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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Museum Sponsors Youth Activity

JUNEAU – Here is your game challenge. Due to unfortunate circumstances, you've lost your home and need shelter. What are your options to get out of the elements?

On Saturday, March 3 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., students in grades 4th -7th are invited to participate in a free youth activity at the Alaska State Museum called "the Out of the Rain Game." During the game, students receive a miniature figurine game piece, roll the dice to acquire building materials, and are faced with the challenge of building a miniature shelter that will fit on their small lot on the game board.

The museum is hosting this free youth activity in conjunction with the opening of the exhibit "Out of the Rain: Portraits of people emerging from homelessness in Alaska's Capital City." Students can pre-register by calling the museum at 465-4809 beginning February 17.

The game is facilitated by Ketchikan School District educator Halli Kenoyer and volunteers associated with the Juneau Homeless Coalition. The game is based on an activity Ms. Kenoyer developed to help her students learn about and appreciate "Hooverville." Hooverville is a term used to describe the hundreds of shack towns and homeless encampments that cropped up across the country during the Great Depression, each testifying to the housing crisis that accompanied the employment crisis of the early 1930s. "We looked back and realized that history often repeats itself. Today hundreds of people find themselves without a job and an affordable home, through circumstances much like those that existed during the Depression," Kenoyer said.

During the Saturday afternoon event, students will be introduced to the exhibit "Out of the Rain," participate in the game, create a shelter for their miniature figurine game piece from tarp material, wood scraps, and things they acquire, and hopefully walk away with a better understanding of why people find themselves homeless and how a person fortunate enough to have a home can help those who don't.

Admission to the event is free. Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. **Free admission to the exhibit that will run through April 21 is available to those who make a donation of canned food.** Discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us

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