ALASKA
TIER 1 HOCKEY

Team Alaska Billet Program

Each season the Team Alaska Tier 1 Hockey Program rosters include elite level players from outside the Anchorage area. To allow these players to take advantage of the hockey opportunity presented to them, they require housing assistance from families within the community to serve as billet families.

"Billeting" is a hockey tradition and is especially important at the elite level of hockey. This concept involves local host families providing a home to young Alaskan athletes from around the state for the hockey season. The billet program also allows these young men to complete their high school educations, take college preparatory classes and/or obtain part- time employment in the local community while pursuing the next step in their hockey careers.

The Team Alaska Tier 1 Hockey Program feels that one of the components of success is to provide a comfortable living environment for each of our billet players. One of the most difficult things for the elite level hockey player is moving away from home. Much is expected of these players both on and off the ice and the added demands of these foreign situations often create additional stress for them. As a result, we strive to find homes that provide a positive family environment. To help alleviate such inherent anxieties, our players, in turn, are strongly encouraged to embrace the challenges of moving into a new household and become actively involved with the family that has so generously welcomed them into their home.

We value the importance of the billet families who open their homes to our players and appreciate the efforts made by the entire family in making our players' transitions easier. Being a billet family can be a very rewarding experience. Strong bonds are often made between the player, his parents and the billet family, which frequently continue to carry on well after the player has moved on to the next level.

The Team Alaska Tier 1 Hockey Program, the players, and their families appreciate the commitment and dedication of our billet families.

Frequently*Asked*Questions**

To be a billet family, please contact:

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Frequently Asked Questions about the Billet Program.

Q. Do we have what it takes to be a billet family?

A. It is of great importance to the Team Alaska Tier 1 Hockey Program that we place our out-of-town players in caring family environments that are committed to providing a supportive home away from home. Opening your home takes time, patience, and a willingness to share. There will be differences to overcome, both cultural and personal, but learning about these differences and celebrating them is part of the joy of welcoming someone new into your home.

Q. What makes a great billet family?

A. A sensitive and patient family. It can be overwhelming for a player to be so far away from home. A thoughtful billet family appreciates that each player is unique and that communication and mutual understanding takes effort. Our billet families are interested in sharing their lifestyle in a positive and mutually rewarding way. We do not accept billets who are interested in money alone. Such motive is obvious to players and the Team Alaska Hockey Program and interferes with the intended billeting experience: a safe, secure, welcoming environment to learn and grow in.

Q. Do I have time for a player?

A. Even the most self-assured players appreciate good quality time with their billet family. Will you be in town for the duration of your player's stay? (Absences longer than two days must be approved by the Team Alaska Billet Coordinator in advance). Is everyone in your household ready to accept someone with a different background? If you have children, are they comfortable with bringing another person into the family?

Q. Can a family host more than one player?

A. Yes. Two (or more) players can share living quarters, transportation expenses, and provide camaraderie for one another.

Q. What does the billet family provide?

A. A separate room for the player (or a shared room for 2 players) furnished much as a college dorm would provide for a student: bed, desk & chair and clothing storage. Nutritious meals including breakfast, lunch and dinner. A patient, caring and friendly home atmosphere.

The same guidance and attention you would want for your own children.

Q. What are the player's responsibilities?

A. As a member of the household, players are expected to show respect and consideration for all host family members. They are required to follow all household rules as well as share in the daily chores, maintain their own room and do their own laundry.

Q. How long does the billet last?

A. The length of time depends on the family and the individual. Some players stay with a family throughout the hockey season, while others arrange to live with the family throughout the calendar year to satisfy academic or employment obligations. The length of stay is one of the key determining factors used in matching a family with a player.

Q. Is there compensation to the host family?

A. Yes, families receive a monthly billeting payment for each player. Besides offsetting the expenses a family incurs when hosting a player, the compensation acknowledges the invaluable service families provide to the individual players and the Team Alaska Hockey Program.

Q. What are the benefits of being a billet family?

A. A new perspective on hockey, as seen through the eyes of your elite player. A firsthand understanding of being a hockey fan. The opportunity to make a difference in a young athlete's life.