



OCF Mountain Central photo

Mountain Central Regional Coordinators Steve and Miriam Shambach, right, on a recent visit to Fort Huachuca.



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SPRING 2024

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**OCF's mission is to engage military leaders
in Biblical fellowship and growth to equip
them for Christlike service at the intersection
of faith, family, and profession.**

A look inside the role of OCF's Regional Coordinators

BY COURTNEY TAYLOR

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

"The Apostle Paul was required to make a hasty departure from the Thessalonian church as persecutions increased (1 Thessalonians 2:2)," said Bobbie Simpson, who serves with husband Larry as the Regional Coordinator Couple for the Pacific Northwest Region. "Though the church was fruitful and vibrant, he was deeply concerned that they continue to grow, flourish, and not be discouraged by his own hardships, [so] he sent Timothy (1 Thessalonians 3:1-3) to further establish and encourage the young church in their faith."

Bobbie noted a similarity between the purpose and function of Timothy's role in those passages from 1 Thessalonians and those of the Regional Coordinator role she and Larry fill.

"I see the role of Regional Coordinators as one of relationship building,

encouraging, equipping, even revitalizing the fervor for ministry, and fellowship among OCF members," Bobbie said, adding in the priorities of building relationships with chaplains and churches, too.

The Simpsons serve as Regional Coordinators alongside five other couples, comprising a small team of OCF staffers who each oversee a different portion of the map of OCF ministry.

The OCF Regional Coordinator Vision Statement makes their purpose clear: "The heart of this position is one of a shepherd who develops, grows, and sustains relationships with OCF members, chaplains, and ministry co-laborers. An RC is a catalyst advancing the Lord's Kingdom via OCF."

Likewise, the OCF Handbook explains the Regional Coordinator is "responsible for encouraging, equipping, and overseeing OCF Local Leaders, Contacts, and

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Photo by Colin Wooten

Scott Fisher, left, and Dale Holland address more than 100 total attendees online and in person during OCF's inaugural Global Town Hall on 10 February.

Ministry in focus: Key takeaways from OCF's Global Town Hall

BY JOSH JACKSON
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

"We're here as an organization to walk alongside those individuals who are putting the uniform on, walking into their units every day, and trying to live their faith out as leaders in the military, as leaders of their families," said Col Dale Holland, USAF (Ret.).

Dale, who serves as OCF Council president, shared that remark during OCF's inaugural Global Town Hall in February, an event in which he and OCF CEO/ Executive Director Col Scott Fisher, USAF (Ret.), reflected on the ministry's long-standing commitment to fostering spiritual unity among military personnel and outlined its future strategic directions.

Dale went on to emphasize the importance of the OCF Handbook, which details the organization's history and mission to support service members in integrating faith with their professional and personal lives. He highlighted the organization's focus on individual members and strategic planning for ministry impact.

In his opening statements, Scott shared updates on the engagement and spiritual growth of cadets and

midshipmen through OCF's programs, underscoring the success of retreats and fellowships. He also outlined the year's priorities, which include enhancing fellowship among members, supporting local leaders, and expanding the network of regional coordinators to bolster the OCF's global presence and effectiveness in ministry.

"We want members to connect with other members," said Scott, while also referencing Hebrews 10:24-25. "This is going to look different, depending upon where you are in the world."

The town hall, which included a mix of OCF members meeting in-person at OCF's Home Office in Colorado Springs and individuals and groups joining via Zoom, underscored OCF's dedication to its core mission of nurturing Christian leadership within the military.

By investing in community building, strategic planning, and regional support, OCF aims to deepen its impact on military society, encouraging service members and their families to live out their faith in a supportive community.

"God is concerned with how we integrate our faith ... family and profession," said Dale. 🙏

12 topics covered

The Global Town Hall included a Q&A session with those in attendance. The questions centered on these topics:

1. Local Leader training and information.
2. Balancing OCF involvement with commitment to the local church.
3. Starting an OCF ROTC group at a university that does not have one.
4. Opportunities for retirees and former military to get involved with OCF.
5. Creating more awareness about OCF.
6. Challenges that our Christian military chaplains are facing.
7. OCF funding shortfalls.
8. Focusing on the National Guard and Reserves.
9. Reaching out beyond US membership.
10. Pursuing GRACE relations amid a divisive and dismissive culture.
11. Regional training conferences.
12. Two to three things that both Dale and Scott are excited about in the upcoming year.

Watch and listen online
GTH video and audio playback:
ocfusa.org/townhall2024

Or listen to a podcast version of the event by subscribing to the OCF Crosspoint podcast wherever you listen to podcasts.

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activities for a designated location."

OCF Regional Coordinators currently include the following individuals at these respective regions:

- CAPT Chris & Maggie Blake, USN (Ret.), OCF Southeast Region
- CDR Joe & CDR Kristi Chiaravallotti, USN (Ret.), OCF Mid-Atlantic Region
- COL Tim and Christine Hayes, USA OCF Northeast Region (*starting September 2024 after retiring from Army*)
- COL Steve & Miriam Shambach, USA (Ret.), OCF Mountain Central Region
- Col Larry & Bobbie Simpson, USAF (Ret.), OCF Pacific Northwest Region
- Col Hous & Tami Waring, USAF (Ret.), OCF Central Region

These six couples bring OCF's ministry-wide priority to "expand and mature the Local Leader Network" to life, enabling the execution of this priority, prayerfully set by Council members and staff for the fiscal year.

The membership

Regional Coordinators Steve and Miriam Shambach said they ultimately serve as representatives of OCF on their travels to members, chaplains, para-church leaders, and ROTC units across their vast region.

"Our goal is to fan the flame of OCF fellowship and be the face of OCF within our Mountain Central Region," said the Shambachs, who stepped into their role in August 2022. "We try to connect with members, encouraging them in their walks with God and in staying connected to the ministry, and we provide them with resources and educate them about what OCF has to offer them as they minister to the military in their locations."

Col Scotty Nowlin, USAF (Ret.), and wife Joelyn are OCF Area Coordinators—another key part of the Local Leader Network. As Area Coordinators, the Nowlins are responsible for encouraging, equipping, and overseeing OCF Local Leaders, Contacts, and activities specifically within Northern Utah, which the Shambachs visited in late 2023.

"Here at the local level, we deeply appreciate the investment OCF is making in Regional Coordinators," Scotty said, adding that the Shambachs' visit helped to "re-establish relationships between OCF members and Hill AFB Chaplains and Chapel staff members, ROTC Unit members and



Photo by Larry Simpson

OCF Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator Larry Simpson speaks to participants of the monthly 12th MLR OCF faith and leadership study/lunch at Camp Hansen, Okinawa. Larry and his wife, Bobbie, also oversee the OCF Pacific Region, which includes portions of east Asia.

leaders, and active duty and retired OCF Members and their families."

In addition to establishing and maintaining relationships at the local level, Regional Coordinators also serve as a go-between for those across the region and the OCF staff.

"Being the 'eyes and ears' of OCF allows us to not only represent the members within our region, but we also are a link so that OCF staff can better support them as they integrate their faith with their profession, their families, and their communities," the Shambachs said, adding that their own experiences in the military enhance their ability to relate to and to support the membership they serve.

Regional Coordinators often increase members' and partners' awareness of ministry opportunities. The Shambachs said they've observed that many members they meet do not know about the many resources available on the OCF website and that many retirees and former military do not know they can step into roles as mentors, ROTC volunteers, and more.

The Simpsons similarly said they as Regional Coordinators get to serve as a go-between for members at different corners of their expansive Pacific Northwest Region.

"For instance, when one location gets news of how another is growing and ministering, that may inspire new thoughts of how to engage in ministry at their own location,"

the Simpsons said. "We have observed that simply showing up sends a message that 'big OCF' sees them, is concerned that they feel supported, and is grateful for their efforts to minister Christ to the military community."

Within the OCF membership exists those who, per the OCF Handbook, "start, sustain, and hand off the baton of leadership for a specific OCF fellowship body"—Local Leaders.

"The regional coordinator network allows, in a much stronger way, OCF to further encourage those Local Leaders," said Col Chet Arnold, USMC (Ret.), who once served as a Regional Coordinator for the Southeast Coastal Region before stepping into his current role as OCF's Chief Operating Officer.

Chet said OCF's conference centers, Spring Canyon (Buena Vista, Colo.) and White Sulphur Springs (Manns Choice, Pa.), seek to accomplish the same thing, but Regional Coordinators can go to Local Leaders and their Bible studies in ways the conference centers cannot.

As a Local Leader of many years himself, Chet said his knowledge of all OCF offered was once limited to Bible studies and White Sulphur Springs. Regional Coordinators can now ensure Local Leaders can, in Chet's words, "plug into the broader view" of the

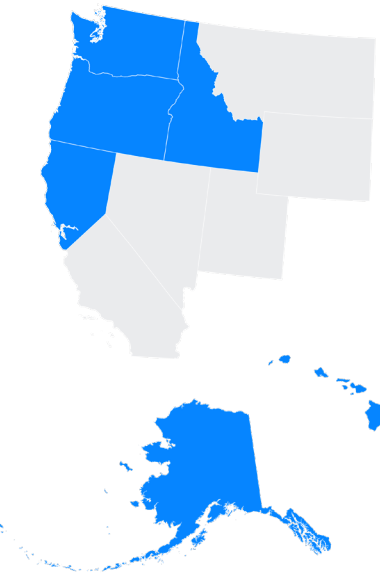
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Pacific Northwest



Col Larry & Bobbie Simpson, USAF (Ret.), OCF Pacific Northwest

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Continued from page 3

ministry, creating a “more close-knit” OCF family.

The chaplaincy

In addition to better equipping the OCF membership, Regional Coordinators seek to develop relationships with our military’s chaplains.

The Chiaravallottis began serving as Regional Coordinators for the Mid-Atlantic Region in October 2022. In an area where ages and stages of military service vary, Joe said he has observed a common eagerness to engage in fellowship and Bible study.

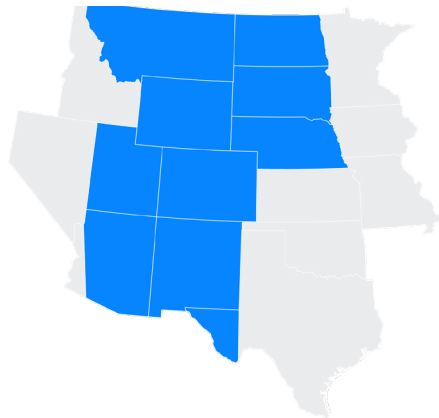
One such example is that of a Bible study that began at USCG Base Portsmouth in February 2024. Joe worked with Ch(Capt) Jadrian Haywood, USAFR, who is also a pastor at a local church in Suffolk, Va., as he also began to take on the role of OCF Local

Mountain Central



COL Steve & Miriam Shambach, USA (Ret.), OCF Mountain Central

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Leader by starting a weekly study on the intersection of faith, service, and life.

Nearly 200 miles north, MAJ Jane Baer, USAR (Ret.), serves as a Local Leader with her husband, COL Bob Baer, USA, in the Woodbridge, Va., area. Jane said the Regional Coordinators’ relationships with Local Leaders, like her and her husband’s with Joe and Kristi, strengthens ministry efforts at local and regional levels.

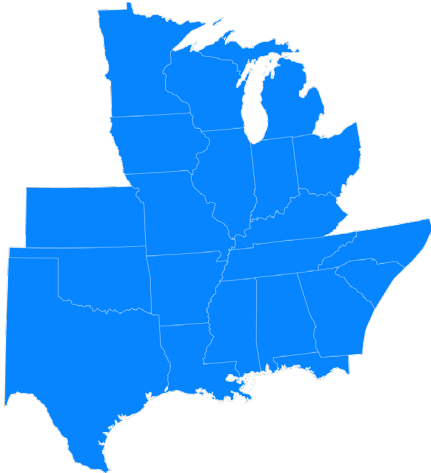
“We as Local Leaders are able to share our experiences in this particular region, our particular locale concerns (high number of retirees/low [active duty] participation), our input how best to support the Active Duty in this area, how to support Ft. Belvoir Chaplaincy and how to reshape OCF within this unique location with distinct challenges,” Jane said. “[Joe] is a sounding board for us as Local Leaders and values our opinions and experiences. He makes us feel as if we are not just ‘blowing in the wind’ as Local Leaders.”

Central



Col Hous & Tami Waring, USAF (Ret.), OCF Central

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Meanwhile, Kristi shared one of her favorite stories of seeing God at work in “totally unexpected” ways through their ministry as Regional Coordinators.

When getting introduced to a mutual OCF friend, Amy, for coffee in early 2024, Amy brought along another recent connection who is a chaplain’s spouse, Lindsay, who had recently moved from Guam. What Kristi expected to be a short chat over coffee among these three women who had never met each other turned into three hours of “great conversation” and the start of new friendships.

“To have the chaplain’s spouse there was just a really sweet thing... and [she] is so much looking forward to her family now getting connected with White Sulphur Springs,” Kristi said.

The ministry co-laborers

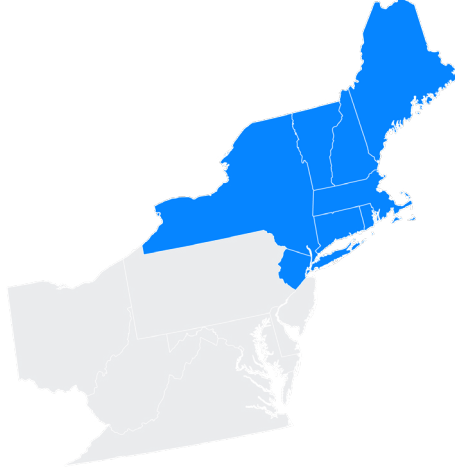
Joe also shared stories of multi-ministry collaboration and examples of “God’s

Northeast



COL Tim and Christine Hayes, USA, OCF Northeast

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divine providence” within his and Kristi’s region, such as that of a discouraged lance corporal in Washington, D.C., who was seeking fellowship and reached out to Maj Tim Tormey, USMC (Ret.), the OCF Field Staff Rep at Maxwell-Gunter AFB.

Tim connected the lance corporal with Joe and LtCol Mike West, USMC (Ret.), the director of Tun Tavern Fellowship, a military ministry and network for Christians specifically in the Marine Corps.

Joe and Mike ultimately were able to get the lance corporal connected with SgtMaj Jesse Dorsey, USMC, who ended up meeting with and encouraging the lance corporal.

“That is the reward of seeing God work in ministry,” Joe said, echoing OCF’s desire to partner with other like-minded ministries, “and this exemplifies that.”

COL Keith Morgan, USA (Ret.), now serves as the director of the National Capital Region for Cru Military. His partnership with the Chiaravallottis is just one of many

Mid-Atlantic



CDR Joe & CDR Kristi Chiaravallotti, USN (Ret.), OCF Mid-Atlantic

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personal examples of the organizational partnership between Cru Military and OCF.

“Not only is [Joe] a team player; he’s also a ministry force multiplier,” Keith said. “Eager to support and partner with me as I serve with Cru Military, he’s been a great encouragement as we have sought to work together in connecting with military chaplains on bases around the National Capital Region.”

Get involved

Jane encouraged members and Local Leaders alike to reach out to their respective Regional Coordinator to share any concerns regarding OCF’s mission, to ask for guidance, and to seek prayer and support.

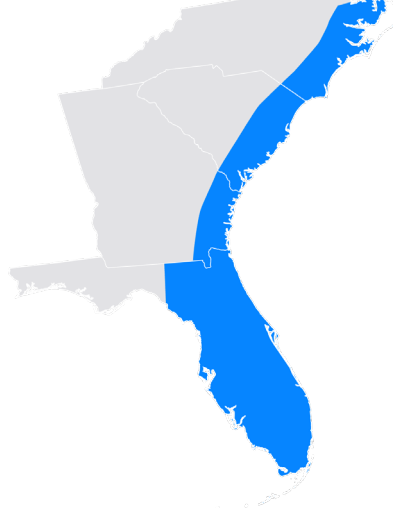
“Local Leaders should ask if the RC might be able to attend a [local] picnic, fellowship, or study to get a feel for the locale,” Jane said. “And also ask the RC to relay those concerns to the OCF President and Council to give a better picture of the challenges, concerns,

Southeast



CAPT Chris & Maggie Blake, USN (Ret.), OCF Southeast

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best practices, etc. for locales within the region.”

With a couple of Regional Coordinator openings waiting to be filled (Southwest, Europe, and possibly upper Midwest), Chet encouraged OCF members to pray for, and perhaps even consider filling, those vacancies.

“Thank God for what he’s done, pray for wisdom and being a part of what God wants to continue to do, and consider how you might be a part of it—if not today, maybe in the future,” Chet said. ☮

Looking for RCs and ACs to join us

If you or someone you know are interested in filling one of the open Regional Coordinator roles or in becoming an Area Coordinator, reach out to LTC Colin Wooten, USA (Ret.), Director of Field Operations: colin.wooten@ocfusa.org.

Note: OCF’s Europe and Pacific regions are not depicted here, but you can find groups in those regions on the OCF Directory: ocfusa.org/directory.



Spring Canyon photo

Summary of Fall 2023 OCF Council Meeting

In October, your Officers' Christian Fellowship Council met at Spring Canyon in Colorado, just in time to enjoy the last traces of the aspens in fully color and to catch a few early snow flurries. Nineteen Council and Special Council members were able to gather in person, alongside about forty different home office and field staff.

President Dale Holland set the tone for his first meeting as Council president by placing an empty chair in the middle of the room, within clear eye-sight of all in attendance. This chair served as a visible reminder that the ministry of OCF is first and foremost our Lord's ministry; and that in every action, interaction, and decision, we are striving to follow His leadership and seeking His approval alone. Accordingly, our theme verse for this meeting was 1 Peter 5:6-7, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you."

After our Pray-Discover-Obey, we addressed many normal items of business, including reviewing the FY23 audit, financial/budget updates, approving the FY25 priorities, and completing annual board member training.

But, by far the highlight of this meeting was the ministry-wide update, in which we were briefed on status of current ops, praise reports, and prayer requests from each area of God's ministry directly from the staff members themselves and then had the precious privilege to pray for each of them individually. We also shared a picnic lunch with all present in which two long-standing staff members were recognized for their years, service, and impact. Council leadership seized the opportunity to plunge into the icy, spring-fed pond to retrieve the watermelons for dessert.

Council also had the honor to tour the new Home Office in Colorado Springs and to pray over the space, the saints that work there, and the military community that OCF is purposed to impact for Christ.

—LTJG Brigit Jogan, USCG

OCF Ministry News

New staff

PK Carlton assumed the duties as the Director of Field Staff effective 1 Dec. PK joins the team to focus on the care and engagement for our Field Staff at the four Service Academies and our Gateway ministries at Leavenworth and Maxwell. PK and Lindsey have served as Local Leaders across their Air Force career, later serving as Ministry Team at USAFA that led to them leading the USAFA ministry for two years. They love having cadets over and mentoring young officers and have a heart for the Field Staff and their families that serve our key ministries.



Lt Liam Wood, USNR, has joined the OCF team as Associate Field Staff for the US Merchant Marine Academy. Liam is leading a campaign to raise funds towards a desired full-time Field Staff Rep at USMMA. To learn more about USMMA OCF ministry and follow Liam's ministry efforts there, subscribe to his email newsletter here: kpcf.substack.com.

Regional Coordinator changes

Central Regional Coordinator:
Col Hous & Tami Waring, USAF (Ret.)

Hous & Tami both graduated from the US Air Force Academy where they discovered the ministry of OCF, and OCF is where they met one another. Hous served primarily as an F-15E Strike Eagle pilot, commander, and staff officer. Tami served as a Space Systems Analyst before moving to a full-time mother and teacher role. Hous previously served as the OCF Director of Field Engagement until transitioning over to the role of the Central Regional Coordinator in June of 2023, and Tami currently serves as the OCF Director for Women's Ministry.

Southeast Regional Coordinator:
CAPT Chris & Maggie Blake, USN (Ret.)

Chris & Maggie met and married while on active duty and have sought to serve the Lord together however and wherever He has led ever since. For the past 12 years, they served in various capacities in the OCF Home Office in Colorado. Then in December of 2023, the Blakes retired to South Florida and joyfully took on their new role as Southeast Regional Coordinators—encouraging and helping OCF Area Coordinators, Local Leaders, Contacts, and Hospitality Home hosts also serve Him well.

Area Coordinator additions

The following individuals have become Area Coordinators since fall 2022:

- **Ogden, UT/Hill AFB:** Col Scotty & Joelyn Nowlin, USAF (Ret.)
- **Omaha-Lincoln, NE/Offutt AFB:** Lt Col Jim & Melanie Wamhoff, USAF (Ret.)
- **Orange County, CA:** LT Rudy & Mai Swigart, USNR (Ret.)
- **Central Texas:** Lt Col Matthew McQuinn, USAF (Ret.)

Since Our Last Issue

September: Spring Canyon hosted one of the biggest Aspentime Retreats to date, providing teaching, fellowship, and rest to the 80 Christian military members and their families in attendance.

October: OCF Council and Field Staff from all over the country met for prayer, collaboration, and equipping. The week also featured touring the new Home Office in Colorado Springs, enjoying staff devotions and prayer in the beauty of Spring Canyon, exchanging updates from team members' ministries, and setting the course for OCF ministry to come.

November: Approximately two dozen donors contributed to OCF Comms' GivingTuesday campaign, raising over \$3,000 to help more service members and officer candidates benefit from 100 Days Devotional Bible Study.

December: OCF celebrated its 80th anniversary on 31 December with much gratitude for the Lord's

provision for this ministry and anticipation for what He will do in the years to come.

January: USCGA OCF experienced one of its best MLK retreats yet, according to Field Staff Rep Carl Crabtree. Nearly five times as many alumni attended this retreat than did last year, resulting in more connections between them and the cadets and making White Sulphur Springs "a landmark for fellowship," Carl said.

February: Three hundred cadets and midshipmen gathered from 45 campuses across the nation to attend four regional ROTC retreats, each the result of the combined efforts of OCF, Navigators, Oaks International, Cru Valor and InterVarsity ROTC Ministries.

March: OCF announced it became an approved organization with the DOD SkillBridge program, enabling separating service members to intern for up to 6 months with OCF while still receiving their full military pay and allowances.

Small Group Spotlights

Furman University ROTC OCF:
"Who is our true family? And how can we carry out the will of our Father?"

These were the questions posed during Furman University ROTC's OCF Bible study last month while diving into Matthew 12:46-50.

"We recognize that the human or 'nuclear' family is a beautiful and necessary blessing, one that God created and provided. In this passage, our cadets discovered that Jesus is emphasizing that obeying God's will and having the right relationship with Him is most important," shared Local Leader Chase Kuhlman.

Pray for Furman University ROTC OCF as cadets will travel to White Sulphur Springs for this month's Eastern ROTC Retreat, and pray for someone

to step into Chase's Local Leader role after he graduates next semester.

Fort Moore OCF: "How as soldiers and leaders can we be more present in our day-to-day without being consumed in our purpose (end state) so God can powerfully use us?"

That's the question that Anthony Randall and his OCF fellowship group at Fort Moore have been wrestling with in recent weeks.

"In Mark 5, we looked at Jesus healing the woman in the crowd and the synagogue leader's daughter because of his presence, power, and purpose. Jesus' presence was key. Jesus didn't rush to his purpose so quickly that he missed out on being present for God to use His power in multiple ways."



Are you following us on social media?

Follow us on Instagram and LinkedIn to keep up with OCF ministry efforts around the world.
Find us on both platforms: [ocfusa](https://www.ocfusa.org)

GET INVOLVED

Check out our growing list of opportunities to serve throughout the ministry by visiting [ocfusa.org/volunteer](https://www.ocfusa.org/volunteer). Current opportunities include the following roles: Director of Women's Ministry, Archivist, Audio-Video Transcriptionist, and more.

ATTEND

Experience our conference centers this summer

There's no better time than now to visit one of OCF's conference centers. Read on to learn about the special discounts available for first-time guests, active-duty military, and Local Leaders. [Additional discounts may apply. Contact each conference center for details.](#)

AT WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

2 June-2 August: Summer R&R, Allegheny Outback!, and Camp Caleb

- First-time guests receive one free night during their stay.
- Previous WSS guests who bring a first-time guest this summer also receive one free night during their stay.
- All active-duty military get a 10% discount for meals and lodging.
- OCF Local Leaders get a 10% discount for meals and lodging.

> whitesulphursprings.org/summer-rnr

AT SPRING CANYON

8 June-2 August: Summer Celebration, Rocky Mountain High, Father Teen Adventure

- Anyone who brings a first-time guest with them receives a 10% discount.
- Anyone who sends a first-time guest receives a 5% discount voucher.
- Any first-time guest who is brought or sent by others gets a 10% discount.

> springcanyon.org/summer-celebration



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EXPERIENCE OCF'S CONFERENCE CENTERS

The thrill of outdoor adventure.

Deep Christian fellowship around a blazing fire. And solid Biblical teaching. These are just a few of the hallmarks of OCF's conference center ministry at both Spring Canyon (Colorado) and White Sulphur Springs (Pennsylvania).

Watch the video at: ocfusa.org/CCexperience