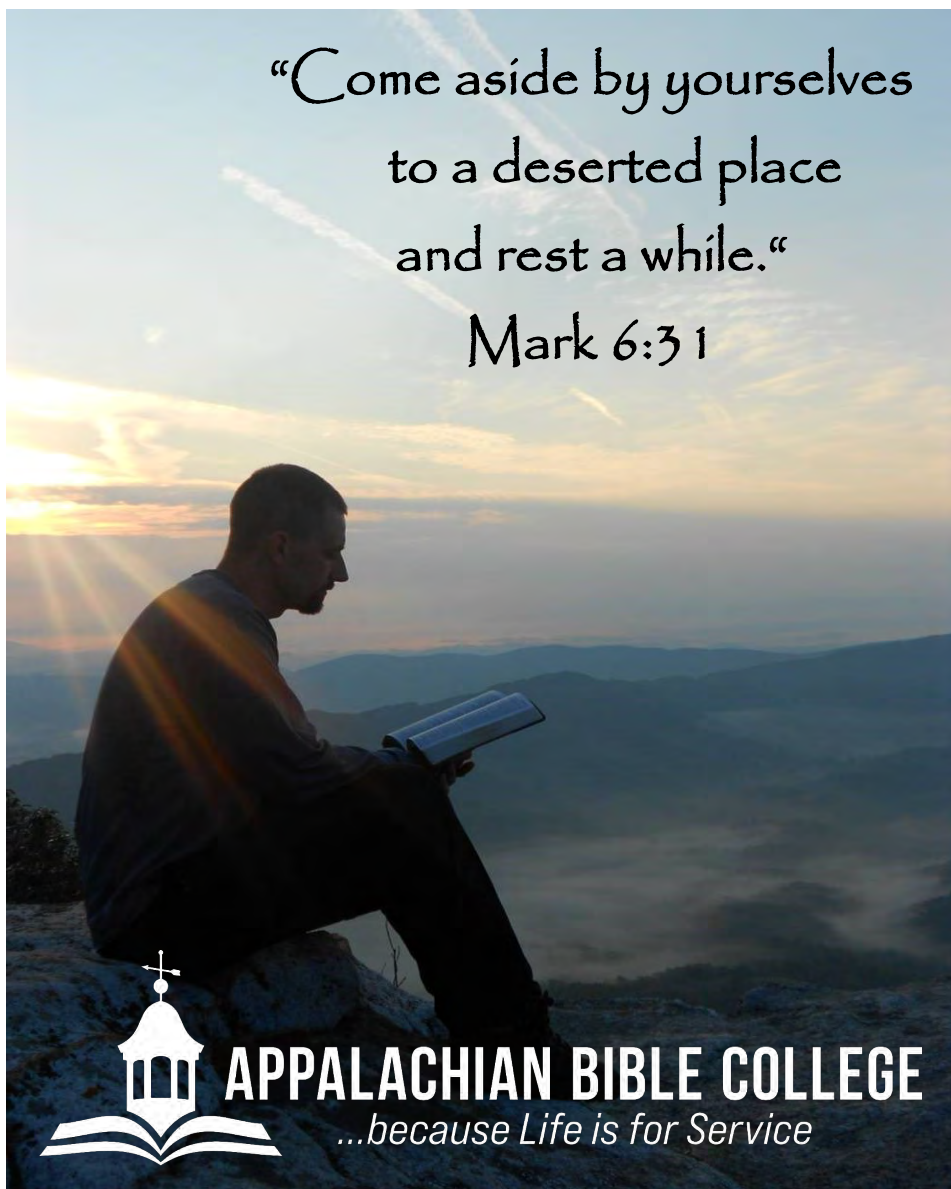


# Camping Ministry Major

Training Servants in Outdoor Ministry

“Come aside by yourselves  
to a deserted place  
and rest a while.”

Mark 6:31



**APPALACHIAN BIBLE COLLEGE**

*...because Life is for Service*

# 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 camping 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 ministry experience in one of the nation's premiere camping programs. 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 an exciting and powerful tool that can assist local churches in the great commission** to make disciples of all nations.

Suicide is a 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 these 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.

## Camping Ministry Major Objectives

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



# SOAR

## Servants in Outdoor Adventure & Residential Recreation

*“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.”*

Camping Ministry Major Graduate



“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

# 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.

- Foundations of Camping & Outdoor Education
- Risk Management
- Recreation Leadership
- Camp Counseling
- Camp Programming I
- Camp Programming II
- Camp Personnel and Volunteer Administration
- Management of Camp Support Services
- Foundations of Experiential Based Learning
- Camp Marketing & Public Relations
- Non-Profit Camp Administration
- Camp Field Experience



# 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 & Teambuilding
- High Ropes Course
- Rock Climbing
- Caving
- Vertical Caving
- Horsemanship
- Adventure Gaming
- Whitewater Rafting
- Canoeing
- Backpacking
- Orienteering
- Outdoor Leadership
- Foundations of Ecology
- Environmental Interpretation
- Basic First Aid/CPR
- Wilderness First Aid
- Waterfront Skills



# Career Ministry Opportunities

ABC graduates currently serve as camp directors, program directors, adventure ministries directors, directors of environmental education programs (where they teach creation based science courses in the outdoors), and some are serving in camps overseas.

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

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

## 3 Areas of Ministry Focus

### Residential Camp Ministry

Students desiring to minister in a traditional Bible camp setting can build upon their foundational courses by taking Skill Classes related to ministry interests and leadership development. These will help them become more effective ministry leaders.

### Adventure Ministry

Students learn a distinctly experiential and biblical approach to adventure ministry, while enjoying outdoor venues that draw enthusiasts from all over the world. With these skills, graduates serve as adventure and wilderness guides in various outdoor settings.

### Environmental Education Ministry

Camps across the United States are developing hands-on science programs to help meet public, private, and homeschool education standards and requirements. Use God's world to teach from a Creationist's perspective





# Camping Major Courses

## **CP 004, Sophomore Platform**

In the spring semester of the sophomore year, camping students will be assessed in various areas as a prerequisite for final acceptance into the Camping Major. Requirements and interview must be completed before students can register for junior camping courses.

## **CP 101, Foundations of Camping & Outdoor Education**

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the history, philosophies, and current trends within the outdoor education and organized camping movement. The following major topics will be addressed: centralized vs. de-centralized programming; residential and wilderness environments; needs-based and age graded programming. Students will 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. The students will be helped to develop and clearly articulate a solid philosophic approach to developing a camping ministry.

## **CP 204, Camp Counseling**

This course has been developed to train individuals in the effective counseling of campers in day and residential camping. Emphasis is placed on understanding the needs of campers and how to lead them to an understanding of a need for personal change and growth. Key topics will include servant leadership, proper use of Scripture in a counseling setting, and counseling skills such as building relationships, camper discipline, leading Bible discussions, communicating your faith, and discipleship.

## **CP 205, Risk Management**

This course provides the student with a systematic approach to risk management for a camp or recreation ministry. Students will explore how to protect their ministry against negligence and how to manage risks through accident prevention and emergency response plans.

## **CP 208, Recreation Leadership**

This course helps the student develop a biblical philosophy for using active learning environments to teach biblical truth through small group discipleship. The goal is to help students to acquire leadership skills necessary to assess the needs of group members, to formulate solution-oriented approaches to meet those needs, and to motivate people to move toward God.



# Camping Major Courses

## **CP 305, Camp Programming I**

The student will 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 will include 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**

Students will be assisted in his/her understanding and ability 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. Students will be able to produce a written program plan for camp programs.

## **CP 307, Camp Personnel and Volunteer Administration**

This class will demonstrate how to select, motivate, evaluate, supervise, train, and encourage the staff of a camping ministry whether they are paid or volunteer. This course is designed to equip the student 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**

This course will introduce people 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 will include record keeping, planning, equipment procurement, outsourcing, budgeting, evaluation, standards, and inspections. The goal of this class is to assist the student in his understanding and appreciation of the role of support services in making things look so nice, taste so good, and run so smoothly for all the guests/campers that they come back for more.



# Camping Major Courses

## **CP 409, Foundations of Experiential Based Learning**

This course is designed to introduce the student to current experience-based learning theories, models, and tools. Students will interact with these theories, investigating, evaluating, and adapting them in order to develop skills for facilitating learning for a wide range of students in a variety of environments and experiences. Experiential learning is a model that is highly effective in a post-modern world. This course will help students to understand its origins and the reasons for its effectiveness. This model will be taught in such a way that a student will be able to evaluate his/her style of teaching and make adjustments in that style to facilitate experience-based learning in a wide variety of educational environments.

## **CP 416, Camp Marketing & Public Relations**

Students will learn to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing plan for effectively promoting a camp or recreation ministry to specific target markets using current media. Emphasis will be upon developing and maintaining positive public relationships between the ministry and constituents.

## **CP 421, Camp Field Experience**

This course provides a 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 programming of camp activities and program. All field experiences must be pre-approved by the Camping Ministry Major Chair. The field experience requires a minimum of eight weeks' ministry at an approved Bible camp or related ministry.

## **CP 424, Non-Profit Camp Administration**

This course will explore key administrative duties needed to effectively direct a non-profit camp or recreation ministry. Emphasis will be on leading a ministry team, staying on mission while navigating change through strategic planning, basic non-profit accounting principles, a biblical approach to fundraising, and maintaining a cooperative relationship with a board of directors.



# Camping Major Courses

## **Camping Skill Classes**

Camping Skill Courses are designed to give practical training in outdoor activities. Students will not only learn the physical skills to facilitate others safely but also to use the activity for evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development. Skill Classes only meet for a portion of the semester and are conducted in the outdoors. They reinforce and solidify classroom learning for the camping student. For each Skill Class hour taken, there will be a lab fee charged to assist with transportation, equipment, and certification fees.

### **CP 430, Basic Skills (Ropes & Knots)**

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

### **CP 431, Ropes Course**

Students will learn and practice the basic ropes course skills in accordance with A.C.C.T. (Association for Challenge Course Technology) standards. Students are taught hard and soft skills needed to adequately facilitate an individual or small group on a 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 433, Whitewater Rafting**

Students learn to guide class 1-5 rapids as a paddle guide. Safety standards and rescue techniques are reviewed. Trips are scheduled each Friday & Saturday starting in mid-March.

### **CP 435, Backpacking**

Students will 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**

Students will 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.



# Camping Major Courses

## **CP 437, Orienteering**

Students will 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. Each student will progress through a series of exercises and games to improve skills, design an orienteering course, locate a geo-cache, and navigate in a wilderness setting.

## **CP 440, Outdoor Leadership**

Students learn advanced leadership, backpacking, and camping skills. Special emphasis is placed on survival techniques, gender issues, search and rescue, liability, ethics, risk management procedures, trip planning/preparation, trip evaluation, and winter camping.

## **CP 441, Caving**

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

## **CP 444, Canoeing**

Students are taught the basics of canoeing. Paddle strokes and water safety are emphasized.

## **CP 445, Vertical Caving**

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

## **CP 446, Low Ropes & Teambuilding**

Students learn to facilitate low rope courses. Initiatives are taught to facilitate group unity and personal spiritual growth through problem solving challenges.

## **CP 447, Basic First Aid/CPR**

This course provides practical training in child/adult basic first aid and CPR for the professional rescuer. Upon successful completion of the course, the student receives certification in first aid and CPR for the professional rescuer.

## **CP 448, Wilderness First Aid**

This course provides practical training in giving medical assistance to persons in a wilderness area where hospitals or medical treatment facilities are not readily available. Upon successful completion of the course, the student receives a WFA certification. A current CPR certification is required for the certification to become valid.

# Camping Major Courses

## **CP 449, Waterfront Skills**

This course provides practical training in supervision, operation, and management of waterfronts such as pools, lakes, and streams. Students select the level of certification desired, from lifeguard to CPO (Certified Pool Operator). Upon successful completion of the course, the student receives the appropriate Red Cross certification. Students without a current First Aid and CPR certification will be required to pass the written and practical test for each. An additional lab fee is required to cover costs of certification card.

## **CP 450, Horsemanship**

This course provides practical training in the care and use of horses in a typical camp setting. Upon successful completion of the course, the student receives the appropriate certification. An additional lab fee is required to cover costs of certification card.

## **CP 451, Adventure Gaming**

This course provides practical training in the facilitation of small and large groups in paintball and adventure games. Emphasis is placed on the application of biblical truth to participants through experiential learning.

## **CP 454, Foundations of Ecology**

In this class, students explore the basic biotic and abiotic elements that make up local ecosystems. Through individual and group experiences in creation, students learn how to integrate nature programming into a summer camp setting.

## **CP 456, Environmental Interpretation**

Students learn how to communicate truth about God's creation and environmental issues in a variety of contexts. Teaching models and communication skills are put into practice as students plan and lead interpretive nature hikes. This class focuses on nonformal education strategies.

## **CP 458, Top Rope Climbing Guide**

This is a climbing guide training course in both top-managed and bottom-managed top-rope climbing. The course focuses on technical climbing and guiding skills, managing guests, instructional skills, and pertinent rescue techniques. To receive a certification, students must demonstrate mastery of the essential skills for safely and efficiently guiding a guest during a top-rope climbing assessment.

## **PE 103, Physical Education (Camping)**

This class will teach the foundations of gaming and play in an experiential learning environment. Emphasis will be on designing and leading balanced games, play, and recreation with participant outcome in mind.

# Camping Major Courses



*“I chose the ABC Camping Major because I made a life changing decision at camp and I want to impact others in the same way.”*

– Camping Student



## ABC at a Glance

- Established: 1950
- Location: Mount Hope, West Virginia (near Beckley)
- Size: 250–300 Students; 130+ acres
- Affiliation: Independent; fundamental, mostly associated with Bible and Baptist churches.
- Academics:
  - Bible Certificate
  - A.A. in Bible & Theology
  - B.A. in Bible & Theology
  - M.A. in Ministry
  - ABC Connect—Online Learning

### **Required Major: Bible/Theology** **Second Ministry Majors**

- Biblical Counseling (Women’s Ministries, Youth & Family)
- Camping Ministry
- Elementary Education (WV State Certified)
- Interdisciplinary
- Missions (Aviation, Biblical Languages, Foreign Language, International Studies, Music, Nursing, TESOL, Women’s Ministries, Worship, Youth & Family)
- Music (Missions, Pedagogy, Performance, Worship)
- Pastoral (Biblical Counseling, Biblical Languages, Worship, Youth & Family)



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