



## Frequently asked Questions about Central Conference Camps

### » **What are the camps? Who owns and operates them?**

All the churches of the Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church own two Bible camps: Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and Covenant Point, in Iron River, Michigan. Both camps are operated and governed on behalf of the owners by one board, the Harbor Point Ministries Board of Directors, and are managed by on-site, full-time, year-round staffs.

### » **Why do the camps exist?**

Both camps exist to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children and youth at summer camps, and to other guests all year round. The camps also assist owner churches by providing many other program, retreat and training opportunities.

### » **What is the attendance at each camp?**

Covenant Point serves about 700 summer youth campers and 3,000 people year round. Covenant Harbor serves about 2,500 summer youth campers and 30,000 people year round.

### » **How many staff and volunteers work at each camp?**

**Covenant Point:** Currently, Covenant Point has four full-time and three part-time year-round staff, one year-round intern, 33 summer staff, and 39 high school-aged summer work crew volunteers.

**Covenant Harbor:** Currently, Covenant Harbor has 25 full-time and four part-time year round staff, five year-round interns and 75 summer staff.

Both camps often use volunteers to help with special projects. Want to help? Contact Erik Strom (erik@cpbc.com) at Covenant Point or Brad Augustson (bauguston@covenantharbor.org) at Covenant Harbor to learn more.

### » **How many activities do the camps have?**

The camps plan and carry out about 75 programs each year. These include summer camps, youth and adult retreats, wilderness trips and family camps.

### » **What do camp programs cost?**

Camp fees vary depending on the type of event. Costs for specific camp programs can be found at each camp's website. The camps do not "make money" on camp programs, but they do seek to cover the costs of operating high quality and safe programs. Each camp and Harbor Point Ministries offers scholarship aid.

### » **How do you apply to work at our camps?**

Full-time positions are posted on Covenant job boards. Summer staff applications are available at each camp's website, or by contacting either camp.

» **What percent of staff are former campers?**

Generally speaking, most staff have been involved in camping programs before they work on summer staff, and many have been campers at either Covenant Harbor or Covenant Point. Both camps have built-in programs to train future staff. A good estimate might be that 75% of staff were campers at one time.

» **Where do our staff members get continuing education?**

Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor are members of three professional organizations: The American Camp Association (ACA), Christian Camp and Conference Association, and The Association for Covenant Camps and Conference Centers. All three of these organizations provide conferences for continuing education, and our staff take advantage of them. They also provide opportunity to build relationships with peers.

» **How do our camps compare to others?**

There are approximately 1,100 Christian camps in the United States and our camps are among the best. We are among the relatively few that are accredited by the American Camp Association, and both staffs work hard to provide quality ministry. Both camps recruit and train their staff in areas from safety to sharing the Gospel to the art of conversation, and both strive to provide a quality, memorable camp experience.

» **What about other Covenant camps?**

There are 21 camp properties in the eleven conferences of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Covenant Point is of average size while Covenant Harbor is among the largest. Covenant camp leaders meet twice a year to learn from and encourage each other. Find more information at [covchurch.org/affiliated/camps](http://covchurch.org/affiliated/camps).

» **Which churches send campers and guests to the camps?**

The Harbor Point Ministries board aims to engage all the owner churches, so that all Central Conference churches send campers to our camps. In 2014, 60 churches sent campers to at least one of the camps and 88 churches used at least one of the camps in some way.

» **What is the history of our camps?**

**Covenant Point:** Summer camping became prevalent in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the early 1900s, led by a very active Young People's and Sunday School Workers Conference of the Great Lakes Region Covenant Churches. In 1926, the Lindstrom farm on Hagerman Lake, in Iron River, was purchased as the site to build a camp. This became Covenant Point.

**Covenant Harbor:** In 1939 a committee of men from Chicago was appointed to consider finding a camp for the Central Conference. In 1940, they found the McIntosh estate in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, but did not purchase it because of the unstable financial climate. They rented Camp Shagbark from the Salvation Army for several years, and eventually purchased property across the road to build their own camp. In 1947, dissatisfied with that purchase, they sold it and again visited the McIntosh Estate, now owned by the Dodge family. They purchased the 53-acre property, and it became Covenant Harbor.

» **How do I get more information?**

The best way to get information about our camps is to visit their websites. Of course a phone call is always welcome too.

Covenant Point: (906) 265-2117 · Covenant Harbor (262) 248-3600

[www.cpsc.com](http://www.cpsc.com) · [www.covenantharbor.org](http://www.covenantharbor.org) · [www.centconf.org/camps](http://www.centconf.org/camps)