



LOCALE CONSIDERATIONS

JVC Northwest has a wide array of placements in diverse geographic locales. What follows are factors related to each region that are helpful for applicants to determine their preference for location. There are more detailed descriptions of all the placements on the JVC Northwest website at www.jvcnorthwest.org

RURAL/REMOTE LOCALES

The surrounding landscape on the Native American reservations in Montana and Washington is breathtakingly beautiful. A rural community can be a close-knit environment with the opportunity to foster close relationships. Our Jesuit Volunteers treasure the experience of living on or near a reservation and for most, it's a cross-cultural experience. However, the modern Native American experience is often one of crushing poverty, malnutrition, and widespread diseases like diabetes and alcoholism, and conditions on many of the reservations reflect this. These locales do not have access to large, comprehensive medical centers and there are limited resources for counseling services and medical needs. Entertainment options are limited. Fresh vegetables and produce may be scarce and are expensive. Some of our JV communities receive commodities from the government.

ALASKA

We have placements in four cities in Alaska – Juneau, Sitka, Anchorage and Bethel. These four cities are quite different from one another, each with its distinct beauty. There is no doubt that living in Alaska, as the “Last Frontier” is a unique, cross-cultural, often exciting experience. Just being in Alaska can feel remote, particularly in areas that are accessible only by air or boat.

There is a high incidence of alcoholism, violence, and suicide. Additional factors unique to Alaska are the cold – temperatures in Bethel and Anchorage can easily go below zero – which can limit mobility and/or recreational opportunities. The limited amount of daylight in the winter can trigger depression in some people, especially those prone to Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). People with restricted diets may not be able to find what they need, or if they do, at a much higher cost than in the “Lower 48.” Resources for medical and counseling needs are limited in Bethel and Sitka.