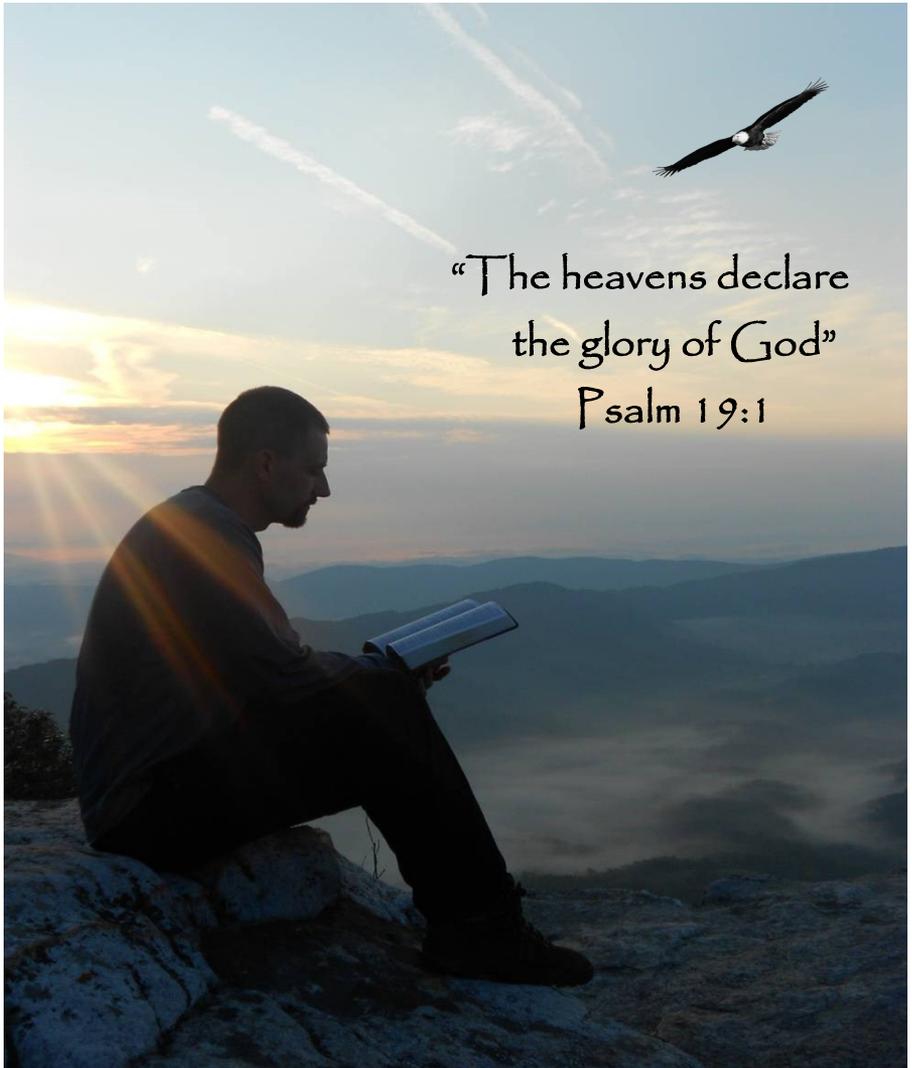


Appalachian Bible College Camping Ministry Major

Training Servants in Outdoor Ministry



“The heavens declare
the glory of God”
Psalm 19:1

The ABC Difference

Furthering the Gospel through Outdoor Ministry!

The accredited bachelor's degree in Camping Ministry at Appalachian Bible College offers a well-rounded, biblically-based curriculum in residential, adventure, and environmental programming. This major blends cognitive components from the classroom with practical hands-on application for the best education in outdoor ministry.

Why the Camping Major?

A Biblical Foundation – All students at ABC major in Bible and Theology in order to develop a foundation for serving in ministry. The camping major seeks to train students in a **biblical philosophy of camp ministry** that is **local church oriented**.

Leadership Development – ABC emphasizes **servant leadership** along with living a godly life. In the camping major, **faculty mentor students** through small group activities in order to develop leadership and relational skills while emphasizing a passion for God and care for those they will be leading.

Practical Experience – **Alpine Ministries**, an extension camp ministry of ABC, provides an opportunity for students to gain practical experience in one of the nation's premiere camp ministries. Established in 1960, Alpine is known for quality adventure programming and Bible camp. Set in the beautiful hills of southern WV, students also take hands-on **Skill Classes** where they gain practical instruction in adventure and environmental programming.

In summary, we want our students to
Think Biblically, Live Godly, and Serve Practically
... because **Life is for Service.**



The Power of Camp

Enjoying God's Creation through Outdoor Recreation!

In a world starving for genuine relationships and authentic Christianity, **Christian camping is a powerful tool that can assist local churches in the great commission** to make disciples of all nations.

Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death in teens. Over half of all marriages end in divorce. The average teen spends 7.5 hours a day engaging in electronic media and only 4 minutes a day playing outside. Where will this generation find the time and a safe place with a lack of distractions to build relationships and consider God's plan for their lives? **God is using Christian camping as a means for people to retreat from the cares of the world, to contemplate eternal matters.**

Jesus used a small group setting and the outdoor environment to confront his disciples with powerful spiritual truths. The wind and the waves became object lessons about who Jesus was and how He desired them to live by faith.

Christian camping is more than living in tents and cooking over a campfire. Today's camp leaders need to know current business practices, proper personnel management, government regulation, and risk management trends. **Camps are multi-faceted, year-round professional organizations.** The bar for professionalism in the outdoor camp community continues to rise.



Objectives and Outcomes

The Camping Ministry Major has four clear objectives, proven by alumni effectively serving in camps across the United States and around the world. There are thousands of lives being impacted through the ministry of these graduates. They are taking lead roles in their camps and are sending back fellow staff to train at ABC.

| <i>You will be trained in ...</i> | <i>leading to ...</i> |
|--|---|
| 1. A biblically-based philosophy of camp ministry | the implementation of outdoor ministry rooted in God's Word. |
| 2. The theory and practice of experience-based learning | the ability to design intentional experiences to communicate God's truth. |
| 3. Methods of planning, developing, and supervising a camp ministry | an understanding of the management and administration of camp ministry. |
| 4. Evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development within the camp setting | competent and professional Christian leaders upon graduation. |



SOAR Semester

Servants in Outdoor Adventure & Residential Recreation

During the fall of a Camping student's Junior or Senior year, they will participate in the "SOAR Semester." Students in the SOAR Semester will exclusively take 16 credit hours of upper level camping classes. The goal is to incorporate more experiential learning and practical ministry assignments. Early in the semester, there will be a week-long wilderness trip that helps students understand principles of experience-based learning. Later in the semester, students will design, organize, and implement program experiences with real guests. This intensive semester utilizes more of a "camp" model to build a solid foundation in outdoor ministry while giving students greater exposure to Alpine and other camp ministries.



"The camping classes that I attended at ABC were very beneficial and relevant to my summer ministry. While I learned a lot from the classes, the different facts and information had the chance to take effect as I applied the lessons to my life. It did not take long for me to realize how grateful I could be for the training I had received. I found myself being constantly reminded of ways that I could apply my class knowledge. I am grateful for the Camping program at ABC and the way it is equipping me to serve in ministry."

-2015 Camping Major Graduate

Camping Major Curriculum

Camps are multifaceted organizations that involve programming, food service, maintenance, management, administration, etc. and have tremendous opportunities to minister to the whole person: physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Students in the Camping Major receive a well-rounded, biblically-based curriculum in residential, adventure, and environmental programming. Core courses include:

- **Foundations of Camping & Outdoor Education**
- **Introduction to Impact Ministry Leadership**
- **Camp Personnel and Volunteer Administration**
- **Management of Camp Support Services**
- **Foundations of Experiential Based Learning**
- **Non-Profit Governance & Administration**
- **Current Trends and Issues in Camping**
- **Non-Profit Financial Management**
- **Risk Management in Camping**
- **Camp Communications**
- **Camp Field Experience**
- **Camp Counseling**
- **Camp Programming I**
- **Camp Programming II**



Camping Ministry Career Opportunities

An accredited bachelor's degree in Camping Ministry gives you the opportunity to serve the Lord as a:

- **Camp Director**
- **Program Director**
- **Adventure Director**
- **Environmental Education Director**
- **Wilderness Trip Leader**
- **Ropes Course Manager**
- **Waterfront Director**
- **Horse Wrangler**
- **Camp Secretary**
- **Conference Center Director**
- **Retreats Director**
- **Children's Home Program Director**
- **Missionary Camp Leader**
- **Director of Youth Ministry/
Youth Pastor**
- **Pastor of Recreation**

Camping Skill Classes

Outdoor experiences abound in West Virginia. Within minutes of the College, students have access to world-class rafting, canoeing, rock climbing, backpacking (The Appalachian Trail), wild caving, and more.

The **Skill Classes set apart ABC's Camping Major** from other outdoor programs. These are experiential classes which teach practical skill development along with leadership skills. Some courses give students the opportunity to earn nationally recognized certifications. Usually there are two or three Skill Classes offered each semester. Students are required to take five hours of these classes but many take more in order to incorporate additional ministry tools into their training. Each activity is used as a ministry tool to illustrate biblical truth.

- **Basic Facilitation Skills**
- **Low Ropes and Initiatives**
- **High Ropes Course**
- **Rock Climbing**
- **Caving**
- **Vertical Caving**
- **Horsemanship**
- **Adventure Gaming**
- **Whitewater Rafting**
- **Canoeing**
- **Backpacking**
- **Orienteering**
- **Outdoor Leadership**
- **Adventure Based Counseling**
- **Introduction to Ecology**
- **Outdoor Curriculum Development**
- **Basic First Aid/CPR**
- **Wilderness First Aid**
- **Waterfront Skills**



Camping Major Courses

CP 101, Foundations of Camping & Outdoor Education

Study the history, philosophies, and current trends within the outdoor education and organized camping movement. Topics: centralized vs. de-centralized programming; residential and wilderness environments; needs-based and age graded programming. Be introduced to the roles that many of the major professional organizations play such as the American Camping Association and Christian Camp and Conference Association. Learn to develop and clearly articulate a solid philosophical approach to developing a camping ministry.

CP 104, Risk Management in Camping

Understand, implement, and evaluate safety and liability issues in a traditional resident Bible camp as it relates to risk management. Be introduced to situational analysis of the legal systems impacting recreation and leisure services. Emphasis will be placed on applied legal understanding and loss control strategies. Key topics: insurance, release forms, record keeping, risk transference, signage, supervision.

CP 203, Introduction to Impact Ministry Leadership

Be trained in the effective use of impact ministry environments and dynamics, as tools for introducing others to a growing, intimate relationship with the Lord. Acquire tools that will help you increase your effectiveness in moving people toward God. While the focus is on the camping and wilderness laboratory, this is a leadership course. The skills are highly transferable into any environment.

CP 204, Camp Counseling

Learn effective counseling of campers in day and residential camping. Emphasis is on understanding the needs of campers and how to lead them to understanding a need for personal change and growth. Key topics: servant leadership, proper use of Scripture in counseling, and counseling skills like building relationships, camper discipline, leading Bible discussions, communicating your faith, and discipleship.

CP 305, Camp Programming I

Be introduced to the initial stages of program development: formulating a vision for each participant's potential development, assessing the individual's needs, setting learning objectives, and setting a strategy for the pursuit of effective learning. Key topics: developing a biblical philosophy of leisure and competition, balancing a program to meet needs, utilizing the six elements of program, thematic approach to programming, and designing intentional programs.

CP 306, Camp Programming II

Learn how to develop, implement, and evaluate programming in a traditional resident Bible camp. Attention will be given to proper evaluation methods and post event learning integration. Key topics will include program development and design, staffing, budgets, safety, contingency plans, promotion, surveys, and evaluation. The goal is for you to produce a written program plan for camp programs.



CP 307, Camp Personnel and Volunteer Administration

Discover how to select, motivate, evaluate, supervise, train, and encourage the staff of a camping ministry whether they are paid or volunteer. Be equipped with the conceptual framework and the human relation skills necessary to the successful personnel management of a recreational service organization.

CP 308, Management of Camp Support Services

Be introduced to competencies necessary for effectively managing the support services that surround organizations, including: food service, facilities services, housekeeping, transportation, medical services, and site maintenance. Key topics: record keeping, planning, equipment procurement, outsourcing, budgeting, evaluation, standards, and inspections.

CP 405, Current Trends and Issues in Camping

Learn to navigate camp accreditation, environmental issues, professional development of camp personnel, current trends of camp operation in food service, facilities management, health concerns, universal access, etc. Students at this level should be able to articulate a biblical philosophy of camping ministry.

CP 407, Non-Profit Financial Management

Study basic budgetary principles and procedures for not-for-profit agencies. Key topics: budgeting, reporting, financing, cost analysis, fund-raising, stewardship, and donor management.

CP 409, Foundations of Experiential Based Learning

Become knowledgeable about current experience-based learning theories, models, and tools. Investigate, evaluate, and adapt them in order to develop skills for facilitating learning for a wide range of students in a variety of environments. Learn the origins and reasons for the effectiveness of experiential learning in a post-modern world. Evaluate your own style of teaching and learn to make adjustments in that style to facilitate experience-based learning in a wide variety of educational environments.

CP 414, Non-Profit Governance & Administration

Examine structural models for governance of non-profit organizations and get acquainted with principles and practices employed by boards and administrations for the management of such agencies. Key topics: board structure, legal issues, strategic planning, crisis management, and reporting.

CP 416, Camp Communications

Be introduced to the technology and computer software currently available to effectively communicate to a target group through a wide range of venues. Since keeping up with the latest technology is crucial to effective camp leadership, you will learn to use software to produce media presentations, brochures, displays, and websites for a camping ministry. You will also be trained how to write effective press releases, use spreadsheets, understand camp database software, and produce meaningful, computer-generated reports.

CP 421, Camp Field Experience

Gain supervised practical experience as a camp counselor or camp staff position in a Christian camp, with emphasis on a broad exposure to camp ministry and to the spiritual leadership of a cabin group or camp programming. Minimum of eight weeks' ministry at an approved Bible camp or related ministry.

Camping Skill Classes

Skill Classes are designed to give practical training in outdoor activities. You will not only learn the physical skills but also how to lead and facilitate others in similar experiences. Courses in both adventure and environmental programming will be offered each semester as you develop a good foundation for your professional development portfolio. Skill Classes only meet for a portion of the semester and are conducted in the outdoors. These courses are what reinforce and solidify classroom learning for the camping student. You will see how activities can be designed to bring about biblical transformation in the lives of participants.

CP 430, Basic Skills (Ropes & Knots)

Review and practice basic facilitation skills utilized in adventure programming. Emphasis on setting up, ropes, knots, equipment care, and safety practices such as spotting and belay techniques.

CP 431, Ropes Course

Learn and practice the basic ropes course skills in accordance with ACCT (Association for Challenge Course Technology) standards. Hard and soft skills are taught, to adequately facilitate an individual or small group on dynamic and static, single and multiple element high ropes course. Special emphasis is placed on the programmatic use of a ropes course and high elements such as a zipline and adventure swing in a Bible Camp or impact ministry setting.

CP 432, Adventure Based Counseling

Learn to facilitate low ropes and group challenge initiatives using counseling techniques with small groups to make spiritual applications for behavioral modification.

CP 433, Whitewater Rafting

Gain the skills to guide class 1-5 rapids as a paddle guide. Safety standards and rescue techniques are reviewed.

CP 435, Backpacking/Camping

Experience and learn the basics of backpacking such as trip planning, equipment, cooking and nutrition, hygiene and water purification, navigation, wilderness travel, weather, nature, and risk management procedures. The class is taught from a "Leave No Trace" hiking and camping philosophy. Special emphasis is placed on campfires, campsite selection, and backpacking protocols.

CP 436, Rock Climbing

Review and practice the basics of rock climbing techniques including traversing, bouldering, and top-rope climbing. Special emphasis is placed on anchoring systems and top rope rock site management.

CP 437, Orienteering

Learn the basics of orienteering for backcountry navigation. Emphasis will be upon navigating with a compass, topographical map reading, using map and compass together, and an introduction to GPS navigation. You will progress through a series of exercises and games to improve skills, design an orienteering course, locate a geocache, and navigate in a wilderness setting.

CP 440, Outdoor Leadership

Learn advanced leadership, backpacking, and camping skills. Emphasis on survival techniques, gender issues, search and rescue, liability, ethics, risk management procedures, trip planning/preparation, trip evaluation, and winter camping.

CP 441, Caving

Learn the basics of horizontal wild caving and caving standards as published by NSS. Low impact caving is stressed.

CP 444, Canoeing

Be trained in the basics of canoeing, especially paddle strokes and water safety.

CP 445, Vertical Caving

Learn the basics of vertical caving and caving standards as published by NSS. Emphasis on descending, ascending, anchor systems, and vertical rescue.

CP 446, Low Ropes & Initiatives

Learn to facilitate low ropes courses. Initiatives are taught to facilitate group unity and personal spiritual growth through problem solving challenges.

CP 447, Basic First Aid/CPR

Get practical training in child/adult basic first aid and CPR, resulting in certification for the professional rescuer.

CP 448, Wilderness First Aid

Gain practical training in medical assistance in a wilderness area where hospitals or medical facilities are not readily available. Upon successful completion, you will receive WFA certification.

CP 449, Waterfront Skills

Learn how to supervise, operate, and manage waterfronts such as pools, lakes, and streams. Select the level of certification desired, from lifeguard to CPO (Certified Pool Operator). Upon successful completion, you will receive the appropriate Red Cross certification.

CP 450, Horsemanship

Get practical training in the care and use of horses in a typical camp setting. Upon successful completion, you will receive the appropriate certification.

CP 451, Adventure Gaming

Learn to facilitate small and large groups in paintball and adventure games. Emphasis on application of biblical truth to participants through experiential learning.

CP 454, Foundations of Ecology

Explore the basic biotic and abiotic elements that make up local ecosystems. Through individual and group experiences in creation, you will learn how to integrate nature programming into a summer camp setting.

CP 457, Outdoor Curriculum Development

Learn lesson planning, resource gathering, and marketing for an environmental education program, using resources such as Project WILD and NASA Educator's Resource Center. Learn to build curricula that meet state and NAAEE standards.

PE 103, Physical Education (Camping)

Discover the foundations of gaming and play in an experiential learning environment. Emphasis is on designing and leading balanced games, play, and recreation with participant outcome in mind.



Appalachian Bible College

Established: 1950

Location: Mount Hope, West Virginia (near Beckley)

Size: 250–300 students; 130+ acres

Affiliation: Independent; mostly associated with Bible and Baptist churches.

Accreditation: National and Regional

Academic Programs:

- Bible Certificate
- A.A. in Bible/Theology
- B.A. in Bible/Theology + a ministry major
- M.A. in Ministry
- ABC Connect—Online Learning

Required Major: Bible/Theology

Second Ministry Majors:

- Camping Ministry
- Elementary Education (WV State Certified)
- Interdisciplinary
- Missions (Internship, Language, Nursing, TESOL)
- Music (Choral, Piano, Vocal)
- Pastoral (English Bible, New Testament Greek)
- Youth and Family Ministry (Biblical Counseling)



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...because *Life is for Service.*