

FAQs

State of Alaska's Natural History and Cultural Repository Program

1. What is this program?

A bill passed by the 2014 legislature adds a service for museums and cultural centers. The Alaska State Museum will accept and review applications from institutions that wish to be named a repository of Alaska cultural and natural history materials. There will be an annual application period, a review period and an annual update requirement. Applications will first be accepted spring 2015.

2. What does it mean to be designated as a repository under this program?

This means the institution has met certain state requirements for collections care that reflect American Alliance of Museums and federal guidelines. It does not confer federal repository status. No funding or other privileges are attached, but perhaps the designation could improve chances of getting grant awards or material loans if the institution were to apply for such.

3. Can we have input into the regulations/application process at this time or is it too late?

It is not too late. Regulations go out for a public comment period of at least 30 days before being considered for adoption. The comment period began with a public notice on October 1, 2014 and will close at 4:00pm on November 3, 2014. See link below to comment.

4. How can we participate in public comment?

Please comment. Go to <https://education.alaska.gov/regs/comment.cfm> and find regulation 4AAC.58. There is a comment form at the bottom of the web page. All comments are considered as the regulations are finalized. The State Board of Education will consider the regulations for adoption in December.

5. How will my institution's application for a repository be judged?

The proposed regulations include application criteria which focus on 26 areas of collection care. All of the criteria must be met. The review committee will be composed of ASM staff members and qualified museum people from around the state who meet together to evaluate applications.

6. How does this interface with any proposed bills for new facilities or expansions for museums and cultural centers?

There is no connection between the two.

7. If I have more questions, who should I contact?

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