

Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Celebrates Earth Day Every Day

Naokimi Ushiroda
April 22, 2022



Did you know the Unification movement has an online publication dedicated to all things nature?

This Earth Day, April 22, you can check out the latest stories from [The Earth and I](#), which covers everything from light pollution and waste reduction, to coral reef restoration, and a new study using fish to discover more about neural behavior in the brain.

The bimonthly periodical, launched on Earth Day 2021, is just one of many ways True Parents' deep love and respect for nature has materialized over the years, along with their efforts to educate the public. In 1981, they initiated the first [Ocean Challenge](#) program to cultivate faith and a heart of stewardship through experiencing God's love in nature. Then, for more than two decades in the 1990s, they worked to sustain and preserve Brazil's Pantanal region, often referred to as a "modern-day Eden."

True Father brought global leaders to the Pantanal - the world's largest tropical wetland and flooded grasslands - as he sponsored discussions on how to protect the region and the rest of the earth. He also set up fish farms and sought to establish aviary and insect preserves to protect unique species from extinction. "No creature lives for itself," he notably said. "Instead, they live for each other. Nature teaches us this tremendous lesson ... Religious people must lead the way in the effort to save nature."

Today, True Mother continues this work of environmental protection through various avenues, including sponsorship of two annual science conferences every April. Through the Hyo Jeong International Foundation for the Unity of the Sciences ([HJIFUS](#)), the 28th International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS) and the 3rd International Conference on Science and God (ICSG) held earlier this month offered scientists and industry leaders worldwide a robust platform to exchange and discuss ideas.

True Mother has also honored change-makers around the world, launching the [Sunhak Peace Prize](#) in 2015 which has awarded three environmental leaders to date. Former Kiribati President Anote Tong was recognized in 2015 for improving global awareness of climate change and seeking solution-oriented action from the international community, while biologist Modadugu Vijay Gupta of India was recognized for pioneering the "blue revolution" and making innovative contributions to fisheries and aquaculture development. In 2019, Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, former Agriculture Minister of Nigeria, was recognized for his good governance in agricultural innovation and eradicating poverty.

"By the law of nature, small streams flow into greater ones," wrote True Mother in her best-selling memoir, *Mother of Peace* (2020). "Streams and rivers start at different places but have the same destination, one great ocean. A stream that refuses to flow simply dies."

"In the same way," she continued, "religions that only cling to their own doctrines and refuse to unite with others die spiritually and eventually dry up. A religious teaching that explains God's original nature must now emerge."

Earth Day serves as a global reminder of our individual and collective impact on the earth, and our power to heal and restore it. This interconnectivity between humanity and the environment is also a great responsibility and opportunity to harmonize with our Creator.

"To care for and love the environment is to love God," wrote True Father in his autobiography, *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* (2009). "The shortcut to protecting nature is to develop a heart that loves nature."

You can learn ways to celebrate Earth Day [here](#).



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EARTH DAY EDITION



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NEWS

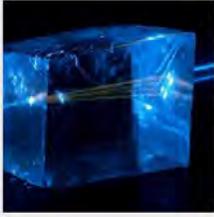


International Science Conference Ushers in Earth Day

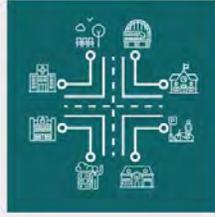
DATA



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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 17+*

PARTICIPANT

JULY 5-27, 2022
21-DAY PROGRAM

NOCP offers a unique hands-on immersion experience of God's Creation for young adults 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 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 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.

NOCP partners with local organizations and non profits to do service work related to marine stewardship and sustainability. 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, hatchery tour, a Kodiak City tour, and an end-of program fishing tournament – with prizes!

There are only 20 participant spots available for 2022 so apply soon!

**Participants must be age 17+ by program date.*

Staff Roles

TEAM LEADER

JUNE 30-AUGUST 3, 2022
35-DAY PROGRAM

This year we are seeking five team leaders who will work directly with the education coordinator to serve

CAPTAIN-IN-TRAINING (CIT)

JUNE 28-AUGUST 3, 2022
37-DAY PROGRAM

We are seeking four CITs to join our staff team, coming a week early to prepare for the program and staying a

as an extension of our staff in an elder brother/sister role for a team of five participants.

Prior to NOCP they will join a programming call with staff to connect over the program's themes, the schedule, and their responsibilities. On-site, team leaders will facilitate team activities, lead small group morning devotionals, 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.

There are 4 Team Leader spots available.

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 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, 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, and share reflections on the program.

There are 3 CIT spots available.

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 2022

All staff and participants will be asked to provide a negative test prior to traveling to Kodiak. Participants and staff will have the option to be tested prior to returning home.

APPLICATION AND DETAILS!

MEET THE 2022 STAFF TEAM



Lukas Bercy
Co-Director



Tasnah Bercy
Co-Director



Alina Button
Co-Coordinator (Logistics + Finance)



Julia Chai
Co-Coordinator (Education + Programming)



Frank Button

Senior Captain



Jonathan von Euw

Junior 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 it has to teach.

- [ABOUT →](#)
- [APPLICATION →](#)
- [RAISING FUNDS →](#)
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Sunhak Peace Prize

Making the World Better for Future Generations

2022

Sunhak Peace Prize
Laureate

2022 2020 2019 2017 2015

2022 Laureate



Professor of Vaccinology at Jenner Institute, University of Oxford

Dame Sarah Catherine Gilbert

Co-Developer of Oxford-AstraZeneca Vaccine

Approached vaccine as global public good
Protecting humanity from 'Diseases -X'



2022

Sunhak Peace
Prize
Award
Ceremony



Founders

To experience true peace,
we must first practice true
love without expectation of
reward.

When our mindset changes from wishing to receive love to wishing to give love, the world of peace will be at hand.



[Read more about the founders](#)

We hope to share the light
of hope with all the people

of the world who pray for world peace.

Sunhak Peace Prize

The Sunhak Peace Prize was established in order to help resolve worldwide suffering, conflict, poverty and threats to the environment, by promoting a comprehensive, future-oriented vision of peace.



Read more about the Prize

News & Insight

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—The Bloody "Squid Game" is Reality— not just a movie —"The Rose of Sharon...

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Creating a Gender Equal World

—The girl who went to draw water in the Stone Age—where is she now?—"Abou...

Peace Issue

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Participate





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