



ALASKA
HUMANITIES
FORUM



Ilakucaraq Project 2023-2024 Year-Long Cohort Application

The Ilakucaraq Project (IP) is a partnership between the Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Alaska Humanities Forum. Our project is funded by a Department of Education Alaska Native Education Program grant. This program connects Alaska Native Youth across the state, to strengthen their cultural identity and build connections with other Native Youth from across the state.

If you have any questions please reach out to our team at ilakucaraq@akhf.org or (907)717-1256

About IP Cohorts

IP Cohorts bring rural and urban Alaska Native youth together to explore their heritages, share their cultures, and find strength in being Indigenous. The year-long experience allows each cohort to become a tight-knit community that supports one another as participants build confidence in who they are and their relationship to their cultures.

Each cohort starts and ends with a week-long immersion trip in two different Alaskan communities to experience life in both a rural and an urban part of the state. Virtual sessions between the immersions keep the cohorts connected and reflect on what it means to be Indigenous today. Covid policies and expectations will be included with enrollment paperwork.

This program is offered at no cost to participants.

Application Deadline: March 20

Program Dates:

Summer 2023 In-person immersion in Anchorage (if selected, you would attend one of the following trips):

June 12th -16th

July 24th-28th

August 4th-8th

September 2023-May 2024: One or two virtual programs each month

Summer 2024: In-person immersion in a rural community

You will be able to indicate if you are unavailable for any of these immersion dates in this application.

Eligibility

- Open to all Indigenous youth currently in grades 8-11 enrolled in an Alaska school district interested in connecting with Alaska Native cultures. Youth must be at least 13 years old at the start of the program.
- Rural and urban youth are encouraged to apply. Internet service and a device will be provided for participants who would otherwise not be able to participate. Please note that the internet assistance is reserved for students who otherwise would not be able to participate in the program. We will not provide stipends for participants who currently have internet.
- If selected, youth must commit to participating for the entire cohort: 5 days of travel in summer 2023, 5 days of travel in summer 2024, and regular virtual sessions between travel weeks.
- Please note that youth should be comfortable with traveling independently because some travel segments may be done on their own. This includes traveling between village, hub community and onto Anchorage where IP staff will meet the students.

Application Process

The application consists of two parts and should be completed in one sitting (we can't guarantee that if you start and leave that the application is saved). The first part will ask for some information about you (birthdate, grade, contact information, etc.). **It is very important to include correct contact information, as our staff is looking over and reaching out to all applicants.** The second part includes a few short answer questions to get to know you better and learn more about your interest in the Ilakucaraq Cohorts! Listed below are the short answer questions you'll be asked to answer. You are welcome to work on your answers in a separate document first, and then paste them into the form.

1. Why are you interested in participating in an Ilakucaraq Project cohort?
2. What do you like to do in your free time?
3. What does culture mean to you? What culture(s) do you belong to?
4. What is something about your culture you would be excited to share with your cohort?

Once we receive your completed application, we will reach out within a week to talk more about your interest in the program and answer any questions that you might have for staff. We will let applicants know if they are accepted or waitlisted by the end of March/early April.

If you would like to download a paper copy of the application to scan and email back to us, please visit: <https://www.akhf.org/programs/ilakucaraq-project-year-long-cohorts>.

If you have any questions about the application process, or for additional information about the Ilakucaraq Project, please visit our website at <https://www.akhf.org/programs/ilakucaraq-project-year-long-cohorts> or contact our team at ilakucaraq@akhf.org or call/text (907)717-1256.

Applicant Information

First Name: _____

Preferred First Name (if different from above): _____

Last Name: _____

Are you Alaska Native or American Indian?: YES NO

Date of birth (month, day, year): _____

Pronouns (she/her, he/him, they/them): _____

Home Community: _____

School Name: _____

Current Grade: 8th 9th 10th 11th

I will be at least 13 years old at the start of programming: YES NO

Email address (personal) - please put an address that you will have access to over the summer so you can access the trip information that will be sent out:

Phone number (if you do not have a phone, this is where to say that as well):

Does your phone receive texts? Our team sends reminder texts from a program phone!

 YES NO

Are you comfortable traveling to and from Anchorage on your own?

YES

NO

Please tell us a little bit about your previous travel experience. (ex. "I have traveled alone to _____" or "I have traveled to _____ with family, friends or other chaperones" etc.)

Parent/guardian's name: _____

Parent/guardian's phone number: _____

Parent/guardian's email address: _____

Mailing address (please include zip code): _____

Residential address (physical address): _____

Commitment:

I understand that if selected to participate in the Ilakucaraq program cohorts I am available and committed to traveling on the following dates.

Please note: you will not be traveling on all of the listed dates but are participating in 1 rural and 1 urban immersion trip. We will be placing students according to their travel needs and application information:

- **Summer of 2023 - Urban Immersions**
 - June 12-1
 - July 24-28
 - August 4-8

- **Summer of 2024 - Rural Immersions**
 - Dates will be announced in the fall/winter

Did you read the commitment statement above and agree to it?

YES

NO

Please highlight/circle the travel dates that work with your schedule for this summer's immersion (highlight or circle all that apply):

June 12th - 16th, 2023

July 24th - 28th, 2023

August 4th - 8th, 2023

I agree to participate in 1-2 virtual sessions each month between Sept. 2023 - May 2024. Exact dates and times will be decided with each cohort's input, but I agree to keep these times open once they are decided.

YES

NO

Do you have access to the internet? Virtual programs will be held 1-2 times per month using Zoom.

YES - I have home internet

NO - I do not have home internet and will need the Ilakucaraq Project to assist with this (Selecting this choice will not impact your eligibility.)

If I am unable to attend any part of IP programming, I will communicate this to the IP staff as soon as possible

YES

NO

Accessibility at the Forum

The organizational vision of the Alaska Humanities Forum is a culturally diverse, economically vibrant, and equitable Alaska where people are engaged, informed, and connected. This vision is only achievable when accessibility is a priority.

The Alaska Humanities Forum is a statewide organization, and works with a number of organizational and community partners in both urban and rural Alaska. The accommodations we are able to offer vary considerably depending on where a given program is based. If you are participating in a program outside of Anchorage and need accommodations, we recommend you get in touch with us with as much advance notice as possible so that we can work directly with you to meet your access needs.

Here is a list of accommodations we are currently able to offer with advance notice:

- Closed captioning on videos
- Transcripts of virtual webinars and events
- Size accommodations for travel
- Gender - neutral/single-stall bathrooms
- Access to a quiet space
- Providing materials ahead of time
- Large print readings

Venue Access:

For IP Cohorts, travel is a major part of the program which may include traveling in small planes or getting on boats. Please let us know if there is an accommodation you would like to request that is or is not listed above, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Did you read the accessibility statement above?

YES

NO

After reading the accessibility statement, are there any accommodations you would like to request? We will contact you to discuss your answers further.

Tell us about yourself!

Below are some questions to help us get to know you better and learn about your interest in IP Cohorts.

Why are you interested in participating in an Ilakucaraq Project Cohort?

What do you like to do in your free time?

What is your Cultural Affiliation? Please circle/highlight all that apply.

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Athabascan | Iñupiaq | St. Lawrence Island Yup'ik | Yup'ik | Cup'ik |
| Unangax | Alutiiq (Sugpiaq) | Eyak | Haida | Tsimshian |
| Tlingit | | | | |

What Alaska Native Regional Corporation(s) are you a shareholder or descendant of? Please circle/highlight all that apply.

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Ahtna | Aleut Corp. | Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) | Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) | Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) |
| Calista Corp. | Chugach | CIRI (Cook Inlet Region, Inc.) | Doyon | Koniag |

| | | | | |
|------|----------|--|--|--|
| NANA | Sealaska | | | |
|------|----------|--|--|--|

What does culture mean to you?

What is something about your culture you would like to share with your cohort?

How did you hear about Ilakucaraq Cohorts?

What is your sweatshirt size?

XS S M L XL XXL

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Once you complete this application please scan and return it to our team at ilakucaraq@akhf.org. To be considered all applications must be received by March 20th.

- Make sure to include all 9 pages and answer all questions with correct information!
- If you have any questions please reach out to our team at ilakucaraq@akhf.org or call/text (907)717-1256