

KAKO RETREAT CENTER

RETURNING STAFF APPLICATION COVER LETTER

Dear Prospective Kako Staffer,

31 Jan 2023

Thanks for your interest in Kako! I am Jim Buckingham and I will be the Summer Camp Director for 2023. My family and I are really looking forward to the opportunity to serve at Kako this year and are very excited about the staff with whom we will be working. We have spent over 20 years in Alaska and call it home! We have been involved with rural Alaskan ministry in Kako and other remote villages since about 2005. Jonathan Penz remains the Kako Retreat Center CEO and I will be working under him directing camp. We came on full time staff with Kako Retreat Center in the Fall of 2020 and are happy to be involved!

Kako is a Christian retreat center and camp located about 400 miles west of Anchorage Alaska. The closest village is Russian Mission, AK which is located about 10 miles southeast of Kako on the Yukon River. There are about 229 federally recognized Alaska Native villages in Alaska. The majority of these villages are accessible only by air in small single or twin engine airplanes, or by boat in the summer for those villages situated on a river or body of water. Kako is in an extremely rural environment. It is completely off of the road system and the electrical grid and has no public utilities. Electricity is provided by a diesel generator, our water source is treated pond water, and the primary means of transportation in and out of Kako is by small plane. The nearest hospital is approximately 70 air miles away in Bethel, AK which is a 40 minute flight. These facts give rise to the need for staff that are hardy and in good health to overcome the obvious obstacles and potentialities of remote living. There are over 20,000 native Alaskans within a 1 hour flight from Kako. This population represents the prime targets of opportunity for Christ to be shared through Kako Retreat Center resources.

Kako continues to present a wonderful opportunity for native Alaskan children to both learn of the love of Christ, and to see it demonstrated in the lives of the staff that serve them for a week in the summer. To that end, I am dedicated to recruiting young people for service at Kako that know, and love the Lord Jesus Christ and who are walking in the light with Him now.

Many of the children we serve are living in difficult home situations in small villages across western Alaska. For many, the light of Christ has not penetrated their villages, homes or hearts and they are struggling with the sad realities of the sinful practices that surround and often envelop them: drug addition, alcohol abuse, sexual immorality, hopelessness, suicide and multiple forms of abuse which are perpetrated against them and sometimes by them against others. While many sincere attempts are made by social organizations to help these young people, we as believers know that the only true source of peace, joy and emotional health comes through the radical change of the cross of Christ as they cling to salvation by grace through

faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

I am looking for young people to help convey that message of hope and joy in Jesus Christ during the 2023 summer camp season at Kako. The wilds of western Alaska offer great adventure and excitement. The rugged beauty of huge mountains, wild rivers, giant moose, monstrous bears, glistening gold, humongous glaciers and intense remoteness draw all kinds of people to Alaska. While Kako offers many of these things by virtue of its remote location near the historic Yukon River, it is primarily a place of ministry to those living and dying without Christ. I need young people to come to Kako, not as adventure seekers, but with hearts beating for the lost masses of humanity strewn across the remote wilderness of Alaska

Kako is a place where the love of Christ is shown through Bible teaching, Christian songs, recreation, heart-to-heart talks, and most importantly through the godly lives and examples of those counseling and ministering to the children. Healthy fruit bears healthy seed and that is the kind of seed that grows into healthy plants and will bear like fruit. I would ask you to do a bit of self-examination before the Lord and ask Him whether He wants you to apply for a position at Kako this summer. If the answer is "yes", then please fill out and return the attached application. You can scan your completed application and email it to me at kakocampdirector@gmail.com, or send it by snail mail to me at: Mr. Jim Buckingham / ATTN: Kako 2023 Application / 16196 E Goa Way / Palmer, AK 99645. Please feel free to email me at the above address with any questions you have as you are considering applying. Applications are due by 1 Apr 2023.

There are a few things to consider as you prepare to make out your application. The application packet is thorough and deliberately personal. This is not an application for employment...it's an application for volunteer service. It's my responsibility to provide stable, mature staff for Kako 2023 to minister to the many needs that will be present in the native youth that we serve. While I want to know your preferences for serving and will seek to place you where you would like to work and serve, that isn't always possible. Your signed application is confirmation to me that you are willing to serve at Kako in whatever capacity is needed over the course of the summer. It is likely that you will move through positions that could include counselor, construction projects, camp maintenance, cooking, cleaning, overseeing activities, etc. It is very important that your attitude is one of willingness to support the needs of camp as a whole, even if you do not end up serving in areas which you believe you are talented/gifted. Our primary purpose is to glorify God in His purposes at camp this summer. To that end we should each be praying that His will for summer staff would be realized.

The first week of camp will start on Monday, June 5, and camp will run for 6 straight weeks. The final week will end on Friday, July 14th. Staff opportunities are broken down into 2 sessions as shown below.

Session 1 will run 1 - 24 June (first 3 weeks of camp) and will include a 2-day mandatory training period for staff arriving at the beginning of camp. The training days will be Thursday and Friday, 1-2 Jun which will give us Saturday and Sunday to get settled and ready for camp.

Session 1 staff should plan to arrive in Bethel May 29, May 30th or May 31st to assist with camp setup. You should schedule your departure from Bethel on June 24th or June 25th. Please do not arrive earlier than May 29th without permission from the Camp Director. May 29th is the day family camp participants will be flown home so it will be a busy day.

Session 2 will run 23 June - 16 July (last 3 weeks of camp) and will include a 1 day mandatory training period on 23 Jun. Session 2 staff should plan to arrive in Bethel on June 21st or 22nd and depart from Bethel no earlier than July 15th.

Full Session will run 1 Jun - 16 Jul (all 6 weeks of camp) and will include the same 2 day mandatory training period as Session 1. Departure from Bethel should be no earlier than July 15th.

Once camp staff selections are made, I will provide more details on arrival so you can make travel arrangements. Suffice it to say that you will need to arrive 1-2 days prior to the start of your session. The point of all this is that we want to minimize staff turnover during the 6 week camp period. If you cannot serve for a full 3 week session, I will consider shorter periods but will give some preference to those that can be there for 3 or 6 full weeks. At this point, I plan to have 8 people serving as counselors each week (1 counselor per cabin), with an additional 14-16 staff assisting with activities, housekeeping, maintenance, etc. Ideally, some of those additional staff will be counselors on alternate weeks, however I will retain the prerogative to move people in and out of counselor positions to ensure the kids at camp (and the needs at camp) are well-served. There will be a few additional special staff to help with longstanding camp needs (cook, nurse, etc.). I will be prayerfully considering each application and seeking God for wisdom as to whom to select

Finally, Kako runs primarily on donations and some income from campers and staff. For staff, you should anticipate the following as far as your own personal financial investment this summer.

1. Cost of travel to and from your home to Bethel, Alaska
2. Recommended donation of \$100/week during your stay at Kako

Thus, your total investment would be the cost of airfare to and from Bethel plus about \$300 for 3 week sessions and about \$600 for 6 week sessions.

The Kako Retreat Center website (kakoretreatcenter.org) will be updated by 1 Mar 2023 to reflect the 2023 camping season. Please note that the website will NOT be used for online applications. All applications will be sent by email or snail mail to the Camp Director for consideration. I'm really looking forward to receiving and reviewing your application. I anticipate completing selections and notifying selectees by 20 Apr, 2023. This will give selected staff about 6 weeks to make travel arrangements for the summer Thank you in advance for taking the time and making the effort to apply to come to Kako this year! The Lord bless and keep you.

In Christ,

Jim Buckingham

kakocampdirector@gmail.com

(907) 232-7780

"...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Phil 3:13-14

KAKO RETREAT CENTER

RETURNING STAFF APPLICATION

Personal Data

Name _____ Nickname _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Social Security Number _____ Birthday _____ Age on 1 May 2023 _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

Marital Status _____ Single _____ Married

Do you have any children? ___ Yes ___ No If yes, please list their ages

Have you ever been convicted of physical or sexual misconduct? ___ Yes ___ No

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? ___ Yes ___ No

What is your current housing situation ___ Live at Home ___ Live at College ___ Living on my own ___ Other

If other, please explain: _____

Do you attend church regularly? ___ Yes ___ No Name of Church _____

Church Denominational Affiliation _____

Pastor's Name _____ Pastor's Phone Number _____

Pastor's Email Address: _____

Is it OK to contact your pastor ___ Yes ___ No

How would you describe your health in general _____

Do you have any medical conditions that require continual attention? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, please explain _____

Who do you consider to be two authorities in your life right now? _____

Please provide contact info for each:

Authority 1: Name _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Authority 2: Name _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Changes Since Last Time You Served at Kako

The purpose of this section is just to see what has changed in your life since last time you were at Kako.

1. Please list/explain any major life changes that have occurred since last year

2. Briefly explain what you have been doing this last year. (School, Work, etc.)

3. Are you currently in any kind of romantic relationship (dating, courting, engaged, etc.) ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, are your parents approving of the relationship? ___ Yes ___ No
Are his/her parents approving of the relationship? ___ Yes ___ No
Is your "significant other" applying to come to Kako? ___ Yes ___ No
Please describe the relationship. I'm interested in how you see it impacting your serving at Kako, if at all.

4. What involvement have you had in Christian Ministry in or outside of church this past year?

5. What would you say are the major things the Lord has been teaching you this last year?

6. Why do you want to serve at Kako in 2023?

Summer Session Preference

Session 1: 2-25 June (First 3 weeks of camp)
Session 2: 24 Jun - 16 Jul (Last 3 weeks of camp)
Full Session: 2 Jun - 16 Jul (All 6 weeks of camp)

My preference for serving in 2023 is ____ Session 1; ____ Session 2; ____ Full Session
If I do not get my first preference, I would be willing to serve in the following Sessions:
____ Session 1; ____ Session 2; ____ Full Session

Position Preference

Please prioritize at least three (3) positions that you are qualified for, and in which you would be willing to serve. You may prioritize as many as you want.

<input type="checkbox"/> Cabin Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen help
<input type="checkbox"/> Admin/Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Activities Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Camp Nurse	<input type="checkbox"/> Help with troubled kids
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Projects/Construction Work	

Please provide any comments you have about your responses on this application or about serving at Kako in 2023.

Application Requirements

To complete your application, we must receive the following by 1 Apr, 2023. Email is preferred to kakocampdirector@gmail.com

1. Application
2. Recent photo (email attachment or hard copy photo with application)
3. Signature Page
4. Health and Medical Record

Kako Retreat Center Vision

Our vision of Kako is to have it be a place set aside to provide Christ-centered retreats, seminars, and counseling to encourage and help people living in the remote villages of Alaska. Kako reaches out to the youth of Alaska through various camping programs. Another means of encouragement is the itinerant work for visiting, counseling and Bible Studies. KRC staff is actively involved in ongoing relationship-building visits in the villages by leading Bible studies, encouraging family values, mentoring native Christian leaders, and simply coming alongside. A wide variety of literature, videos, and audio cassettes are also available for sustaining between visits and/or retreats. Along with reaching out to adults, for six weeks Kako flies in kids for camp each summer. Lives continue to be changed...for eternity!

Kako Retreat Center Statement of Beliefs

We believe in one Holy God, creator of all things, eternally existing in three different persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in the Virgin Birth, in the complete Deity and complete humanity of Jesus Christ, uniquely joined together in one person, and in the bodily resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. We believe in the Deity and personality of God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit regenerates, indwells, seals and baptizes the believer into the body of Christ at conversion. The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of His presence. We believe the Bible is verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings and is the supreme and final authority in faith and life. We believe man was created sinless, he willfully sinned which rendered him hopelessly lost before God. We believe that man's salvation is by grace, based solely on the substitutionary atonement of Christ. We believe in everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the eternal punishment of all who reject our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is composed solely of those who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ. We believe in the personal, imminent and pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones. We believe that the two ordinances of the local church are the Lord's Supper and believer's baptism.

Signature Section

I have read the Kako Retreat Center Vision and Statement of Beliefs. I will purpose to support and uphold the vision and Statement of Beliefs during the duration of my service with Kako in 2019 even if my personal convictions differ somewhat from their content. I also affirm that my answers and responses on this application are true and accurately represent my own beliefs and convictions.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

Please return this application by one of the following means:

By Email to: kakocampdirector@gmail.com

OR

By US Mail to: Mr. Jim Buckingham / ATTN: Kako 2023 Application / 16196 E Goa Way / Palmer, AK 99645

APPLICATIONS MUST ARRIVE BY 1 Apr, 2023.

SELECTIONS WILL BE MADE & SELECTEES NOTIFIED By: 20 Apr, 2023

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RECORD
(APPLICANT RETURN WITH APPLICATION)

Name: _____ Age: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

In case of emergency please contact:

Name: _____ Parent Guardian Other

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ Work Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Name of Insurance Provider: _____

Policy Number: _____ Policyholder Name: _____

SSN : _____ DOB (of policyholder) _____

This health and medical record, including limitations indicated, is valid for participation in all programs at Kako Retreat Center.

DOES APPLICANT HAVE OR IS SUBJECT TO (check if yes)

- Asthma Fainting Spells Convulsions or Epilepsy
 Diabetes Heart Trouble Allergy or reaction to medications
 Bee Stings Food Allergies Work, Swimming, Sport or other restrictions
 Depression Eating Disorders Psychiatric conditions
 Restrictions for medical reasons Other _____ If any of the above are checked please describe below in the comments section.

HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH (check if yes)

- eyes ears, nose, throat digestion menstrual problems
 lungs sleep-walking falling out of bed other _____

HAVE HAD (check if yes)

- whooping cough measles mumps chicken pox
 epilepsy rheumatic fever diphtheria

MEDICATIONS:

Any condition now requiring regular medication? No Yes (If yes, please indicate).

Medication _____ Dose _____ Frequency _____

Reason for taking _____

IMMUNIZATIONS:

Are immunizations up to date? Yes No

Date of last Tetanus booster shot: _____ (required every 10 years)

Additional medical comments (may be continued on back)

PARTICIPANT AUTHORIZATION This health history is correct so far as I know, and the person herein described has my permission to engage in all prescribed activities, except as noted by me and/or the physician. In the event I can't be reached in an emergency, I hereby give my permission to the physician, selected by the adult leader in charge, to hospitalize, secure proper anesthesia, or to order injection or surgery for my son/daughter who is serving on the staff at Kako Retreat Center..

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Note: The contents of this medical history are confidential and will be disclosed only to those with a "need to know".

