



PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Willow, AK

Revised 2020-06-22

MCKINLEY FIRE — 2019

LOCATION

Willow, Alaska is located about an hour and a half north of Anchorage. The town has a population of approximately 2,100 people. During the summer, the average temperature in Willow is about 65°F during the day, and about 50°F at night. Sunset is around midnight, and sunrise is around 4am.

Willow calls itself the “Recreation Capital of Alaska” and has a beautiful view of Denali. The official starting point of the annual Iditarod dog sled race is in Willow, after a short ceremonial start in Anchorage.

DISASTER

The McKinley Fire started on August 17, 2019 and was 95% contained by September 2, 2019. The fire was located about 18 miles north of Willow, Alaska. It covered 3,288 acres and destroyed 139 buildings.

MDS RESPONSE

MDS volunteers will be staying at Camp LaDaSa in Willow, Alaska. Volunteers will stay in several cabins at the camp. Volunteers will primarily be focusing on four new builds.

Photos of Camp LaDaSa and potential job sites can be seen here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmP3NJNX>

Note: The State of Alaska requires anyone who enters the state to present negative test results from a COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before entry. Volunteers will need to arrange their own testing before their service.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Physical Address

Camp LaDaSa
22985 Dowling Rd
Willow, AK 99688

Telephone

(717) 471-6181 (Office Manager)
(717) 471-6266 (Project Director)

Email

willow@mds.mennonite.net

UPS Address

12756 Barrington Loop 182
Willow, AK 99688

USPS Address

PO Box 182
Willow, AK 99688

TRANSPORTATION

MDS will coordinate travel from the airport in Anchorage to the MDS site and return travel to Anchorage. There will likely be just one pick-up and one drop-off at the airport each week. Once confirmed, please be in contact with MDS for arrival and departure time recommendations to simplify logistics for leadership volunteers. As soon as travel plans have been made, please send them to Deanna Frey at dfrey@mds.mennonite.net or call 800-241-8111 so that we can coordinate trips. If you need assistance making travel arrangements, we recommend contacting Golden Rule Travel at 719-550-3599 and talk to Sandy Watkins.

DIRECTIONS

Use Google Maps to direct you to Camp LaDaSa. The turnoff for the camp is at mile marker 67.4 on the Park Highway.