



The Iona Project chapel immersion program offers paid internships for those interested in sharing a common life of prayer and scripture, mutual accountability, and youth ministry in a residential childcare setting.

The Iona Project is designed as a one-year program. However, for those who cannot commit to that timeframe, there is an option to participate for only the duration of the summer.

The program does not accommodate those who are married or have child-raising responsibilities.



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Mature and dependable
- Teachable, flexible, and open to new ideas
- Experience in Christian youth ministry, teaching, or childcare
- Exceptional communication, time management, and detail-orientated skills
- Must be at least 21 years of age for one-year program, and minimum of 18 years old for summer program
- Possess a valid driver's license

BENEFITS

- Housing provided
- 401(k) & 401(k) matching
- Health, dental, vision, and life insurance
- Paid time off
- Employee assistance program

OUR MISSION

We believe that life formed in prayer together in scripture is vital. The Iona group's life is rooted in spiritual discipline and includes:

- *Immersive Bible study*
- *Weekly Communion*
- *4 hours a week of guided fixed-hour prayer*
- *56 hours of neurological trauma-informed childcare training from Cal Farley's staff*
- *35 hours a week of supervised youth ministry*
- *Retreats and spiritual formation activities, as well as theology and ministry training*
- *Weekly community meal*
- *Capstone presentation*



BOYS RANCH

FOUNDED BY CAL FARLEY

A Christian Way of Life

Introduction

Cal Farley said many years ago, “this old world could be a better place if we all would live, work and pray together.” His philosophy of weaving God into all activities continues today at Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch, where a major goal is to provide a Christ-centered environment for children and care.

The Boys Ranch Chapel program includes a vibrant Christian education program supplemented with Sunday morning services, an exciting music program and special guest speakers.

Our chaplains spend a lot of time building trust and personal relationships away from chapel activities by attending athletic events and school programs. They realize that before they can plant spiritual seeds, they must first plant seeds of friendship.

We have two buildings on the Ranch campus that are a focus of many of our spiritual activities. Our church is a beautiful 22,500 square-foot structure church with a large sanctuary with state-of-the-art music, video and sound systems. It also houses a library, multiple offices and a soda shop. Another building is our Christian Education Building, a 16,500 square-foot multipurpose building that offers classrooms, offices, library, kitchen, large prayer room and space for social gatherings.



Chapel Program

The Chapel Program provides pastoral care for our residents through our chapel staff.

OUR PASTORAL CARE HAS THREE MOVEMENTS:

- The gift of loving PRESENCE: Intentionally accompanying others on their journeys.
- The gift of WITHDRAWAL for prayer: Intentional time with God for the sake of others.
- The gift of INTERCESSION: Intentionally working and praying on behalf of others.

Deeply committed to these three movements, chaplains live on campus, available not only to provide spiritual care in life crises, but also to offer mentoring, discipleship and encouragement—praying with others, sharing God’s Word and cheering at ball games.

ACTIVITIES

All children in our care attend a weekly chapel service on Sunday mornings, as well as a home devotional or Sunday School class.

Rooted in scripture, chapel activities are specially designed to be experiential, relational and multisensory, building “memories that stick” — rich with laughter, color, adventure and meaning. We believe it is important for our youth to hear the core Christian message in a warm, accepting environment.



RELATIONSHIPS

We teach the core relationship model that Jesus embodied. In a world suffering from damaged relationships, we believe Jesus has revealed the central blueprint for healthy relationships when addressing the Greatest Commandment. In collaboration with other programs and departments on our campus, the chapel teaches and nurtures this Christ-centered healthy relationship triad of *God, self* and *others*.

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.” And “Love your Neighbor as your Self.” (Luke 10:27).

SCRIPTURE

Perhaps the most powerful and important function of the chapel program is sowing the seed of God’s Word (Mark 4:13). In a time when youth ministry materials have proliferated, we still believe the Bible is our unsurpassed resource. Making this important distinction, we structure our weeks at Boys Ranch around regular, consistent encounters with scripture — seed sowing.

BOYS RANCH CHAPEL BELIEF STATEMENT

We come together here each Sunday morning in the name of Jesus Christ. We are a colorful group. We represent different ages, different interests, and different backgrounds.

We represent different beliefs and different values — some of them are pretty good, and some of them maybe aren't so good. One thing we know for sure: none of us here are perfect.

Many of us here have come to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We believe He died for our sins, was buried, and after three days rose again from the dead. We believe He ascended into heaven and generously poured out His Holy Spirit to fill the hearts of His believers. We believe His Holy Spirit is a very powerful and mysterious reality. And we believe that He will return again one day to bring salvation to those of us who are eagerly waiting for Him.

We are told that Jesus came to set us free. Many of us here believe that. We believe He came to set us free from every addiction. We believe He came to set us free from harmful relationships. We believe He came to set us free from the trap of unforgiveness — the grudges we harbor toward others, and the self-hatred we often have for ourselves.

Probably not everyone here has believed this Good News. Some resist. Others are reluctant, but perhaps curious. And yet all of us here, each week, are learning to respect each other as we share our laughter and our lives together. For that we are grateful.

OUR FOUR KEY MINISTRY PRINCIPLES

- *We are non-sectarian.* Our Christian chapel ministry honors the interdenominational makeup of our setting.
- *We are patient.* We believe hurt people need healing space. In other words, "Coercion obstructs conversion."
- *We are unpretentious.* We honor difficult questions without shock and shame. It seems when there's room for doubt it becomes possible to believe.
- *We are evangelical.* This should not be confused with a political label. We believe prayer and healthy people are the chief conduits of the Spirit's redemptive movements. Thus, the gospel spreads outward as we allow it to sink deeper inward.



Iona Project

The Iona Project chapel immersion program offers internships for those interested in a shared life of prayer and scripture in community while serving together in our residential childcare setting.

Those completing all requirements of the program will receive a “Certificate in Spiritual Formation & Youth Ministry” from Cal Farley’s Childcare Institute.

Six single young adults from around the world come to Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch to serve together for a full year. The Iona Project Chapel Immersion Program has three primary components:

- **Intentional Spiritual Formation.** Iona Project interns will participate in an ordered life of prayer. Living together for a year in our residential childcare community, interns will participate in a variety of events, such as retreats, worship and gatherings for nurture and accountability and daily prayer.
- **Trauma-informed Childcare Training.** Iona Project interns will complete no less than 56 hours of childcare training.
- **Youth Ministry Conduction.** Iona Project interns will help conduct a rich array of youth ministry. Responsibilities are two-fold, consisting of both program support of our inter-denominational chapel as well as pastoral care of our residents.



Chaplaincy Staff

Our Chaplaincy Program has outstanding individuals leading the spiritual way.

Mike Wilhelm is a senior chaplain who has been with Boys Ranch for nearly 20 years. Before coming to Boys Ranch, Mike was doing youth ministry. He has a Master of Arts in Biblical Interpretation, as well as PhD. However, he would say that the most valuable training comes from the family farm of his childhood in rural Illinois.



Mike said the best part of his job is to “pray with beautiful and inspiring kids, and I get to work with an amazing chapel staff.”

While Mike came to Boys Ranch in 2005 to serve as the interim chaplain, he applied to stay at Boys Ranch because he “fell in love with the kids, the community and the Christ-centered mission.”

Mike wants to be remembered by the youth at Boys Ranch as someone who showed them God’s love.

Ray Martinez is the director of worship and youth chaplain who first came to Boys Ranch in 2003 when he and his wife, Lynn, became houseparents. Ray has led music for most of his life. He began playing drums for his dad’s band when he was 5 years old. He has been in ministry for more than 20 years.



“This might include leading worship on Sundays, throwing a football with a child or showing up and supporting youth in their activities,” he said. “It might include baptizing a resident and putting together a Christmas cantata for our entire community.”

A challenging part of Ray’s job is to balance the music side of his work with being a youth chaplain for young people, as well as being a friend and pastor for the direct-care staff. Ray is humbled each Sunday morning when he hears hurting kids, and kids who may not be at the point of believing the Gospel, sing a song about God’s love and hope for them.

Ray was inspired to work at Boys Ranch because he has a heart for those who are hurting and need someone to care. Ray wants to be remembered by the youth as someone who cared and loved them, just as Christ has loved and cared for him.

Testimonies from Residents

Deg

A close-knit community is what 17-year-old Deg found at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch. The high school senior came to Boys Ranch from New York three years ago, along with his sister and brother. That's when Deg said his life changed and he found a sense of family and purposes.

"I always knew of God, but I wasn't of God. So I felt whenever I came to the ranch, I have finally built a relationship with God, and I've been able to surround myself with godly people," Deg said. "It's been a big part of my life, and it's been very helpful for me."



Laura

When Laura first came to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, she had never even seen a horse. Now she's a seasoned rider and regular participant in the annual rodeo. Laura, 17, chose rodeo for her extracurricular activity after a friend suggested it. While horses are a big part of Laura's life at Boys Ranch, it's also her faith in God that keeps her going.

"Being with the horses is a peaceful outlet. It's just a good stress reliever and another way to slow your mind," she said. "I'm blessed that God has given me the ability to participate. I firmly believe that is a blessing from God."



David and Grant

Since they arrived at Boys Ranch in December 2016, twin brothers David and Grant have shared many experiences together, and they have enjoyed many experiences individually. The 2023 Boys Ranch High School graduates were baptized the same day and have shared their testimony at churches in the Amarillo area.

"For me, I always believed in God, but when I came to Boys Ranch, my relationship with Him increased exponentially," David said. "The people that run this place are really disciples of God. It's not always big things, just sometimes, you'll be hanging out with some friends, and you can see the light of God through them. This place really is special."



Alexis

Alexis is a bouncy, bubbly and cheerful seventh grader. She looks to the bright side and talking with her is fun. Alexis said she has learned at Chapel that she is salt of the world.

“We bring light into people’s lives,” she said. “Every day, we make someone smile.”





A CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

Nestled in the rolling hills northwest of Amarillo, Texas, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch is a residential community open to at-risk boys and girls ages 5 to 18. While, at first glance, the campus might appear much like any other Texas Panhandle town, it is much more. Every person in our community understands the importance of healthy relationships.

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Our chaplains spend a lot of time building trust and personal relationships beyond chapel activities by attending athletic events and school programs. They realize that before they can plant spiritual seeds, they must first plant seeds of friendship.



OUR PASTORAL CARE HAS A TWO-FOLD RHYTHM

- Engagement
 - The gift of loving presence with others.
- Withdrawal
 - Intentional time with God for the sake of others.

LEARN MORE

www.calfarley.org/iona

www.calfarley.org/careers

- (Chapel Immersion Program Specialist)

facebook.com/ionaprojectboysranch

YouTube: @CalFarleysOfficial

KEY MINISTRY PRINCIPLES

- We are **non-denominational**. Our chapel staff is comprised of Christians from many different denominations, and we honor this interdenominational aspect of our Christ-centered Boys Ranch community.
- We are **patient**. We believe hurt people need healing space.
- We are **unpretentious**. We honor difficult questions without shock and shaming. It seems when there's room to doubt it becomes possible to believe.
- We are **evangelical**. We believe the Gospel spreads outward as we allow it to sink deeper inward.