

# Georgetown Tribal Council

## E-newsletter



### SPECIAL EDITION: CELEBRATING YOUTH IN THE KUSKOKWIM

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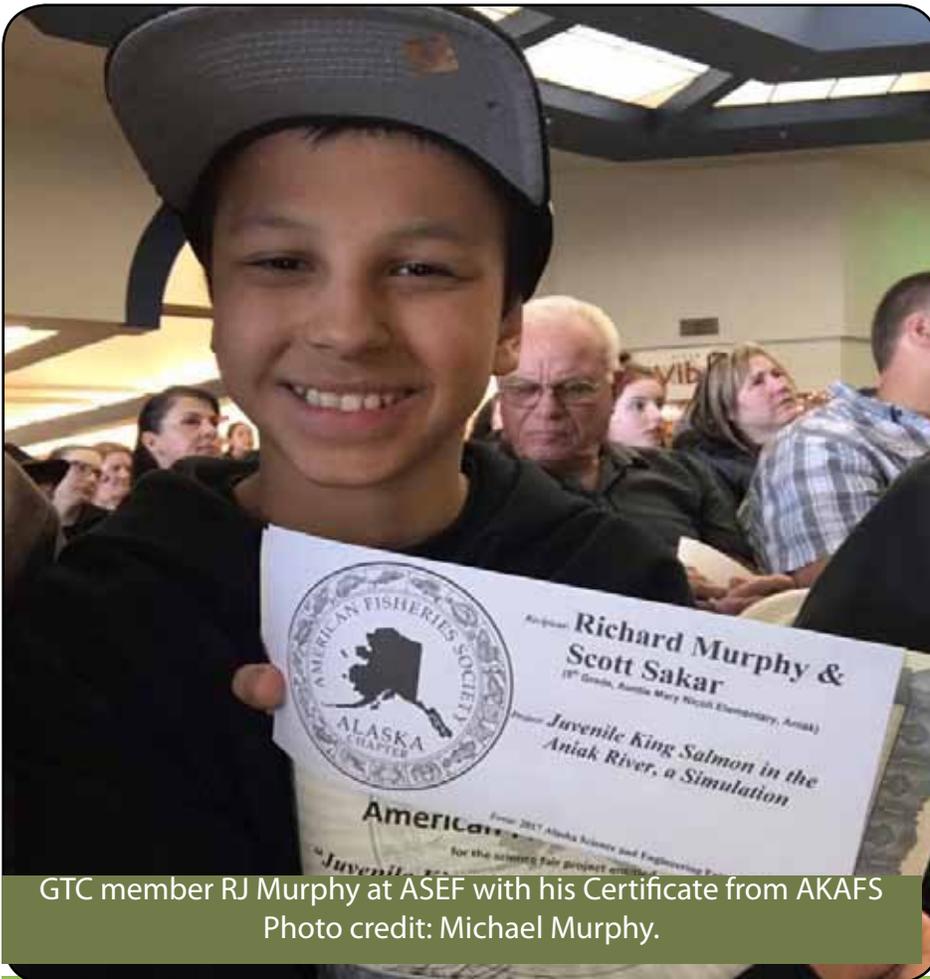
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May 2017; Volume 3, Issue 4



GTC member RJ Murphy at ASEF with his Certificate from AKAFS  
Photo credit: Michael Murphy.

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## Recognizing Youth from the Kuskokwim Region

One of GTC's goals is to plan for future generations, and we know we are not alone in this effort. Work is taking place up and down the Kuskokwim to protect and preserve the watershed for future generations. But that is not to say that the youth themselves are not doing a lot of work as well. All over the world, children are working hard to make a difference. Look around, and you'll find that the Kuskokwim Region is no different. In February 2017, I was happy to have the opportunity to attend the Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE). Every year at AFE, there are several tracts you have the option of following - one of this year's tracts was youth. Kicking the program off was a presentation en-

titled Reaching Youth through Art & Science, featuring Jena Boelens & Shahaila Raymond, from Aniak, who shared about the skills they have learned through participation in the EXCEL Alaska Math/Science Expedition Float Trip on the Aniak River. Their confidence and knowledge shown during the presentation was impressive to all in the room.

In March, I was told about GTC Tribal Member, Richard Murphy, who won an award with his partner Scott Sakar, in the AK Science Fair for their simulation project about Juvenile King Salmon in the Aniak River. Finally, a third story came to my attention about the Alaska Youth for Environmental Action organization bringing

students from all over the state, including the Kuskokwim, to a Youth Summit in Juneau. This year, Justin Stewart from Chuathbaluk was one student who attended this summit, and did so in order to advocate for salmon habitat and climate change issues.

Keep reading on, and this E-newsletter issue will tell the stories of these youth in more detail. We hope these stories will encourage all of you reading to recognize these youth for their efforts and contributions, thank the adults and organizations that helped the youth get where they needed to be to participate, and finally - to share with other youth in the region about these opportunities as they become available.

# Food For Thought: *Akutaq*

WHAT KID (OR KID AT HEART) DOESN'T LIKE ICE CREAM?!

Recipe for Akutaq below is provided by Debby Hartman. Please note: all amounts are approximate.

Pictured below: Blueberries in Georgetown & Kattie Wilmarth's akutaq!

First cut whitefish into 2 to 3 inch chunks after being gutted and cleaned (I take the skin off mine). Place the fish in enough water to just cover the fish and boil until done, approximately 20 minutes. Remove fish from water and put onto a cookie sheet or something similar: cool and then remove all bones. Next, squeeze all of the juice out of the fish with your hands, flake and recheck for small bones. Put approximately 2 -3 cups of Crisco in a large bowl & whip with a mixer until soft, add about 2 cups fish and keep whipping until mixed very well. Add 1-2 cups sugar (more or less to taste), and whip with beater another 10 minutes or so. Finally, mix by hand approximately 15 minutes to soften sugar with heat of your hand. Carefully fold in berries of your choice.

## *What do YOU call Akutaq?*

Debby notes, "the word Akutaq is more the Eskimo ice cream name, but that is what we grew up to know it by"

Debbie Esai-Holm a friend of Debby's from Nikolai calls this same treat by the name "Nemaje".

Esther Diehl, a friend from Aniak, knows it by "Nivagi", the word of her mother's language.



# RECOGNIZING YOUTH ON THE KUSKOKWIM: ASEF

The local science fair in Aniak took place this year on March 9-10th. Georgetown member, Richard Murphy and his partner, Scott Sakar, won second place among thirteen 5th and 6th graders from Auntie Mary Nicoli Elementary School. In addition to winning each of them \$120, they were also selected to travel into Anchorage to participate in the Alaska Science & Engineering Fair (ASEF) on March 24th-25th (pictured below, on the left) Traveling with them were eight other students from the Kuspuk School District, ranging from grade 5-10. A list of project titles, names & grades can be found below. Doug Molyneaux served as the mentor for the students from Aniak who participated in the Alaska science fair.

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>STUDENT(S)</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
The Bigger the Better- George River Internship 2016	Miranda Peterson	10
Math-Science Expedition 2016 - Juvenile Dolly Varden	Emma Morgan	7
Effects of Winter Cold on Juvenile Fish in the Aniak River- A Simulation	Jena Boelens & Crya Phillips	6
Get A Little Fishy With Juvenile King Salmon and Dolly Varden in the Aniak River- A Simulation	Ryan Steeves & Ethan Morgan	6
Juvenile King Salmon in the Aniak River- A Simulation	Richard Murphy & Scott Sakar	5
Comparing Lengths of Juvenile King Salmon and Dolly Varden in the Aniak River- A Simulation	Kaycee & Madysen Morgan	5/6

At ASEF, students receive recognition in a variety of ways. Molyneaux explains, “In addition to the ASEF ribbon, they each receive a certificate, pin, and \$20 cash award from the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AKAFS). The AKAFS was a “special judge” category specifically targeting projects dealing with fish. Student participation in both the Aniak and Alaska science fairs was supported by the Kuspuk School District and EXCEL Alaska.”

All of the students traveling to ASEF from Aniak had a project related to fish. There are many important people in the Region who have helped provide opportunities for these students and deserve recognition for their efforts, and when you take a look at those people and the roles they play in the region, it makes sense that so many projects were about fish. Doug puts it well in stating, “Special recognition should go to acting superintendent Erich Kuball and 5th-6th grade teacher Julia Fischer, and to biologists Dave Cannon of the Kuskokwim Watershed Council, Janessa Esquible of Orutsararmuit Native Council, and Dan Gillikin of Native Village of Napaimute for their diligence and dedication in fostering students explorations of local fish ecology as a vehicle for teaching the scientific method and for nurturing responsible stewardship of the fish so central to the culture of Kuskokwim area residents.”

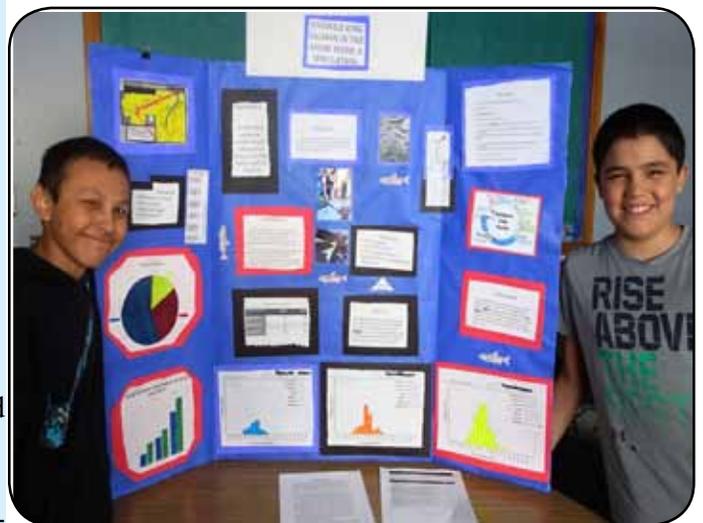


Photo credit: Doug Molyneaux; Pictured above is Richard Murphy & Scott Sakar with their display; Below are the students from Aniak at ASEF with their Certificates from AKAFS.

# RECOGNIZING YOUTH ON THE KUSKOKWIM: AFE

## ALASKA FORUM ON THE ENVIRONMENT: REACHING YOUTH THROUGH EARTH & SCIENCE



The Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) celebrated its 19th anniversary this year. It has grown to this year include over 130 breakout sessions, 200 presenters and 7 keynote events. Some of the presenters this year included youth from around the state.



During a presentation entitled "Reaching Youth through Art and Science", Jena Boelens & Shahaila Raymond, from Aniak, were among those presenting and they shared information about the skills they learned through participating in the EXCEL Alaska Math/Science Expedition Float Trip on the Aniak River. Both young ladies did an excellent job during their presentation.

Each year the Kuspuk School District takes students on an adventure of a lifetime, floating the Aniak River, collecting scientific data along the way. According to Dave Cannon, some years over 30 students in grades 7-12 from around the region participate to learn about leadership skills, science, and math. Teachers and biologists work together to give the students a wonderful hands on learning experience in the 10-days they're in the wilderness, floating the Aniak River. Doug Molyneaux - a retired ADFG biologist has also been working with the 5th and 6th graders to prepare them for the actual trip in what he calls the "Simulation Exercise".

Jena is a student who has participated in the Simulation Exercise, and Shahaila has gone on the float trip.

**Check out this Video To Learn More!**

Pictured here from top to bottom: Jena Boelens & Shahaila Raymond after their presentation at AFE; Jena giving her presentation, and youth mentor Dave Cannon with Jena & Shahaila, and other presenters at the session. Photo credit: Adrian Boelens



# RECOGNIZING YOUTH ON THE KUSKOKWIM: AYEА



Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) is a program of The Alaska Center that inspires and trains rural and urban youth leaders to impact environmental issues by providing leadership skills training and supporting youth-led community action projects and campaigns. They are committed to a youth-led model, in which teens choose the issues AYEА works on, and teens are the leaders in all AYEА campaigns and projects. AYEА has engaged over 5,000 teens since they started in 1998 through an array of local and statewide campaigns and projects.

Their vision is to create a statewide movement of diverse young Alaskans who have the skills, connections, and inspiration to effectively advocate for our communities and environment. The Civics and Conservation Summit takes place every spring during the legislative session. AYEА begins recruiting youth delegates from across the state in December each year for the chance to join them in Juneau. At the Summit, youth delegates learn about the legislative process and how to effectively tell their stories to our lawmakers.

This March, two teenagers from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta attended the environmental summit in Juneau. Over four days, the teens met with state legislators and advocated for measures to address climate change and to protect salmon habitats from the consequences of mining. Justin Stewart, of Chuathbaluk, (pictured above on left with other delegates) was one of the students chosen this year to act as a youth delegate.

Justin is not the first student from our region to participate in this program. Joseph Phillips from Chuathbaluk & Miranda and Emily Peterson from Aniak have also attended AYEА in the past. Agrafenia Pletnikoff, mother of Justin and Mayor of the City of Chuathbaluk, is a strong supporter of the program. She states “I am proud of Justin and thankful for AYEА. They have done so much for many of our students within our District alone.”

AYEA recruits statewide for two major summits each school year, the **Youth Organizer Summit** in the fall and the **Civics and Conservation Summit** in the spring. Visit each link for more information about both summits and for information on how to apply.

Photos above are of Justin and his fellow delegates at the 2017 Summit in Juneau, provided by Allison Barnwell, Youth Organizing Coordinator for AYEА. She can be reached at [allison@akcenter.org](mailto:allison@akcenter.org)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY

1-4

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality.  
Tucson, AZ.

[http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr\\_ntf](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_ntf)

8-12

RALO and backhaul training in Aniak

Contact: KRWC  
907- 675-4705 OR

Sign up online: <http://www.cvent.com/d/5vqk3v>

3-5

Zender Environmental is Hosting a Qualifier Sampler Training (Water Quality and Soil Sampling)  
Dillingham, AK

Will also be available in August in Anchorage.

16-18

Exchange Network 2017 National Meeting.  
Philadelphia, PA.

<http://www.exchangenetwork.net/en2017>

## JUNE

7

Alaska Solid Waste Teleconference. 1:30 p.m. Alaska Time.

<http://bit.ly/2oeqZs4>

6-7

ANTHC 7 Generations Plan Training  
Anchorage, AK

For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2pDy0wg>.

## JULY

July 31-Aug 4

Integrated Solid Waste Management Planning and Backhaul Training  
Anchorage, AK

For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2pDy0wg>.

[www.georgetowntc.com/Environmental.html](http://www.georgetowntc.com/Environmental.html)  
<https://georgetowntc.wordpress.com/>



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Front Cover Photo Credit: Kattie Wilmarth

Back Cover Photo Credit: Kate Schaberg