

Healy Lake Dig 2012

The Rural Alaska Honors Institute was fortunate enough to partner with Tanana Chiefs Conference this year through an NSF grant to experience an archeology field school in the village of Healy Lake.



11 RAHI students from 2012 were fortunate in receiving this scholarship opportunity, and continued their summer study experience after the RAHI graduation. Students and TCs were shuttled out to the Dry Creek airstrip,

where they were seen off, 4 at a time on a bush plane, by RAHI assistant manager and instructor Tim Murphrey. The 11 lucky students lived in a tent city at the periphery of Healy Lake, and worked with TCC archeologists Tom Gillespie and Bob Saddler, learning fieldwork methods (the fun dirt work) as well as documentation (the less-fun paper work). If these RAHIers thought that the six weeks in the dorm brought them together,

these 14 days of intensive archeological field work, tent living, and lake bathing made them a seamless unit! In addition, students were able to help out with a funeral potlatch that coincided with their visit to the village. They helped in preparation of the tribal hall, and even

sang and danced for the people of Healy Lake, under Naaq's keen instruction. When the two-week stint was up, as promised, Murphrey was waiting faithfully at the airstrip with a case full of sandwiches and snacks, and a van to shuttle them back to running water, which was greatly appreciated. TCC archeologist Tom Gillespie said that the program couldn't have run any smoother, and that he is anxious for next year's endeavor!



Student Participants:

**Olivia Shields
Natalie Landlord
Shannon Isaac
Thomas Brown
Isaac Peacock
Rachel Gulanes
Rebekah Miller
Jacob Howell
Anastasia Kalugin
Gary Lose
Elizabeth Himschoot**



GeoFORCE Alaska 9th Grade Academy (July 21 – 28, 2012)

2012 GeoFORCE Alaska Students in Anchorage

"With geology professors from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Texas at Austin, the 16 students traveled 1,018 miles by bus to visit the Permafrost Tunnel in Fox, the Healy coal deposits, Denali National Park, Portage Glacier, Matanuska Glacier and the Denali Fault." Read the rest of the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer article at (<http://newsminer.com/bookmark/19616214-GeoFORCE-program-introduces-students-to-Alaska-geology>)

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