

## Applications for National Ocean Challenge Program 2019 Are Now Open

Branch Gaarder

March 26, 2019



"The ocean has been such a wonderful teacher for me in my life that I created the Ocean Challenge program to give young people the leadership training the ocean provides."  
-- Sun Myung Moon

National Ocean Challenge Program (NOCP) 2019 is now taking applications for youth ages 16 to 30 with an adventurous spirit, eagerness to learn, and open minds. This is the 11th anniversary year for NOCP in Kodiak, AK, and they plan to make it the best year yet!

The National Ocean Challenge Program began as a grassroots project by a group of captains who did Ocean Challenge in Gloucester, MA back in the 1980s and 90s. Passionate to share the ocean challenge experience with the next generation, they created a program with the available Good-Go boats on Kodiak Island, a location where True Parents spent a lot of time fishing, and inaugurated the program in 2009 as its official first year.

Over the years, many volunteers, staff, leaders and sponsors have helped develop and cultivate this program, making it possible each year.

This year, the program will be the well-known 21-day length from July 7 to 27, where the youth and young adults will cover basic safety, boating, navigation, oceanology, and hiking the first few days, river and deep sea fishing for 14 days, and the last few days will conclude with a service project, city tour,

talent show and graduation ceremony.

For those already experienced with boating and who want to pursue something more challenging, there will be a 40-day Captain-in-Training (CIT) program from June 29 to August 7. Those applying for this position need to be at least 18-years-old, must already have taken a USCG certified boating safety course and have done CPR/First Aid training. CITs will be learning boat care, minor boat repairs and maintenance, boat operation and navigation, fishing techniques, and the responsibilities expected of a captain.

This year, NOCP is looking for four team leaders who will work directly with the education coordinator to serve as an extension of their staff in an elder brother/sister role for a team of five participants.

The internal education during the time of the program will focus on teachings from True Parents, understanding the meaning of Hyojeong, and learning the different aspects of Ocean Providence. The three weeks will provide an opportunity to develop leadership skills, experience God's love, and deepen our understanding of True Parents' life course and our identity.



### **Why did True Father often go fishing?**

"When I go out to fish in the ocean, I am actually fishing the world. It is for this purpose that I fish; it is a condition of devotion. You too have to learn to love the ocean. The fastest way to focus your mind is by fishing. I can say this from my own experience."

(289-122, 1997/12/30)

The application deadline is May 5th with limited space and scholarships available.

Apply today at [oceanchallenge.org](http://oceanchallenge.org).

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# National Ocean Challenge Program

APPLICATIONS FOR 2019 ARE OPEN!

*"The ocean has been such a wonderful teacher for me in my life that I created the Ocean Challenge program to give young people the leadership training the ocean provides."*

— SUN MYUNG MOON

**NOCP MISSION STATEMENT**

**We empower future leaders to become authentic stewards of all creation by providing a unique and challenging introductory experience through fishing and boating in remote Alaska.**

# **PROGRAM DETAILS**

**NOCP offers 3 different programs to select from**

## **PARTICIPANT**

**JULY 7-28, 2019  
21-DAY PROGRAM**

NOCP offers a unique hands-on ocean fishing experience for youth ages 16-30 in remote Kodiak, Alaska. Come experience God's love through nature, cultivate character and confidence, and acquire skills to make your unique contribution to Ocean Tribe.

The entire program is designed to help participants connect to Father and Mother Moon's heart and love for the ocean and ocean providence. Through internal guidance and connecting to True Parents' words and experience, participants have the opportunity to walk in True Parents shoes and experience all the lessons that the ocean has to teach.



Participants will spend 14 days on the ocean learning the basics of boating and fishing, and how to jig and troll for Pacific salmon, halibut, rockfish, and ling cod. Throughout the program, participants will rotate to each of our four boats, learning unique fishing styles from each of the senior captains and captains-in-training (CIT).

Participants will hear stories and lessons from the staff's times with Father and Mother Moon, both on and off the ocean.

Participants will also receive certification on Boat Safety offered by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and be certified in CPR/First Aid.

Other highlights of the program include a camping trip, river fishing, beach bonfires, a service project, wildlife viewing, a Kodiak City tour, and an end-of program fishing tournament - with prizes!

There are only 20 participant spots available for 2019 so apply soon!

## TEAM LEADER

**JULY 3-31, 2019**  
**29-DAY PROGRAM**

This year we are seeking four team leaders who will work directly with the education coordinator (Tasnah Bercy) to serve as an extension of our staff in an elder brother/sister role for a team of five participants.

Prior to NOCP they will join 3-4 1-hour calls to review the schedule, desired educational outcomes, and their responsibilities during the 3-week program. On-site, team leaders will facilitate team bonding activities and lead team

## CAPTAIN-IN-TRAINING (CIT)

**JUNE 29 - AUGUST 7, 2019**  
**40-DAY PROGRAM**

Each year, four CITs have the opportunity to attend an extended 40-day Captain-in-Training Ocean Challenge program, coming a week early and staying ten days after the program.

CITs will be trained in the basics of boat preparation, maintenance, maneuvering, as well as charts, navigation, and fishing techniques. CITs will also enjoy an overnight fishing trip with the senior captains and staff in preparation for the program.

sharings each evening, checking in with the core staff after. The goal is to help provide personal care and support to the participants during the program.

We ask that team leaders come a few days before the program starts to orient and help prepare (and do some fishing!) and stay after a few days to debrief and connect in gratitude as staff.

Team leaders are primarily participants in that they will participate in all the activities and fishing and do not need to have prior Ocean Challenge/fishing experience. However, prior team leading experience is preferred.

During the program, CITs will be paired with a senior captain whom they'll assist with boat preparation, maintenance, safety, and navigation. They'll play a key role in teaching participants how set up their tackle and land their fish. On land, they'll serve as an extension of our staff team, supporting the team leaders, activities, and education.

After the NOCP program, CITs will assist in hosting a local Kodiak Community Fishing Day, compete in a staff tournament, learn how to winterize a boat, and conclude with an overnight fishing trip.

**It is preferred that CITs:**

- Have attended NOCP previously or have boating/captaining experience
- Have already taken the USCG Boating Safely course or equivalent
- Have their CPR/First Aid certification

**APPLY TODAY!**

# MEET THE 2019 STAFF TEAM



**Lukas Bercy**

Co-Director



**Tasnah Bercy**

Co-Director



**Alina Button**

General Affairs



**Frank Button**

Senior Captain



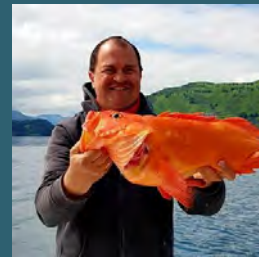
**Minoru Kageyama**

Senior Captain



**Greg Odlin**

Senior Captain



**Jorge Mendez**

Senior Captain

## History



The first Ocean Challenge program was initiated by Rev. Sun Myung Moon on July 1, 1981. The program was designed to cultivate faith and leadership by challenging participants to spend a summer fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Rev. Moon designed the Good-Go boats, still used today.

Ocean Challenge instructed its participants in both the theoretical and practical aspects of boating and fishing. Ocean Challenge was also unique in its strongly spiritual focus, encouraging participants to challenge their limitations and concepts of themselves, others, and God. There was also a strong emphasis on self-discipline, self-motivation, leadership, and meeting God on the swells of the ocean. The Ocean Challenge spirit motto was, "If God calls, I will go, no matter the circumstances."

When Rev. Moon started "Ocean Challenge Alaska" in 1986 in Kodiak, Alaska, he expressed that the Alaskan Spirit was as same as Ocean Challenge Spirit.

*"I like to use the phrase "Alaska Spirit." By this I mean the habit of getting up at five o'clock in the morning, going out to sea, and not returning until well after midnight, when in the summer it is still light. The person with "Alaska Spirit" stays out on the ocean until he catches the daily allowance. One cannot become a true fisherman unless he learns how to endure this way. Catching fish is not a pleasure cruise. No matter how many fish may be in the ocean, they are not going to just jump into the boat. It takes specialized knowledge and much experience. Once a person receives intense training to become a fisherman, he can go anywhere in the world and become a leader of people. Learning to be a fisherman is good leadership training."*

NOCP has been hosted each summer in Kodiak since 2007. Chris Fiala, Frank Button, and Minoru Kageyama, three veterans of Ocean Challenge, launched a three-week summer program for youth ages 16-35 to give the next generation a taste of the Father Moon's love for the ocean, fishing, and all that is has to teach.

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# APPLICATION PROCESS

- Select your program
- Submit your application and a \$250 deposit by May 5
- Receive your acceptance letter by May 8
- Fundraise!
- Pay your remaining deposit by June 1
- If needed, apply for a scholarship
- Buy a roundtrip flight to Kodiak, Alaska
- Check the packing list

- ☑ Come to NOCP for an amazing adventure!

## PROGRAM DETAILS + FEES

**NOCP offers 3 different programs to select from.**

Please be sure to read all the details on our [About page](#).

The true cost for one person to attend NOCP is **\$4,250**. With great financial support from Ocean Peace Inc. and a volunteer staff, we are able to **subsidize 60%** of the cost for participants, team leaders, and CITs.

PARTICIPANT	TEAM LEADER	CAPTAIN-IN-TRAINING (CIT)
<b>JULY 7-28, 2019 21-DAY PROGRAM</b>	<b>JULY 3-31, 2019 29-DAY PROGRAM</b>	<b>JUNE 29 - AUGUST 7, 2019 40-DAY CIT PROGRAM</b>
<b>\$1700</b>	<b>\$1700</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Program Fee Includes:</b>	<b>Program Fee Includes:</b>	<b>Program Fee</b>
Food and lodging for the duration of	Food and lodging for the duration of	

your program

Fishing gear

USCG Boating  
Safely course

CPR/First Aid  
certification

**Requirement:**

- Must be over the age of 16

**Travel:**

Participants should arrive on Sunday, July 7 before 6pm and depart any time on Sunday, July 28

**APPLY TODAY!**

your program

Fishing gear

USCG Boating  
Safely course

CPR/First Aid  
certification

**Role:**

Please see role description on our NOCP **About** page.

**Requirements:**

- Must have experience as a group leader for workshops/camps
- Must be able to furnish a reference

**Travel:**

Team Leaders should arrive any time on Sunday, July 3 and depart any time on Sunday, July 31

**APPLY TODAY!**

**Includes:**

Food and lodging for the duration of your program

Fishing gear

USCG Boating  
Safely course

CPR/First Aid  
certification

**Role:**

Please see role description on our NOCP **About** page.

**It is preferred that CITs:**

- Have attended NOCP previously or have boating/captaining experience
- Have already taken the USCG Boating Safely course or equivalent
- Have their CPR/First Aid certification

**Travel:**

CIT's should arrive any time on Saturday, June 29th and depart any time on Wednesday, August

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**APPLY**



## Application Deadline is May 5!

NOCP does a rolling acceptance for applications. You can expect to hear back from us within 1-2 weeks of applying. All acceptance letters will be sent out by **May 8**.

## Additional Costs for all Participants, Team Leaders, and CITs:

### FISHING LICENSE (REQUIRED)

All participants, team leaders, and CITs **must** purchase an annual fishing license and king salmon stamp. NOCP cannot purchase these for participants, thus they will be purchased upon arrival in Kodiak. The cost of a license and a king salmon stamp is **\$245** for non-Alaska residents and **\$39** for Alaska residents. Please bring your payment in cash, check, or card.

### ADDITIONAL NIGHTS AND MEALS

NOCP strongly encourages that you arrive and depart on the designated dates specified by your program. If you must stay for any additional days/nights before or after the program, NOCP will charge \$20 a day for lodging.

### SUPPLY RENTAL

The following supplies can be rented on-site for the duration of the program:

- Cotton sleeping bags - **\$10**
- Rubber boots - **\$10** (limited sizes available)

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## Flight Information

Please purchase your flight only **after** you have received your acceptance letter.

Please purchase a round trip ticket to/from **Kodiak Airport (ADQ)** within the times listed for your program. We recommend using Alaska Airlines for your Anchorage to Kodiak leg. All participants will be picked up and dropped off at the airport by our staff.

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## Important Deadlines

- Submit your application by May 5
- Receive your acceptance letter by May 8
- Pay your final balance by June 1

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## Refund Policy

If you withdraw your application or cancel your acceptance before **June 1st** your \$250 deposit will be refunded, less processing fees. If you cancel after June 1st your deposit will be forfeited.

In the event you are unable to attend the program after making your full payment, the tuition fee you paid, excluding the \$250 deposit, will be returned.

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# Questions?

Questions can be directed to our NOCP staff at [NOCPkodiak@gmail.com](mailto:NOCPkodiak@gmail.com).

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