



Contact:

Sharon McConnell, Executive Director
Denakkanaaga
907-451-3900
mcconnell@denakkanaaga.org

Denakkanaaga's Road Scholar Program Receives National Recognition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 5, 2016

Denakkanaaga's Road Scholar educational tourism program has been named the best for participant satisfaction in 2015 out of several hundred Road Scholar programs nationwide. The recognition is based on evaluation responses by over 70 thousand participants of the North American Road Scholar programs. This is the second straight year Denakkanaaga's program was awarded this honor.

The Denakkanaaga Road Scholar Program offers five different programs 10 times a year; each lasting between 10 and 12 days. As part of each program, Native elders from Interior Alaska give presentations on their personal history, showcasing rural villages and living.

According to Kathleen Leitgeb, Denakkanaaga Road Scholar Director, "Our program participants often say that they particularly enjoy opportunities to understand different places and different cultures. For many of our participants, the contact we provide with Alaska's Native Elders is an area of high interest and satisfaction."

Denakkanaaga Executive Director Sharon McConnell said that "this national recognition reflects the unique opportunity that the Denakkanaaga Road Scholar program offers, which is an insight into Alaska's distinctive Native traditions, cultures and subsistence lifestyle."

Headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, the Elderhostel Road Scholar Program identifies and selects over 200 host sites worldwide to create and administer educational tourism programs in their areas. These local sites are referred to as the "Road Scholar" programs.

Denakkanaaga is the regional non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of and for Alaska Native elders of Interior Alaska. Headquartered in Fairbanks, Denakkanaaga, which means "our people speak" in Koyukon-Athabaskan, was incorporated in 1983.