

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.

The chaplain is a "pastor" or friend to all persons in this setting where he or she serves regardless of their religious affiliation.

Each program is a unique blend of the chaplain's gifts, campers, park staff and the local committee. All chaplaincy programs offer:

1. Campsite visitation, using your listening, counseling and interpersonal skills.
2. Informal, inspirational worship services.
3. Availability to park staff and camps for crisis situations or needed information.
4. 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 each park is planned in cooperation with a committee of local church representatives. The program schedule is coordinated with the park superintendent 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. A self-starter; able to meet people easily.
4. Comfortable in an ecumenical situation and able to apply the Scriptures to daily life.
5. Skilled in public speaking.
6. Able to help others grow at their own chosen pace.
7. Aware of God's creation and our responsibility to care for it as good stewards.

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8. The following are valuable but not required:

- ability to lead singing
- proficiency with a musical instrument
- time management
- 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 2012 is \$4300.00 per season for full time, and \$2150.00 per season for half time, including the weeks from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends, and full participation in the spring training event.

Chaplains who have served in the past 51 years have spoken of the following rewards:

- opportunity for planning and conducting worship
- preaching
- visitation
- counseling
- theological reflection
- meeting many people from diverse backgrounds