

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
CHAPLAINCY IN THE PARKS
SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

The chaplain represents the church as a Christian presence and quiet witness among more than 300,000 campers in Pennsylvania's parks.

Each program is a unique blend of the chaplain's gifts, campers, park staff and the local committee. All chaplains will conduct, weekly:

1. Campsite visitation, using your listening, counseling and interpersonal skills. An attempt will be made to visit all occupied campsites, following the guidelines outlined at chaplains' training.*
2. Informal, inspirational worship services.

Chaplains must also offer:

1. Availability to park/campground staff and campers for crisis situations or needed information.
2. Informal programs such as campfires and hymn sings.

Most full-time and some half-time parks offer at least one recreational activity for children and youth, movies, special musical events, etc.

The program, in most parks, is planned in cooperation with a committee of local church representatives.** The program schedule is coordinated with the park/campground manager and staff.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Emotionally and spiritually mature Christian; able to function in an unstructured situation.
2. Able to plan and carry out creative worship.
3. Skilled in public speaking.
4. A self-starter; able to meet people easily.
5. Skilled in time management.***
6. Comfortable in an ecumenical situation and able to apply the Scriptures to daily life.
7. Able to help others grow at their own chosen pace.
8. Aware of God's creation and our responsibility to care for it as good stewards.
9. The following are valuable but not required:
 - ability to lead singing

- proficiency with a musical instrument
- knowledge of the outdoors
- experience and training in counseling skills
- theological training equivalent to at least one year in an accredited seminary

REMUNERATION

Remuneration for 2020 is \$4950.00 per season for full time, and \$2595.00 per season for half time, including the weeks from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends, and *full participation in the spring training event.**

IMPORTANT NOTES

* The 2020 spring training event will be held virtually. Attendance is *mandatory* for all new chaplains.

** The local committee is a vital part of a chaplain's support network. The committee should be kept abreast of the chaplain's activities. Copies of any reports submitted to the coordinator of campground ministries should also be provided to the local committee. Individual committees may have additional requests/requirements, as well.

*** Following are examples of what a typical chaplains' work week may look like:

	Half-time	Full-time
Sermon/Bulletin Preparation	9 hrs.	9 hrs.
Site Visitation, Contact with park/ campground personnel	6 hrs.	10 hrs.
Activities		15 hrs.
Worship	3 hrs.	3 hrs.
Administrative Requirements	<u>1 hr.</u>	<u>1 hr.</u>
	19 hrs.	38 hrs.

These are examples only. Adjustments will be required, based on the size of each campground and the number of campgrounds served.