AK|Next is a reflective, experiential-based program focused on developing leadership, cross cultural understanding and connections between Alaskan youth.

This program brings together three separate groups of youth from across Alaska to gather in Juneau with a focus of enhancing leadership skills. AK|Next builds on our work with youth over the past two decades. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Alaska Native Education Program, this program is offered at no cost to participants.

We believe that leadership is most effective when individuals mobilize and inspire their communities to come together to overcome challenges. Through AK|Next, youth will learn from each other, support each other, and explore leadership side by side - they will walk away with an enhanced ability to make a positive impact on their community.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This program is open to all current high school students interested in exploring leadership. We need all types of young people! Everyone has the potential to change their community. We need people who are passionate. We need youth from across Alaska to represent their communities. We want a movement of young people inspiring change in their communities.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 29, 2020

www.akhf.org/ak-next

WHEN DOES THIS TAKE PLACE?

Two groups of youth will be selected. Each group will gather for one of the following sessions:

Session 1: May 26th-30th
Session 2: June 2nd-6th

WHAT TO EXPECT?

This is a week-long experience where youth will meet leaders representing a range of sectors, industries, and leadership styles. Participants will contribute to the local community and learn about various local leaders’ experiences. There will also be time for the group to come together through a few recreational activities.
We provide opportunities for youth to:

• Explore various leadership skills
• Practice these skills in a safe space
• Explore different ways of thinking
• Take time to reflect on their values

Core elements

SENSE OF SELF: We believe youth must have a strong sense of self as a foundation to stand upon. We ask youth to dig deep and explore what makes them unique.

REFLECTION: We ask participants to take time to reflect while fostering personal growth. This time helps to deepen the learning and process those tough questions. This is the time to take risks and consider different perspectives.

NETWORKS: We believe that participants should take time to connect with each other in order to form a strong cohort and move our communities forward. These networks will be used far beyond the length of the program.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: We believe experiences are powerful learning opportunities. We ask youth to discover different types of leadership. We ask them to try the new and unexpected.

DIVERSITY: We intentionally select diverse groups of youth. We want them to learn about each other’s cultures, perspectives, and ways of life. Youth interact with various cultures in order to understand other perspectives as well as reflect upon their own.

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP: We’ve learned that in today’s world lasting success is not possible without diverse perspectives and contributions. Participants will learn how to harness shared leadership among a group rather than the skills of one person to achieve their goals.

HOW IS THIS PROGRAM DIFFERENT?

We provide opportunities for youth to:

- Explore various leadership skills
- Practice these skills in a safe space
- Explore different ways of thinking
- Take time to reflect on their values

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