

# Anchorage, Alaska

## Joys of Anchorage

Between university activities and groups, festivals, speakers, shows, concerts, and many accessible and affordable events, Anchorage offers a variety of options for JVs to pursue their interests. JVs enjoy lots of opportunities for hiking, biking, skiing, camping...you name it! Anchorage has a very active outdoor recreation community. The JV house is close to the Campbell Creek Trail, which offers excellent access to green space amidst an urban setting. JVs can run, bike, cross-country ski, and snowshoe along this trail to many parts of the city—even sometimes to their service sites! The JV house is also within walking distance of a gym, pharmacy, university, and a 24-hour donut shop.

## About Anchorage

Southcentral Alaska is the ancestral home of the Dena'ina Athabascan people, but the city of Anchorage did not exist until the early 1900s, when it was built as the headquarters for the Alaska Railroad construction. JVs have served here since 1985. Anchorage is the sprawling urban center of Alaska, and over half the state's population lives here. It has the largest concentration of Alaska Native peoples, refugees, and immigrants in the state. As the largest city in Alaska, Anchorage holds the bulk of the state's legal, medical, and social services. Even so, the city lacks resources to meet the needs of a rising population impacted by the opioid epidemic, displacement, and homelessness. As more people flock to the city, the more crucial it is that agencies have the support and assistance JVs provide.

# Ashland, Montana

## Joys of Ashland

When you aren't watching deer pass through the front yard daily, you can sit on the beautiful front porch, viewing the rolling hills surrounding the small town of Ashland. After eating some of the best Indian tacos at Michelle's Munchies, you can walk the short strip of downtown Ashland. You will soon be enveloped in the small Ashland community due to the years of JVs who came before you. There are plenty of state and national parks to explore in the surrounding area, and you are only an hour or so from Wyoming.

## About Ashland

Ashland is a small town among semi-arid rolling hills and open plains near the Tongue River valley adjoining the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian reservations. It lies on the easternmost border of the Northern Cheyenne reservation and is a two-hour drive east from Billings. There is significant Crow influence because many Crow students attend St. Labre, where many JVs have served. With some irony, the National Forest to the east of Ashland is named for US Army General Custer, whom the Northern Cheyenne and Sioux defeated in 1876 in their unsuccessful resistance to being confined on reservations after they were removed from their homelands in the northern Midwest. The St. Labre mission, founded in 1884 and named for Benedict Joseph Labre, patron saint of the poorest of the poor, and is now affiliated with the Capuchin Order.



# Bend, Oregon

## Joys of Bend

JVs live near the hospital and public health departments and are within biking distance of a bounty of parks, river trails, coffee shops, and more. The JV support people in Bend are a wealth of resources for outdoor recreation gear and opportunities, spiritual resources, healthcare and social service learning opportunities and connections, local social and ecological justice work, and more! Bend has been called the outdoor playground of the West because of its proximity to nature and availability of year-round outdoor activities.

## About Bend

Located in Central Oregon, where the Deschutes River connects the Cascade Mountains to the High Desert, Bend, and the surrounding area are a mix of urban and rural life. Bend's population has proliferated in recent years and is now home to 105K people. This rapid change has brought many benefits – beautiful parks and trail systems, new outdoor and tech industry jobs, music, arts and culture, and endless outdoor recreation opportunities. It has also brought new challenges to the area, including an affordable housing crisis, increased inequalities in income, access, and resources, dislocation, homelessness and housing insecurity, transportation and environmental concerns, and significant disparities in health.

# Bethel, Alaska

## Joys of Bethel

Living in Bethel offers a cross-cultural experience in a part of the world known to few outside Alaska. JVs learn about Yup'ik culture and history and live closely with the land. Between the spacious tundra, vibrant sunrises and sunsets, and views of the Aurora Borealis, JVs are surrounded by nature's power and beauty. Bethel hosts the Kuskokwim 300, Alaska's premier mid-distance sled-dog race each year. JVs often volunteer along the racecourse. Bethel is a dynamic, tight-knit community full of events, groups, and activities. JVs have a wide support and social network, including many former JVs who still live and work in Bethel. Living in Bethel, you will create a strong, steadfast community that will last you a lifetime.

## About Bethel

The Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) delta is the ancestral home of the Yup'ik and Cup'ik people, who established the Mamterillermiut village on the Kuskokwim east bank. In the 1800s, missionaries facilitated the village's relocation to the west bank, where Bethel now stands. Bethel, pop. 6,500, serves as the commercial hub for the 56 villages in the YK Delta. Like Bethel, these villages are only accessible by plane, boat, or snow machine. Most residents are Yup'ik or Cup'ik and use traditional subsistence hunting and gathering practices. However, climate change is threatening the health of the tundra and disrupting the subsistence way of life. As the largest populated settlement in Western Alaska, Bethel is a crucial point of access to services. JVs assist agencies serving folks from primarily rural Alaska Native communities, alleviating some of the barriers posed by systemic marginalization, remote locality, and ecological crises.

# Boise, Idaho

## Joys of Boise

Between university activities and groups, festivals, speakers, shows, concerts, and many accessible and affordable events, Boise offers a variety of options for JVs to pursue their interests and discover new ones—four seasons of outdoor recreation - hiking, biking, skiing, camping, whatever your pleasure. The network of support people, former JVs, and partner agency staff is tight-knit and committed. Boise JVs have enjoyed perusing art and exhibiting their works in Boise's Freak Alley, an outdoor venue for murals, graffiti, and public art. It is said to be the largest outdoor gallery in the Northwest and has been a Boise institution since 2002.

## About Boise

Boise lies in a swath of green on the ancestral lands of the Newe (Shoshone) and Panati (Bannock) peoples. A growing city, the Boise-Nampa metro area has a population of 750K. It's also an essential hub for services and amenities, with no other metro area for 300 miles. It's a refugee resettlement community and the home of Boise State University. Boise is "large enough and diverse enough for many opportunities, but small enough to be able to network and feel like you are contributing in significant ways." (Melissa Mezo, Terry Reilly, 2020) The Sawtooth Mountains rise at Boise's northeastern flank, and the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and the Givens Hot Springs lie to the south. The Snake River flows west of town, with high desert and Lake Owyhee past its banks. The Boise River runs through downtown, with accompanying parks and trails, including the 25-mile Boise Green Belt.

# Juneau, Alaska

## Joys of Juneau

The JV house is within walking distance of downtown Juneau, is a leisurely bike ride to the mountains and the beach, and has a beautiful view of Mount Juneau from the living room window! Juneau is home to thriving cultural values, an active art community, and many outdoor enthusiasts. Every other year, the town hosts Celebration, a biennial festival of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures that is one of the largest gatherings of Southeast Alaska Native peoples. It is also a hub for folk music and hosts the annual Juneau Alaska Folk Festival. The juxtaposition of mountains and the waters of Southeast Alaska, the sprawling Gastineau Channel contribute to a unique natural beauty.

## About Juneau

The site where Juneau now stands, first called Dzánti K'ihéeni, was a fishing ground for the Áak'w Kwáan (Auke) and T'aaku Kwáan (Taku) tribes of the Tlingit nation. In the 1880s, miners began arriving in the area, and the city was built as a mining camp and later became the capital of Alaska. Jesuit Volunteers have been in Juneau since 1975. In the summers, Juneau is a bustling tourist destination; its usual population of 30,000 more than doubles in size. In the winter, state politicians flock to the city for legislative sessions. Despite being on the mainland, Juneau is not on the continental road system and can only be accessed by boat or plane! Folks from rural towns or villages in the Southeast Alaskan panhandle often utilize services at agencies operating primarily out of Juneau, the largest city in Southeast Alaska.

# Missoula, Montana

## Joys of Missoula

The Riverfront Trail, conveniently near the JV house, provides a scenic path for moving your body and connecting with the community. JVs enjoy visiting the Roxy Theater, a community-run nonprofit with first-run showings and community events. Free Cycles helps JVs live into the values of simple living and social and ecological justice by learning about bike maintenance and repair, and they host local bands! First Fridays are monthly nights on the town, where local businesses welcome neighbors in to celebrate creators of all kinds. With plenty of bakeries, coffee shops, ice creameries, and eateries, you'll be sure to find something that suits your fancy.

## About Missoula

Located in western Montana at the confluence of three rivers and in Bitterroot Valley, Missoula is the ancestral and current home of the Pend D'Oreille/ Kalispel People, the Ktunaxa People, and the Salish People. About 19.7% of the population lives below the federal poverty line, and due to a lack of emergency housing and supportive services in rural areas, people with mental illness and people experiencing homelessness often travel to Missoula from across the state. There is an ongoing need for shelter services, crisis response, and advocacy for survivors and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. With a population of about 77K, Missoula is a hub for culture and recreation, providing ideal conditions for skiing, mountain biking, river floating, and hiking throughout the year. The city has a vibrant music and arts scene and many opportunities for JVs to engage with the local community.



# Portland, Oregon

## Joys of Portland

The largest city in Oregon, with a population of 650K residents (3 million metro area), Portland, aka PDX, is oriented into five major areas: North, Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest. JV homes are located in Southeast and North Portland. PDX is known for its scenic views and proximity to outdoor recreation, including the Columbia River Gorge, Mount Hood, the Oregon Coast, and the Cascade Mountain Range. Residents are known to foster a culture of artistic curiosity, community-based learning, and social and environmental justice. There is much to do, see, and learn on foot, by bike, or via TriMet, the public transit system.

## About Portland

In Portland since 1971, JVCNW's presence can be seen in 2 JV houses and the Main JVCNW Office in the suburb of Milwaukie. Many former JVs elect to stay in or move to Portland after service, which enables current JVs to connect to a broader community easily. Many FJV/JV gatherings occur in PDX to continue conversations on the four values and strengthen a sense of community. It is essential to recognize that the state of Oregon has an intense history of racism, colonialism, and gentrification, all of which are currently feeding into the national housing crisis Portland has fallen victim to. Since Portland houses multiple higher educational institutions such as the University of Portland, Oregon Health & Sciences University, Portland State, etc., many folks living in Portland's city limits lead progressive, solutions-oriented lifestyles and career pursuits that aim to respond to the city population's needs directly.

# Seattle, Washington

## Joys of Seattle

A fantastic support network, including mental health professionals, former JVs, the Ignatian Spirituality Center that offers spiritual direction and programming, a Jesuit parish, and Seattle University greet JVs. An abundance of city parks and green spaces, waterfronts in all directions, and views of Mt Rainier and the Space Needle on clear days that never get old are just a few things that make Seattle a wonderful community. The JV house is centrally located, making walking to restaurants, bars, coffee shops, and footpaths easy. Seattle is a great place to explore the beauty of the PNW while also getting a big city experience, with thriving social activism and a liberal political environment.

## About Seattle

Named after Chief Sealth of the Duwamish and Suquamish Tribes, Seattle is home to two JV communities; both are centrally located near Seattle University. The houses are a ten-minute walk from each other, and volunteers can also quickly get downtown with a thirty-minute walk. As one of JVC Northwest's first urban locales, JVs have served the greater Seattle area since 1970. There is a strong Asian American /Pacific Islander population in the city, as well as many immigrants and refugees from around the world who reside in Seattle. The Emerald City is a hub for services in high demand in the region, and housing and homelessness are in a current state of crisis in the city. In embracing the city's complex history, volunteers are asked to wrestle with paying witness and critically contemplate the ongoing gentrification of their Central District neighborhood- a historically Black community.

# Sitka, Alaska

## Joys of Sitka

Sitka has an active volunteer and former volunteer community from JVC Northwest and other service programs. The JV house is located right in downtown Sitka, and JVs can walk or bike just about anywhere in the city, including Sitka National Historical Park (İKt'i X'aayf) and Mt. Verstovia (Kanéisdi Shaa). There is also an abundance of hiking trails near the JV house. Whale-watching, backpacking, and kayaking are just a few ways JVs can explore the natural diversity of this region.

## About Sitka

Sheet'ká (Sitka) sits on the ancestral lands of the Lingít. First colonized by Russia, the lands of the Kiks.ádi clan were illegally sold to the US in 1867. More recently, unsustainable timber and seafood harvests have taken a toll on the region. The population is estimated at 8,500 people, and its main economies rely on tourism and fishing. Approximately 25 percent of the community identifies as indigenous. The impacts of violent settler colonialism and extraction are still felt in Sitka, but the community is working to reconcile and heal. JVCNW recognizes the harm it has historically contributed through missionary efforts and proactively works to address this by partnering with local nonprofit agencies serving Sitka and meeting the direct needs of families and youth, caring for the environment, and increasing resilience in the face of threats like climate and economic uncertainty.

# Spokane, Washington

## Joys of Spokane

Spokane is a four-season destination, locally nicknamed the "Lilac City" for the prolific lilac flowers that bloom each spring. Outdoor recreation is abundant, with nearby lakes, rivers, mountains, and parks to explore. The city's slogan is "Near Nature, Near Perfect." Spokane is known as the birthplace of Father's Day, home of Bing Crosby, and for hosting the world's largest basketball tournament each summer. JVs often explore the city's local art scene, festivals, cheap eats, and entertainment. Gonzaga University, a Jesuit institution near the JV house, can be an excellent resource for the community in addition to the local network of support people.

## About Spokane

Known for the Spokane Falls that flow through the heart of downtown, Spokane and the surrounding area is the ancestral and current home of the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The Northern Pacific Railway brought settlers to the area and established the city as a major trading post for fur, timber, and mining. In the 20th century, the city's population continued to climb with settlers, and the city became a hub for agriculture and manufacturing. Spokane hosted the first environmentally-themed World's Fair in 1974 and held its inaugural Bloomsday Run in 1977. The city continues to transition to a more service-oriented economy. It boasts many beautiful parks, universities, and fantastic architecture while facing challenges such as the scarcity of high-paying jobs, homelessness, and areas of high crime. One out of every 5.2 residents of Spokane lives in poverty. Spokane is a beautiful home to many, and we welcome you into its rich history and current context.

# St. Xavier, Montana

## Joys of St. Xavier

Living on a rural property, you can walk miles around the area and explore nearby rivers. You may have some companions with you as you explore the area – the local dogs of your neighbors. The town of Hardin, about 25 minutes away, provides one-of-a-kind diners and some small-town high school sporting events! You will be enveloped in a tight-knit community at Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy and be surprised to find how far that community reaches. You won't be too far from Billings and Ashland, which makes for great community bonding with other JVs!

## About St. Xavier

Located on the rolling prairie of SE Montana, St. Xavier is a small community on the Crow Indian Reservation with a population of less than 100. This remote community is 20 miles south of Crow Agency, the hub of the Crow Indian Reservation, and near Little Bighorn Battlefield, making the area rich in native culture and national history. In addition to culture, nearby Bighorn Canyon offers opportunities to explore the scenic area through biking, hiking, and other recreational activities. Throughout history, Montana's allure was resource extraction and exploitation: furs and gold, then industrial, rail, coal, and agricultural development. Today, half of Montana's population lives outside of its cities. St. Xavier's appeal is its claim to be the "last best place" - it is accessible and open, you can have an impact, people are friendly, life is slower, and the sky is big. St. Xavier is remote, stark, and beautiful.



# Tacoma, Washington

## Joys of Tacoma

The JV House is on the Tacoma Catholic Worker community's property, and with this connection comes standing invitations to liturgies and dinners. A strong support network, including the Catholic Worker, many former JVs, a residential Jesuit community associated with Bellarmine High School, and a short walk to the Jesuit parish, are some of the many benefits of Tacoma. Those, and a view of the Cascade mountain range and Mount Rainier make for a memorable JV experience.

## About Tacoma

Founded on the ancestral land of the Puyallup Tribe, the Thea Jamba JV house is located in the Hilltop neighborhood close to downtown. Tacoma, the third largest city in Washington state, is nestled between two neighboring cities- Seattle to the north (the largest city in the state) and Olympia to the south (the capital of Washington). Tacoma was one of JVC Northwest's first urban locales as the program expanded in 1970. Nicknamed "Grit City," it is a port city on the Puget Sound with two military bases in town; the Puyallup tribe lives on a reservation at the city limits. University of Washington Tacoma is located downtown, near the waterfront. Housing and homelessness are in a state of crisis in Tacoma. Tacoma has also become a hub for services for residents of rural southwest Washington, as its location is more accessible than Seattle.

# Yakima, Washington

## Joys of Yakima

The JV house is close to several resources like the library, downtown Yakima, performance venues, brew pubs, various shops, and restaurants. It is also close to the Yakima Greenway, which runs 16 miles along the Yakima and Naches Rivers. JVs have taken advantage of the area's natural beauty to go hiking, camping, rafting, skiing, and snowshoeing and, in the Fall, have picked apples at area orchards. Support people help JVs connect with local resources like movie theaters and White Pass Ski Area at low/no cost and with families who offer their mountain cabins for JV community retreats/getaways.

## About Yakima

Yakima, jokingly referred to as the Palm Springs of Washington due to its semi-arid desert climate and 300+ days of sunshine, is a city of 94K nestled under large, arid rolling hills. It has a typically short history of white settlement and a rich Native tradition; be sure to check out the Yakama Nation Museum in Toppenish. Located at the junction of two river valleys which are lushly irrigated and feature orchards and vineyards, Yakima is notable for its vistas of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams, its significant Latine and Native American populations, and its active network of former Jesuit Volunteers. JV service placements allow JVs to serve alongside dedicated local staff to help meet the needs of a very diverse population. The population of Yakima is 46% Latine, and the Yakama Indian Nation borders the city. JVs have served in Yakima continuously since 1984.