

Leaders of Ocean Tribe hold a new ocean training seminar

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October 11, 2021



Ocean Church crew catch fish in the New York Bay and East River (FFWPU USA, November 2016)

What are we training to become?

It's a question that has crossed the minds of generations past and present. Leaders of Ocean Tribe - also known as Ocean Church - challenged themselves with this very query during a new training seminar.

"We are developing a program where we can nurture global leaders of the future era," said Minobu Joo, the northeast regional coordinator of Ocean Tribe USA. "Our leaders shared a presentation on the overall vision and purpose of Ocean Providence and Ocean Church according to Rev. Moon's words, exploring the strategy behind Ocean Providence and the purpose of ocean training."

Joo said the new ocean training program stems from the teachings of the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who co-founded Ocean Church in 1980 as a movement guided by a philosophy and vision that humanity is the natural stewards of the ocean and all of Creation.

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From September 25 to October 2, Joo and Branch Gaarder, national coordinator of Ocean Tribe, led the weeklong training seminar in Little Ferry, New Jersey, to clarify the vision and purpose of Ocean Tribe and outline its immediate and long-term goals.

"We want youth and young adults to experience life on the ocean to receive character training and spiritual training," said Joo, "as well as training to unite their mind and body. At the same time, we want them to gain practical skills such as planning and running a successful fishing boat through captain

training, basic maintenance of boats, capability to implement local projects through ocean-related activities, and a vision and mindset to become a global leader who can love and live for the entire world through this kind of action."

The training seminar included Ocean Tribe staff, alumni, and local community members. Rev. Moon's vision of Ocean Church quickly expanded nationwide and abroad after its launch, followed by the 1981 inception of the National Ocean Challenge Program ([NOCP](#)) for young people.

"The vision of Ocean Church is to go to major ports and begin training young people with fishing and the ocean," said Rev. Moon in Gloucester, Mass., at the time. "We call it Ocean Church because our plan is not just for fishing, but to create a network of people with a vision for the ocean."

"The longer a person spends on the ocean, the greater the spiritual aspect of his life will become," he continued. "Even when the waves have risen and a fearful wind is blowing, the fish in the water have no trouble sleeping. They give themselves over to the waves and don't resist them."

"This is what I learned from the fish. I decided not to be afraid, no matter how strong the waves were. I let the waves carry me. I made myself one with the boat, and we rose with the waves. Once I started doing that, my heart was never shaken, no matter what kind of waves I came up against... Once a person receives intense training to become a fisherman, he can go anywhere in the world and become a leader of people."

As the regional coordinator, Joo said he has seen firsthand how ocean training often deepens the faith of participants and helps them through physical and spiritual challenges. Guest speakers of the training seminar included business veterans of marine companies who shared about the power and energy they harnessed from the ocean.

"In that spirit, we are creating a more consistent program with practical ocean-related skills," said Joo. "The first step is making our local property ready for action with maintenance work, cleaning and repairs. We will also be gathering every Saturday morning for rotational fishing and boating sessions, kayaking, and other classes as we implement a wonderful year-round program for Ocean Tribe."

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Celebrating 41 Years of Ocean Church



FFWPU USA

On October 1, 1980 the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon officially began Ocean Church, a movement founded upon and guided by a philosophy and vision that humanity is the natural stewards of the ocean and all of Creation.

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RELATED: [Alaska Spirit](#)

On this 41st anniversary of Ocean Church, let’s revisit a passage from Rev. Moon’s 2009 [autobiography](#), *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, which shares about mastering the sea and the great opportunities of the oceanic era.

Excerpt:

History has shown that the country that controls the seas will become a world leader. Consider Britain... a small island nation in the Atlantic, came to possess colonies on all the continents and oceans and built an empire... Korea, and most of the rest of the East, has taken a different approach. The Eastern world does not discard the spirit in the pursuit of the material... As a totally materialistic civilization brings degradation, the opportunity presents itself to learn from the more spiritually-oriented East...

The era of a Pacific civilization is opening, bringing together Western science and Eastern spirituality... The only philosophy that can prevent wars between religions and open a path to a peaceful world is one that proclaims that humanity is one, transcendent of race, nationality, and religion. To protect itself from the dangers of war, Korea must plant a philosophy of oneness in the world...

The Pacific era is at hand. Anyone who cannot rule the ocean cannot become a leader in the Pacific age... The true alternative energy source is the ocean. Energy from the hydrogen in the sea represents the future of humanity. Two-thirds of the earth’s


surface is water. This means that two-thirds of the raw materials that humanity needs for the future are contained in the ocean...

The oceanic era will not begin without human effort. We must first go out into the oceans. We must go out on boats and fight the waves. Without such courage we cannot prepare ourselves for the oceanic age. The country that conquers the oceans will become a dominant power in the world and find the world eager to study its culture and language. Korea must become the champion steward of the Pacific Ocean. It must understand the will of the Creator and manage His resources well.

You can learn more about Rev. Moon's life in his autobiography available [here](#).

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"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 true owners of God's Creation through ocean based educational and experiential activities rooted in the teachings of Father and Mother Moon.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop character and confidence through seamanship
- Experience the heart of stewardship
- Cultivate faith through experiencing God's love through nature





PROGRAM DETAILS

NOCP offers 3 different programs to select from for young adults ages 18+*

**Due to COVID mitigations, for 2021, participants must be age 18 or older*

PARTICIPANT

JULY 8-29, 2021
21-DAY PROGRAM

NOCP offers a unique hands-on immersion experience of God's Creation for youth ages 16+* in remote Kodiak, Alaska. With the ocean as the training ground, come develop character and confidence through seamanship, experience the heart of stewardship, and cultivate faith through experiencing God's love through nature.

NOCP seeks to continue Father and Mother Moon's tradition and legacy of growing the character and faith of young people through leadership training on the sea. Through internal guidance and connecting to their words and experience, participants have the opportunity to walk in Father and Mother Moon's shoes and experience all the lessons that the ocean has to teach.

Each morning begins with morning devotion and a morning service introducing the day's theme. Days are filled with activities in nature including full day son 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 from the senior captains who spent many years with Father and Mother Moon. They'll share their stories and lesson and also their unique fishing styles. Each senior captain is supported by a captains-in-training (CIT). Evenings are filled with testimonies from local members, educational activities, and personal reflections. On Sundays, NOCP joins the local Kodiak Family Church for service and fellowship.

As part of stewardship training, participants will also receive certification on "About Boating Safely" offered by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and be certified in CPR/First Aid.

Other highlights of the program include river fishing, team reflection beach bonfires, a service project, hatchery tour, a Kodiak City tour, and an end-of program fishing tournament - with prizes!

There are only 25 participant spots available for 2021 so apply soon!

TEAM LEADER

JULY 1-AUGUST 5, 2021
35-DAY PROGRAM

This year we are seeking four team leaders who will work directly with the education coordinator 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 weekly calls to help develop educational themes, design the program's

CAPTAIN-IN-TRAINING (CIT)

JULY 1-AUGUST 5, 2021
35-DAY PROGRAM

Each year, four CITs have the opportunity to attend an extended 35-day Captain-in-Training Ocean Challenge program, coming a week early and staying a week after the program.

The primary intention of the CIT program is to provide a leadership training opportunity where the elder

develop educational themes, design the program's schedule, and plan out program activities. On-site, team leaders will facilitate team bonding activities and lead team 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 week before the program starts to orient and help prepare and stay a week after to debrief and connect in gratitude as staff.

Team leaders are primarily participants in that they will participate in all the activities and fishing. Priority will be given to team leaders who are alumni of NOCP. Having prior team leading experience is highly recommended.

leadership training opportunity where the elder captains can pass on the heart and legacy of captaining to the younger generation, sharing their wealth of spiritual and technical experience. CITs will spend their prep-week beginning each day with morning devotions and guidance from their elders. Themes include the heart of being a leader, stewardship, and faith training on the ocean. CITs will also be instructed in the basics of boat preparation, safety, 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.

Prior to the program, CITs will be given prep materials to study and become familiar with. During the program, CITs will be paired with a senior captain whom they'll assist with boat preparation, maintenance, safety, and navigation. They'll also play a key role in teaching and supporting participants on the water. 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 Family Ocean Challenge Day, learn how to winterize a boat, and share reflections on the program.

It is preferred that CITs:

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

COVID Mitigation for 2021

HSA-UWC Family Fed has approved our staff's NOCP 2021 COVID mitigation plan. The safety of our participants and staff has been and will continue to be our top priority.

The city of Kodiak, AK is currently in the "green," allowing for large group gatherings.

All staff and participants will be asked to agree to the [NOCP 2021 COVID mitigation plan](#) and take all required precautions before, during, and at the conclusion of the program.

APPLICATION AND DETAILS!

MEET THE 2021 STAFF TEAM



Lukas Bercy
Co-Director



Tasnah Bercy
Co-Director



Alina Button
Co-Coordinator (Logistics +



Tamae Seto
Co-Coordinator (Education



Frank Button

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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