



Job Title: **Kamp Chaplain**

Reports to: *Camp Director*

Classification: *Weekly Volunteer*

Compensation: *No monetary compensation. Room and board for Chaplain and family duration of volunteer commitment. Chaplain's children, ages 7 – 17 years, may attend kamp gratis or Chaplain may sponsor one child to attend kamp gratis (e.g., member of congregation or affiliated non-profit organization).*

Position Purpose:

The Kamp Chaplain will serve as a pastor and spiritual resource to the staff and campers; helping to nurture Vanderkamp's Christian community. It is our hope that your time with us will be a source of renewal and enrichment.

Essential Job Functions:

- Use of facilitation and guided discovery techniques to support Program Director and Counselors in developing meaningful age appropriate activities and messages that reflect the daily Bible Exploration curriculum.
- Use of facilitation and guided discovery techniques to support Program Director, Chapel Music Team, CITs, LITs, and the Counselors working with those programs to develop meaningful and age appropriate messages, skits, music program, and selection of bible passages or stories for evening worship/chapel time.
- Provide advice, guidance, and feedback as we continue our youth-led evening worship/chapel time. (*Note: A unique characteristic of Vanderkamp is that most of a camper's experience is child-directed and child-initiated. We strive to expand this philosophy to our evening worship/chapel time. This was a new initiative begun the summer of 2015.*)
- Lead Morning Watch: Devotional activity to open the day before breakfast
- Be accessible for informal counseling with staff and camper as needed.
- In conjunction with the camp staff, speak with a camper regarding sensitive information from home. Serve in capacity with mandated reporter.

Other Job Duties:

- Assist councilors in developing approaches to help campers deal with camp related issues such as home sickness, bullying, roommate issues.
- Participate in the camp's programs; this means getting dirty, messy, sweaty, wet, tired and enjoying yourself. The campers should be able to relate to the chaplain as an adult that likes to have fun and takes an interest in them.
- Contribute any other particular gifts and skills your bring to the Vanderkamp community

- Contribute to the camp community by providing assistance in all aspects of camp life/operations including programming, facility, health services, and dining services as requested.
- Be a role model to kampers and staff in your attitude and behavior.
  - ♦ Follow and uphold all safety and security rules and procedures.
  - ♦ Do not take exception to the rules because you are staff (e.g., eating in living unit).
  - ♦ Set a good example to kampers and others in regard to general camp procedures and practices including sanitation, schedule, and sportsmanship.
  - ♦ Set a good example in demonstrating care and respect for the facility, environment, and equipment by taking due care and cleaning up after oneself.
  - ♦ Demonstrate a positive attitude in the face of change or adverse circumstances (e.g., weather cancelation of desired activity).
  - ♦ Demonstrate Christian principles of love, peace, and acceptance. “Be the change you would like to see in the world.”
  - ♦ Share personal faith journey with kampers in manner developmentally appropriate to their needs and abilities.
- Commit to a stay of one week (Sunday through Friday evening). If the chaplain is not available for an entire week participating during the first half of the week is preferred.
- Willingness to enjoy your surroundings and have fun!

#### Relationships:

- The Chaplain reports directly to the Camp Director.
- The Chaplain reports indirectly to the Executive Directors.
- The Chaplain works closely and collaboratively with the Program Director, Chapel/Worship musicians, Counselors in Training (CIT), Leaders in Training (LIT), and Counselors leading those programs.
- The Chaplain works with all staff and kampers to meet spiritual needs as required or requested (e.g, private, personal, or privileged communication; prayer).

#### Equipment Used:

- Computer, telephone, printer as needed
- Hand-held radio (walkie-talkie)
- Audio-visual equipment (optional)
- Musical Instruments (optional)
- That associated with choice of various activities participating in or leading (e.g., sport, drama, outdoor skills, adventure skills, waterfront).

#### Qualifications:

- Must be 21 years of age; 25 preferred
- Must be Christian Ordained Minister, Seminary Student, Commissioned Lay Elder

- Any Christian denominations, non-denominational, or ecumenical affiliations welcome
- Experience with camping ministry preferred
- Must complete or update volunteer profile in Campwise that includes voluntary disclosure form and provision of three references. (*Note: Clergy who are affiliated with the Upstate New York Synod of the ELCA, the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, or the Presbytery of Utica may submit a statement of support from the Bishop's office or from the Executive Presbyter's office in lieu of one of the references. A record of the verification is kept in the applicant's file.*)
- Must submit health history record, examination form, and immunization record in accordance with Oswego County Health Department regulations for staff and volunteers at a summer camp. This is done via Camp Doc, our online camp medical record keeping system, at least 14 days prior to scheduled arrival.
- All new or returning Chaplains are screened, as there is a "break in service" between kamp seasons, to ascertain whether they are listed on the NYS Sex Offender Registry via the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in accordance with Oswego County Health Department regulations and are subject to a nationwide criminal background check via [www.campbackgroundchecks.com](http://www.campbackgroundchecks.com) in accordance with American Camp Association standards.

#### Physical Requirements:

- Ability to communicate and work with children ages 7 (+) and adults, providing necessary instruction to kampers and staff.
- Ability to observe camper behavior and assess its appropriateness, ability to assess and proactively avert risk management threats, contribute to the enforcement of appropriate safety regulations and emergency procedures, alerting Counselors and other senior staff members to situations requiring appropriate behavior-management techniques in accordance with camp philosophy and policies.
- Ability to observe staff behavior and assess its appropriateness, contribute to enforcement of appropriate safety regulations and emergency procedures, so that senior staff may apply appropriate management techniques.
- Visual and auditory ability to identify and respond to human, environmental, and other hazards related to the activities in which they participate.
- Endure daily exposure to a variety of weather conditions including sun, heat, and rain.
- Endure routine exposure to insects (e.g., mosquitos, ants, bees, or spiders). May encounter other wildlife such as fish, snakes, bats, deer, fox or domesticated animals (e.g., dogs or chickens) though direct contact not required.
- Preferred though not required:
  - Endurance and agility for prolonged standing, sitting, bending, stooping, or stretching as required for different activities, with or without reasonable accommodation.
  - Eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity to manipulate equipment and conduct activities.

- Ability to lift and carry 25 lbs. for short distances for purpose of assisting with set up or tear down of kampf or worship/chapel activities.
- Independent mobility (physical or mechanical) to travel across uneven terrain to visit kampers and staff in a variety of kamp locations.