

*Rogers Park Elementary School
1400 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99508-4281
(907) 742-4800*

2017

Dear Community Member:

You have been recommended to us as someone who is interested in helping to make connections between the Anchorage School District and the community. We are in our ninth year of a program called Rite of Passage Experiences (ROPES). This year ROPES includes 44 of our sixth grade students at Rogers Park Elementary. The involvement of community members in this project as panelists and coaches is essential for its success.

The ROPES program provides an opportunity for sixth graders to select an area of strong interest and plan a project to complete independently with a coach or mentor. In May, each student has an individual appointment with a panel of three community members to share the results of his/her project. The purpose is to connect academic skills to real life experiences and to help nurture students to become self-directed, life-long learners. We also believe this project brings the community and the schools closer together as real partners in the job of educating future citizens.

We are looking for volunteers to donate their time as panelists to listen and provide feedback on student projects. Examples of student projects include: charitable outreach, cooking, gardening, stop motion animation, photography, computer programming, dog training, learning foreign languages, quilting, veterinary skills, blacksmithing, genealogy, gun safety, robotics, 3-D printing, biathlon, and a variety of artistic endeavors. Your commitment involves spending one to four hours serving on a panel for ROPES presentations. Student requirements, expectations, and feedback systems will be shared through a short video training session online prior to the event to make this a successful experience for all.

First Christian Church at 3031 LaTouche Street will be the site for student presentations. Presentations will be held on **Friday, May 12th**. The panelist training video will be shown with a question and answer period from **9:00 – 9:25 a.m. in the sanctuary** prior to student presentations. You will have the option to watch the video in advance if you prefer. Please **arrive at the church at least 10 minutes before your first panelist session** so you can gather your nametag, panelist directions, schedule, and coffee/snacks before student presentations begin.

If you are interested in being a part of the ROPES program, please complete the attached form and **fax it to 742-4815** (attention Traci Caves), leave a phone message at **742-4818** or send an email to caves_traci@asdk12.org detailing the times you are willing to participate, or mail it to:

Traci Caves
Rogers Park Elementary
1400 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99508

On behalf of Rachel McNeil and Brittany Blackwell, the sixth grade ROPES teachers, I thank you for your time. We hope to meet you **in the sanctuary** on Friday, May 12th.

Sincerely,
Traci Caves
Liaison, Highly Gifted Program
Rogers Park Elementary
907.742.4818



Rite of Passage Experiences (ROPEs)



Name: _____ Day Phone _____

Job Title: _____ Company _____

Address: _____ Evening Phone _____

_____ Email: _____

Please check which sessions you would be available to serve on a panel for project presentations on **Friday, May 12th at the First Christian Church on LaTouche**. Please watch the

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|-------|-------------------|-----------|
| _____ | 9:30am – 10:30am | Session 1 |
| _____ | 10:30am – 11:30am | Session 2 |
| _____ | 11:30am – 12:30pm | Session 3 |
| _____ | 12:30pm – 1:30pm | Session 4 |
| _____ | 1:30pm – 2:30pm | Session 5 |

Please list any hobbies or interests so we may place you with appropriate student projects:

Sorry, I'm unable to make it. Please keep me on the list for next year.

Return this form to:

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Rogers Park Elementary
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