



## **Seven Young Alaskans Recognized as Local Community Heroes**

*Alaska Communications and Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska Announce 2024 Summer of Heroes Honorees*

With a heart to serve others, young Alaskans are changing lives and making their communities better. From advocating for legislation in U.S. Congress to supporting their peers, and raising awareness and funds for causes important to them, youth across the state are having a positive impact on Alaska.

Through the Summer of Heroes Program, [Alaska Communications](#) is proud to celebrate seven young people for their outstanding community service across Alaska. Five youth heroes at large and two youth heroes from the company's employee program each will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for their efforts. Additionally, as part of the program, the broadband provider will donate \$15,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska to further support youth development in the state.

"Our youth are the changemakers of tomorrow, and it is our privilege to acknowledge their extraordinary contributions today," said Matt McConnell, Alaska Communications president and CEO "By recognizing and supporting these young heroes, we are investing in the future of Alaska. Their passion, determination and commitment to making a difference inspires us all. Congratulations to this year's recipients and thank you for your exceptional service to our communities."

Congratulations to the following 2024 youth heroes:

- **Emily Brubaker**, 13, Anchorage
- **Maya Carlson**, 17, Anchorage
- **Sara DeVold**, 16, Soldotna
- **Jillian Dolph**, 16, Anchorage
- **Fernando Escobar**, 17, Kodiak
- **Gunnar Sudsbury Giuchici**, 12, Fairbanks
- **Grace Hurley**, 17, Kodiak



[Read the inspiring stories](#) of this year's youth heroes.

Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, Summer of Heroes is a partnership program between Alaska Communications and [Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska, a statewide organization](#), to support youth development programs and honor young Alaskans who are making positive contributions in their communities. Since its inception, 87 youth have received scholarships and been recognized for their work in 26 communities across Alaska. Additionally, \$210,000 has been donated to Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska to support the Club's programs and expand the organization's capacity to positively impact the lives of young people in Alaska.

"The Summer of Heroes Program is a testament to the incredible potential of our youth. Through selfless acts and tireless efforts, these young heroes are not only transforming their communities but also setting an example for future generations," said Susan Anderson, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska. We appreciate the attention given to outstanding youth in our community and we're honored to be a part of this program."

Learn more about Alaska Communications' work in the community through the Summer of Heroes program at [www.alaskacomunciations.com/summerofheroes](http://www.alaskacomunciations.com/summerofheroes).

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### **About Alaska Communications**

Alaska Communications, an affiliate of ATN International, Inc. (NASDAQ: ATNI), is the leading provider of advanced broadband and managed IT services for businesses and consumers in Alaska. The company operates a highly reliable, advanced statewide data network with the latest technology and the most diverse undersea fiber optic system connecting Alaska to the contiguous U.S. For more information, visit [www.AlaskaCommunications.com](http://www.AlaskaCommunications.com).

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska has 23 sites statewide, which offer programs before and after school and during school breaks for youth and teens, 5-18 years old, as well as athletics and licensed childcare programs. Mission is fulfilled through guidance-oriented character development activities conducted in safe, warm and fun environments by trained, professional staff. Key programs emphasize academic success, good character & citizenship, healthy lifestyles, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation. Learn more about programs and activities offered by Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska at [www.bgcalaska.org](http://www.bgcalaska.org) or 907-248-5437.



**Media Contacts:**

Heather Marron  
Alaska Communications  
(907) 564-1326

Jaycee Vincent  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska  
(907) 891-6966