



**Commissioner Roger Sampson**  
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## N • E • W • S R • E • L • E • A • S • E

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### **Statewide Youth Summit Scheduled For September** *Deadline for Applications 4 August 9*

The 2004 Alaska Youth Empowerment Summit (YES) will be held September 13-16 at Little Beaver Camp near Linda Lake in Wasilla. Registration packets are due August 9.

The event is sponsored by the Department of Education & Early Development and others involved in the development of youth.

Teams of youths and adults are being recruited for the event. The aim is to help youngsters, age 13 to 17 who have completed the 7th, 8th, 9th or 10th grades by June 2004, to develop a plan for activities to improve life in their village or neighborhood when the teams return home.

Education & Early Development Commissioner Roger Sampson said the summit will help teens develop skills and resilience to be successful in school and the community regardless of the barriers they face, and help them take responsibility for themselves.

Sampson said: "I have great expectations for Alaska's teens. I expect them to succeed in school, be of strong character, and avoid the risks that will interfere with their full development. To realize these expectations we must turn to our youth and work along side them to create healthier schools, neighborhoods and communities."

Sampson said the conference organizers will track the progress of students and teams after the conference at three-, six-, and nine-month intervals. Who should apply for the summit?

YES is looking for applicants who care about their future and that of their village or neighborhood. Applicants should want to make a positive difference in the lives of people and leave a mark.

Each team will include from four to six teens and must include two adults. Each team will be limited to eight participants. Between 15 and 20 teams will be selected. Summit participants will experience a full range of activities including group sessions and team study seminars.

Participants will have an opportunity to work with other creative and concerned young people from throughout Alaska. They also will have an opportunity to work with education, business and community leaders.

Summit sponsors will provide transportation, lodging and meals. Complete description about the summit and applications are on the web at [www.eed.state.ak.us](http://www.eed.state.ak.us) under "Quick Links."

More information: Summit Director Kathleen Castle, 345-7977, or e-mail [lei@alaska.net](mailto:lei@alaska.net).

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