



Real Break is a pan-orthodox program of National Orthodox Christian Fellowship, SCOBA.

2010 Alaska Trip Preparation Info

Brief Info about Wasilla

Once covered by glacial ice sheets, the Matanuska-Susitna Valley (where Wasilla is located) was eventually settled by the Dena'ina Alaska natives who utilized the fertile lands and fishing opportunities. The Dena'ina are one of the eleven sub-groups comprising the indigenous Athabaskan Indian groups extending down Canada's western coast. Russians occupied Alaska from 1741 until Alaska's sale to the United States in 1867. The area of Wasilla was known for its mining and fur trading. Local miners used the name "Wassila Creek", referring to Wassila, a chief of the Dena'ina. There are two sources cited for the name, one being derived from a Dena'ina word meaning "breath of air" while another stating Dena'ina derived it from the Russian name "Vasili." Today, Wasilla is the fourth largest city in Alaska.

Activities

Our group will be working to help build the fellowship hall of St. Herman Mission in Wasilla. All of our work will be done indoors: dry wall, painting, and whatever else needs to be done. You don't need to have construction experience to participate! There are plenty of tasks for each of us.

We will organize an excursion to a nearby national park. Our excursion will depend on the weather and on the efforts for the remodeling project.

Trip Cost:

\$1250 USD. This cost includes the flight, transportation, lodging, meals, materials and sightseeing; however, it does not include the domestic flight to and from Seattle (SEA). If you fundraise over the \$1250 trip cost, OCF will reimburse your domestic flight up to the overage amount fundraised.

Travel Arrangements

Each participant will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements to and from Seattle, Washington, and e-mailing this information to realbreak@ocf.net. For information on flight reimbursements, please see Real Break policies. Please book your flight to Seattle, Washington (SEA) on March 6, 2008 before 10:00AM and out of Seattle on the morning of Sunday, March 14. We will fly together from Seattle to Anchorage. Our flights will be as follows: Saturday, March 6, 12:50pm - 3:27pm, Continental Airlines #1581 and Saturday, March 13, 5:00 pm-9:25 pm, Continental Airlines #234.

You will receive more information as to where to meet the group from your trip leader in the coming months.

Living Conditions

We will be staying at the home of Fr. John Christianson while in Wasilla. We will cook our own meals, and have access to hot showers.

Clothing

The weather in Alaska can be 10 below to 30 above in the month of March. This means that things could be extremely varied in terms of the weather. To some people, winter may mean a light wool coat, and long pants. You will need a warm winter jacket, warm winter snow pants, boots, a wool hat, warm gloves, and a scarf. We will have a considerable amount of our work done indoors, but do not let that serve as an excuse to not bring any of the previously mentioned items. Remember that we will be working in this clothing, doing construction. Remember to bring work clothes, and lots of layers. In addition, bring clothing appropriate for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with the community of St. Herman.

Emergencies

For emergencies, please contact the team leader, Kelli Phillips, at 317-260-8942. She will have her phone with her at all times. Otherwise, contact the OCF North American headquarters at 317-579-9393.

TO BRING;

- Work clothes (we suggest jeans & T-shirts) -- NO SHORTS, TANK TOPS, OR SHIRTS WITH RIPPED OUT SLEEVES!!
- KNEE PADS (we NEED them for the project; you can buy them at Lowes or Home Depot for about \$15)
- Snow/Work boots (Warm, Waterproof)
- US Passport or Photo ID as you are not entering a different country
- Sunglasses

- Warm sweaters**
- Winter jacket/snow pants**
- Warm hat**
- Gloves**
- Warm pants**
- Rain Gear**
- Scarf**
- Warm socks**
- Camera & film (optional, but highly recommended)**
- Sufficient clothing (you will not have the opportunity to do laundry)**
- Sunday church clothes -- nothing too dressy is required but something other than t-shirt and jeans is nice. For girls, skirts or dresses are a good idea.**
- Towel & washcloth**
- Personal toiletries**
- Bible, notebook, pen/pencil**