekend retreat each fall/winter
- six to twelve, hour-long teleconference meetings per year

### **Examples of decisions and actions of SWAG:**

- Prioritizing AYEA’s involvement with statewide, national and international activities each year e.g. international Youth Eco-Forum, Alaska Federation of Natives, DC trips
- Selecting youth candidates to participate in national and international activities
- Voting on new logos/designs
- Recruiting and hiring of new staff
- Developing criteria/policies for chapters and members
- Helping determine theme of upcoming year, e.g. climate change
- Developing recruitment and selection process for AYEA statewide trainings
- Participating in the AYEA annual Summer Fun-Raiser
- Identifying program partners in the conservation, civic, and youth development communities and facilitating those partnerships through meetings, joint projects

## **AYEA Statewide Advisory Group (SWAG)**

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on issues facing our diverse communities*

### **Advisory Member Commitment Letter**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, commit to serving on the AYEA Statewide Advisory Group for a minimum term of 1 years, beginning December 2011 and ending December 2012, knowing that I may re-commit for additional service at that time.

*As a member of the Advisory Group, I commit to the following:*

- I will attend one face-to-face retreat annually;
- I will participate in monthly teleconferences during the school year;
- I will participate in training for Advisory Group members;
- I will assist with fundraising efforts to sustain the AYEA program and the Advisory Group (i.e. attending the Summer Fundraiser, meeting with potential funders in my community, etc)
- I will support and encourage mentoring of youth & adults on the Advisory Group and in the AYEA program;
- I will help recruit one new candidate to join the Advisory Group each year, and I will encourage new people to participate in trainings and other AYEA activities;
- I will serve as an ambassador of AYEA by communicating with members, volunteers, program partners and the general public about AYEA activities on a local and statewide level (i.e. giving a presentation);
- If I am in an AYEA Chapter, I will report Advisory Group activities/decisions to the Chapter and will in turn share activities/ decisions from my chapter to the Advisory Group;
- I will participate in and support the statewide campaign (i.e. planning or attending the fall retreat, joining a campaign work group, etc)
- I will provide input on the quality & effectiveness of AYEA programs & projects;
- I will support and promote AYEA's mission;
- I will avoid any potential conflicts of interest in serving on the AYEA Advisory Group, and if I anticipate a conflict of interest I will bring it to the attention of the Program Manager and the Advisory Group.

In addition to these commitments, I will honor the purpose of this Advisory Group and the other individuals on it by being an active, reliable, respectful participant and sharing my knowledge, skills, and voice on all matters relating to AYEA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of SWAG Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Please sign and return to Megan McBride:

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