

FFWPU USA: Ocean Church's 41st Anniversary, October 1, 2021

Naokimi Ushiroda
October 1, 2021



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.

"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."

This vision quickly expanded nationwide and abroad, followed by the 1981 inception of the National Ocean Challenge Program ([NOCP](#)) for young people.

[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.

03 Sep
 2021

Alaska Spirit



Photo courtesy of NOCP

“I feel God the strongest through nature, and being completely immersed in His Creation,” said Chloe. “The National Ocean Challenge Program is a profound way of renewing my relationship with God.”

Over the summer, Chloe, a young Unificationist from Illinois, spent three weeks in the seaside town of Kodiak, Alaska, where she joined 24 other young Unificationists for the annual National Ocean Challenge Program ([NOCP](#)).

“I have a special connection with God through water,” she said. “God, like bodies of water, remains as steady, level, and serene as the horizon of the water, no matter how tumultuous the waves.”

From July 8 to 29, the group spent long days boating and fishing, learning the basics of an industry pioneered in the US by the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, NOCP’s founders. For Chloe and others, the program was a transformative journey and humbling experience.

“I know that the ocean is where Father Moon spent so much of his time reflecting and setting goals,” said Tatsuhiro, a participant from Nevada. “I could also reflect upon my past year as part of [CARP](#) Las Vegas, and pray about what God has in store for me going into the future.”

“Father Moon’s stories about training himself in character and faith while on the ocean and deeply experiencing God while fishing has always been inspirational to me,” added Andreas, a participant from Germany. “It’s an opportunity to challenge myself... and to make a new start in my life and a commitment to carry on a life of faith and contribution to society.”

First established in Gloucester, Mass., in 1981, Rev. Moon brought the Ocean Challenge program to Alaska in 1986. Today NOCP seeks to continue Rev. and Dr. 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 the founders’ footsteps and experience all the lessons that the ocean has to offer.

“The person with ‘Alaska Spirit’ stays out on the ocean until he catches the daily allowance,” Rev. Moon said. “One cannot become a true fisherman unless he learns how to endure this way... Once a person receives intense training to become a

fisherman, he can go anywhere in the world and become a leader of people.”

As part of stewardship training, the group received safe boating certification, and spent full days on the ocean learning how to jig and troll for Pacific salmon, halibut, rockfish, and ling cod. Activities in nature and exploring Kodiak were also part of the experience.

“Since I was very young, I always enjoyed fishing,” said Francis, a participant from Maryland. “My grandfather was a big fisherman in his village in Spain and I have always had a strong connection to the ocean. I felt a calling to learn more about the ocean providence, [and] to make more connections with people and learn new fishing skills.”

Throughout the program, directed by Unificationist couple Lukas and Tasnah Bercy, participants rotated four boats while learning from Senior Captains Greg Odlin and Jorge Mendez, who spent many years with the founders. The captains shared their personal stories and lessons at sea in addition to their unique fishing styles.

For some participants, like Connor from Maryland, it was the first time visiting Alaska and fishing. “I was 10 years old when my sister did the Ocean Challenge program,” he recalls. “After hearing her experience and tasting the salmon she brought home, I knew I wanted to participate someday myself. Twelve years later and that goal became a reality!”

The group was also joined for a few days by Dr. Chung Sik Yong, regional director of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) North America, who enjoyed fishing and educational fellowship activities. And while every person’s experiences and inspirations varied, their main takeaway of ‘Alaska Spirit’ was the same.

You can learn more about the National Ocean Challenge Program [here](#).

Comments are welcomed and encouraged on this site, but there are some instances where comments will be edited or deleted. Please see our comments policy [here](#).

LEAVE A COMMENT

<input type="text" value="Name *"/>	<input type="text" value="E-mail *"/>
<input type="text" value="Website"/>	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="submit" value="SUBMIT COMMENT"/>	



National Ocean Challenge Program

[LEARN MORE!](#)

"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

adults ages 10+

**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

Other highlights of the program include river fishing, team reflection beach bonfires, a service project, nature 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 schedule, and plan out program activities. On-site,

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 captains can pass on the heart and legacy of

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.

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.

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,

start 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

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



Co-Director



Co-Director



Co-Coordinator (Logistics + Finance)



Co-Coordinator (Education + Programming)



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.

- [ABOUT →](#)
- [APPLICATION →](#)
- [RAISING FUNDS →](#)
- [FAQ →](#)
- [TESTIMONIALS →](#)