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Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

April 2021

The Alaska Municipal League (AML) invites emerging Alaska leaders, ages 16-25, to join us at the 2021 Conference of Young Alaskans (COYA). COYA is a unique opportunity that will be offered to 55 Alaskan leaders, who will convene and work together in Fairbanks this August 1-4, 2021.

COYA has been hosted three times in its history, and originally convened to recognize the Constitutional Convention. It has focused on state and statewide issues in the past; “delegates” came from across the state to address critical issues facing the State. Their work was delivered directly to policy makers.

In 2021, delegates will again be drawn from across Alaska to address statewide issues that are critical to local governments. AML is celebrating its 70th anniversary – we’re excited about strengthening Alaska’s cities and boroughs to truly maximize local self-governance. Delegates will help by contributing their perspectives, drafting and deliberating upon questions facing local governments.

- How could local control be enhanced within the unorganized borough?
- What is an appropriate transition from general law to home rule local governments?
- How should a tax base be evaluated to make sure that revenues are in place to provide services?
- What role do local governments have in ensuring quality of life and sustainability of communities?
- What should the relationship be between the State and its political subdivisions?

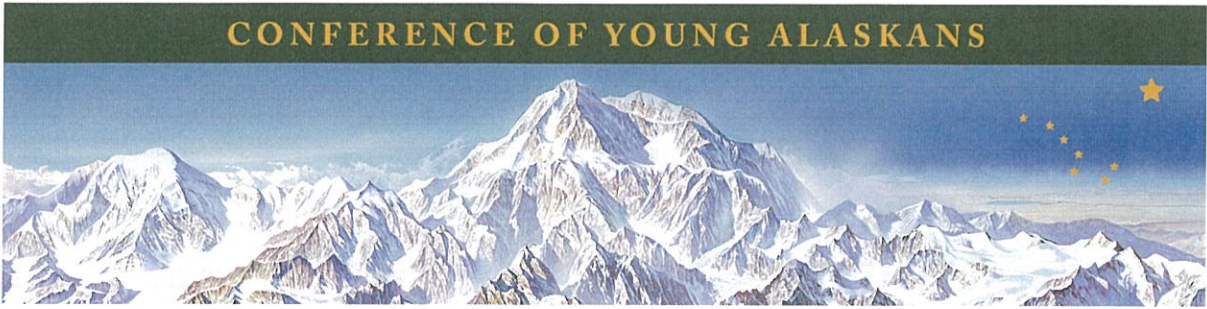
The Final Report of the 2021 COYA will be presented to the Alaska Conference of Mayors on the final day of the Conference. It will further be distributed to every legislator, mayor, Governor, and our congressional delegation. Really, delegate voices can have a significant impact on Alaska policy.

COYA provides delegates the opportunity to meet and work with a diverse group of Alaskans who share a common interest in the future of the state. Professional development skills will be honed throughout the Conference, including through small group processes and peer networking. We’re committed to advancing the next generation of Alaska’s leaders.

Please find included more information as part of the application process, including a draft agenda. By participating, those selected will join a small group of Alaskans who have gone through this process. Past participants have been some of Alaska’s most promising young leaders, and today two are sitting legislators. You will be in the first group to participate in COYA with a focus on municipal government. Transportation, lodging, meals, and conference materials are completely sponsored and provided at no cost to you.

Applications are due May 10th. If you have any questions, please contact portlandh@akml.org or 907-790-5306. We hope to see you in Fairbanks at COYA 2021.

Portland Highbaugh
Program Coordinator



**Conference of Young Alaskans 2021
Fairbanks, August 1-4
Application Form
Due May 10, 2021**

The Conference of Young Alaskans (COYA) is the premier forum for engaging young Alaskans as emerging leaders. This year, we are especially interested in those who want to work together to strengthen local governments. 55 delegates will spend three days in Fairbanks, immersed in policy deliberations and one-on-one interaction with some of Alaska's foremost municipal leaders. Delegates will attend COYA 2021 at no cost – transportation, lodging, meals and conference materials will be provided.

Name: _____

School or Employer: _____

Home Community: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Ethnicity: _____ Gender: _____ Birth date: _____

Essay Questions – Attach answers on a separate sheet of paper or separate document, if submitting electronically.

In 50 words or less, please detail what you would bring to the COYA experience.

Answer two of the following short essay questions in 300 words or less (each).

1. How have you been involved in your community and tried to make a positive difference; how can you apply what you learned in this in the future?
2. What excites or dismays you about local government, or is it a blank space you want to fill?
3. Where do you see yourself in 10 years? What might you be doing to contribute to your community and Alaska?
4. If you were mayor, what changes would you make?

Provide one reference from a current or former employer or teacher who will attest to your ability to contribute positively and substantively to the COYA experience.

- Name: _____
- Phone: _____
- Email: _____

As a part of your application, contact your Mayor to endorse your application.

As Mayor of _____, I support this application for COYA 2021.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

If selected, you will be asked to provide a brief bio and photo for publishing. You will receive notification of selection by May 28th – you must commit to participate in writing by June 8th to be included in the COYA 2021 process. Delegates will be expected to attend the entire three days from August 1-4, 2021. Conference organizers will be responsible for all costs associated with your participation, so this commitment is extremely important.

After confirming your commitment, you will receive more information about COYA 2021 including reading material, required forms to be filled out and travel information.

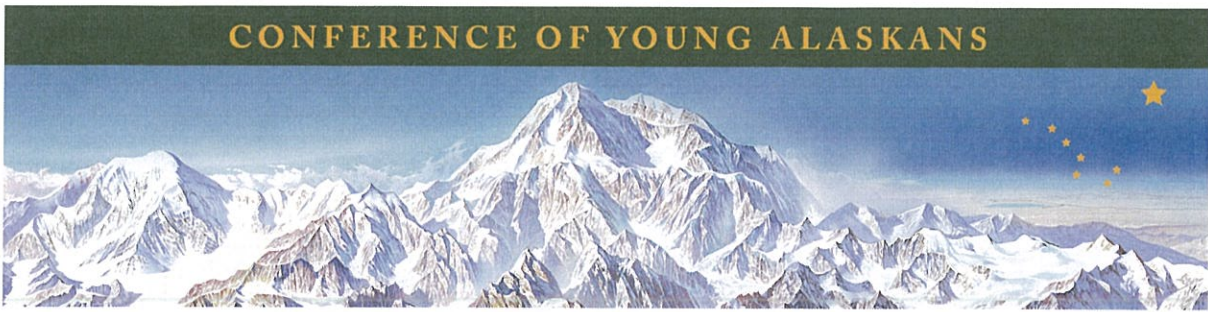
Applications can be sent in via email, mail, online at akml.org or fax:

Email: portlandh@akml.org

Fax: 907-463-5480

COYA
c/o Alaska Municipal League
1 Sealaska Plaza, Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801

For more information, contact Portland Highbaugh at portlandh@akml.org or by phone at 907-790-5306.



What is the Conference of Young Alaskans?

The Conference of Young Alaskans will bring together 55 Alaskans to learn, discuss and deliberate topics that directly impact Alaska’s local governments. Attendees (delegates) will work together in plenary and breakout sessions to create vision statements, priorities and action items about these topics. Final vision statements will be produced after a consensus has been reached. The final reports will be presented at the Summer Meeting of the Alaska Conference of Mayors.

Why should I attend COYA?

Participating in COYA allows you to have a voice in Alaska’s local governments. The final reports will be distributed to all of Alaska’s cities and boroughs – allowing your government leaders to know what your priorities are for the State. Additionally, delegates will engage with some of Alaska’s foremost political, business and community leaders through interactive sessions.

When and where is it?

August 1-4, 2021 in Fairbanks

Who is the Conference of Young Alaskans for?

COYA is for Alaskans between the ages of 16-25 who are interested in municipal and state affairs.

How much is it to attend?

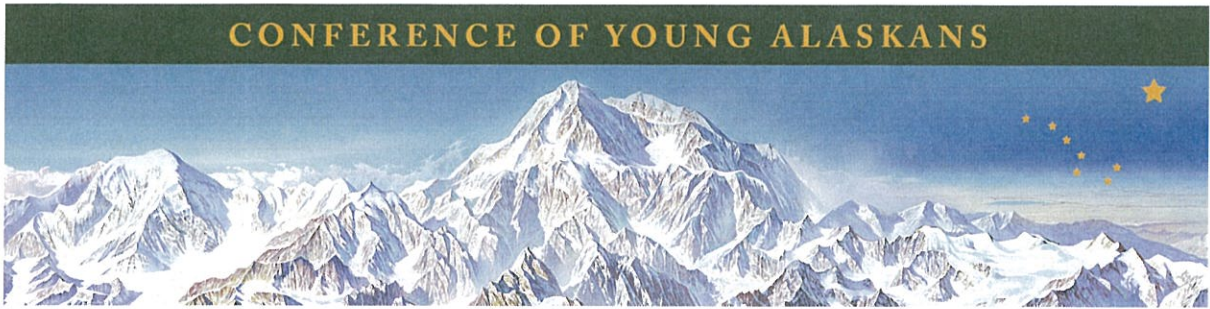
Thanks to our sponsors, delegates will attend free of charge. Transportation, lodging, meals and conference materials are paid for each delegate to ensure access and equity to all selected delegates.

How do I apply?

Applications are available on akml.org. The deadline to submit your application is May 10. Applications will be reviewed by the COYA Advisory Committee. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 28.

What if I have more questions?

Contact Portland Highbaugh at portlandh@akml.org or by phone at 907-790-5306.



Draft Agenda

Below is a sample schedule of what a day at the Conference of Young Alaskans might look like.

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|----------|---|
| 7:00 AM | Breakfast |
| 8:00 AM | Speed Dating Subject Matter Experts – groups of 3-4 delegates meet with subject matter experts to for a crash course in their fields. Groups will rotate through each topic, giving them the opportunity to listen and ask questions with each expert. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Demographics○ Fiscal Policy○ Economic Development○ Social and Community Development○ Public Health |
| 10:30 AM | Professional Development Workshop |
| Noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 PM | Plenary: Legislators with local government experience (Panel) |
| 3:00 PM | Goal Setting (small groups) |
| 4:30 PM | Vision statements |
| 6:00 PM | Dinner and Social |