

Press Release

For Immediate Release: April 6, 2009

Contact: Shelly Wade, Agnew::Beck Consulting, Senior Planner

Bristol Bay Fly Fishing + Guide Academy accepting applicants

The second Bristol Bay Fly Fishing + Guide Academy is accepting applications now for the academy in the Bristol Bay village of Ekwok August 9-15. Young people ages 15-22 are invited to spend several days on the Nushagak River with experienced Bristol Bay fishing guides learning how to fly fish and sport-fish guide while gaining hands-on job experience.

Guides will teach academy participants how to incorporate traditional knowledge into a guiding service, how to interact with clients, and what to expect as a Bristol Bay fishing guide. Other camp activities include safety training, river ecology and an introduction to operating a small tourism business. Opportunities exist for employment as a guide the following summer for those who successfully complete the academy. Priority placement in the academy will be given to applicants from the Bristol Bay region and scholarship opportunities will be available.

This educational program aims to provide young Bristol Bay entrepreneurs with instruction in the basics of fly fishing and sport fish guiding. The camp will share the experience of professionals with motivated young people, giving them the chance to prepare for future careers based in their home communities. The program aims to keep more benefits of Bristol Bay tourism in Bristol Bay, in hopes of generating a more diverse, sustainable local economy while benefiting future visitors. Instruction includes respect for the land, the water and will encourage proper care of the environment. Applications are being accepted now through May 29.

Expert Bristol Bay fishing guides will be on hand to instruct young participants as will Ekwok leader Luki Akelkok, a Native Alaskan and lifelong resident of Bristol Bay who owns and operates a lodging, guiding, hunting, fishing and chartering business from Ekwok on the Nushagak River. Having lived in the region his entire life, Luki is a Nushagak and Mulchatna River expert, and a leader in the wider Bristol Bay community. He serves as president of the Ekwok Tribal Council and strong advocate for respecting the watershed and wildlife habitat. Luki will share his insights about the human history and culture of the area and also his many years of experience incorporating those insights into his own fishing and guiding service.

Please nominate a young person, or sponsor an applicant. Contact Agnew::Beck Consulting at 907.222.5424 or e-mail shelly@agnewbeck.com or Tim Troll at ttroll@tnc.org. Please visit www.visitbristolbay.org for more information, click on "Bristol Bay Fly Fishing + Guide Academy."

Agnew::Beck contact: Shelly Wade, 907.222.5424, shelly@agnewbeck.com

Event: Bristol Bay Fly Fishing + Guide Academy in Ekwok

Description: Bristol Bay young people ages 15-22 are invited to spend several days on the Nushagak River with experienced Bristol Bay fishing guides learning how to fly fish and sport-fish guide while gaining hands-on job experience.

Weblink: project page: <http://www.visitbristolbay.org/flyfishcamp/index.htm>

Facebook page (coming soon):

Time: Application deadline: May 29, Academy dates: August 9-15, 2009

Place: Ekwok Lodge at the old village site of *Akuluriqaalleq* on the Nushagak River in Ekwok

Images: (attached)

- Images.pdf: Images from 2008 Academy by Kelly DuFort at A::B
- Photo: *The first class of the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing + Guide Academy posed during a day of fly-fishing instruction on the Nushagak River. Seven young women and five young men (ages 14-22) from Aleknagik, Manokotak, Togiak, New Stuyahok, Portage Creek, Ekwok, Anchorage and Gakona, gained hands-on instruction from guide Nanci Morris Lyon and others.*
- Flyer.pdf

Other contacts: Tim Troll, 907.276.3133 , ext. 120, ttroll@TNC.ORG