

Your Pledge Makes It Possible: Chanco on the James

Chanco on the James, our diocesan camp and conference center, is the home for Christian spiritual formation for many youth and adults from around our diocese. In 2011, 65 conference groups utilized our retreat center and 554 campers attended summer camp in 2012.



The conference center is home to youth events such as October Weekend and Happening and to adult events such as the Fresh Start clergy program and Cursillo. Numerous

parishes within our diocese host annual parish family retreats and vestry retreats often taking advantage of our stellar ropes course for team building activities. Family reunions, not for profit groups, the College of William and Mary and many other businesses take advantage of Chanco's remote, peaceful and beautiful location to rest and rejuvenate while enjoying strategic planning and/or fellowship. Some mistakenly believe that only camp alumni have a strong passion and love for Chanco, however, if you speak to a Happener or a Cursillo alumni, you will often hear an enormous connection to Chanco as a place where spiritual awakening or renewal has occurred.



The camp program at Chanco has been running continuously since 1968 and is accredited by the American Camping Association. This year, Chanco enjoyed the recognition of being voted "Best Summer Camp" in

Virginia Living Magazine's May 2012 "Best Of" edition. Residential campers enjoy a range of outdoor activities; traditional camp skits, songs, and traditions; along with a structured chaplain program including small group activities with a camp chaplain, worship and Eucharist. Many youth report discovering God in a different way in our relaxed, natural environment. Breaking bread among old and new friends with a priest who has developed a personal relationship with them through their camping experience can be profound and a different awakening to their spirituality than can be found elsewhere.

None of these programs could exist without the diocesan subsidy that Chanco receives annually. In these tough economic conditions the subsidy has decreased in recent

years, however continuing to receive this subsidy has been *essential* to Chanco's continued growth and progress. For example, Chanco awarded \$22,060 in tuition assistance to camper families in 2012 and Conference Center Lodges A and D have undergone extensive exterior renovations within the last two years. Chanco depends on the diocesan subsidy in order to continue this type of scholarship assistance and needed property renovation while keeping costs low to our camp and conference guests. Thank you for being a part of our progress and our future with your support.

Listen to what our camp and conference guests say about Chanco's ministry:

- "I will always carry the Chanco spirit with me no matter how old or far away I am... By introducing me to Chanco, my life has been changed. I have met great life-long friends and have definitely been brought closer to God." – Jessica Denomme, Redeemer, Midlothian
- "We had a great retreat! You are our diocesan retreat center! We tell EVERYBODY (all other Canterbury groups) what a great place Chanco is!" – The Rev. John Maxwell Kerr, Canterbury, William and Mary
- "I am extremely thankful for Christ and Grace's contribution to my scholarship for Camp Chanco on the James. It helped enable me to spend a wonderful twelve days of my summer at a camp where I have made lifelong friends and bonds. Chanco has urged the leader in me to step forward... The lessons I have learned will forever accompany me as I made decisions in my everyday life." – Catherine Poarch, Christ and Grace, Petersburg
- "We laughed, listened and learned all weekend... Every year we say 'This is the best' and then the next year it gets better! You are a shining example of hospitality and it is clear that you are being used by God to further His kingdom as you manage and share His resources. – Annette Irving, St. Gile's Presbyterian Church Women's Retreat
- "The best thing about Camp Chanco is the zip line! The most important thing about Chanco is living together like a family." – Laurann Banazek, Redeemer, Midlothian
- "While sitting on the bluff praying to God I heard and felt my call to ordained ministry. Chanco is truly on Holy grounds." – The Rev. Gini DiStanislao, St. Paul's & St. Andrew's, Kenbridge

