



While you wait for class to start:

- 1. Use the chatroom to answer 1 of these questions:
- If you are a child, what helps you participate in worship?
- If you are a parent of a child, what do you need in worship?
- If you are an adult without children at home, how are children in worship are helpful to you?
- 2. Download the handouts attached.
- 3. Send a private message w/your name & email for a certificate.
- If this is your first Volunteer Academy class, then send your mailing address to get a Volunteer Academy Journal.
- Rebecca.a.powell16.civ@mail.mil



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As people log, use the chatroom to answer 1 of the following "Helpful Thoughts" questions:

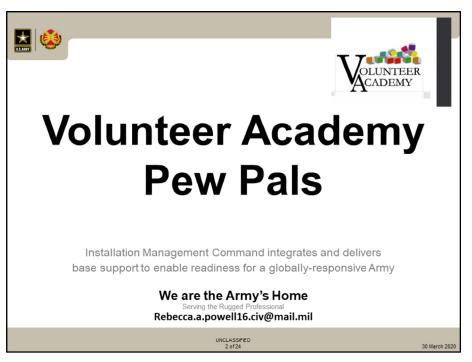
If you are a child, what helps you participate in worship?

If you are the parent of a child, elaborate on what you need during worship.

If you are an adult without children at home, how are children in worship are helpful to you.

Send a private message with your name and email address to receive a certificate.

If this is your first Volunteer Academy class, then also send your mailing address to receive a Volunteer Academy Journal.



Welcome and thank you for being here.

Todays training and the Pew Pal position description were created with the Catholic and Protestant volunteers at the Stuttgart Patch Chapel.

There are several young women who have been part of my planning — ESPECIALLY - Elizabeth Frederick, Rachel Turner, Haley Turner, Lailah Johnson, Maddie Dunckhorst, Lillian Wooding, and Gabi Anderson!!

As a Chapel volunteer, you are part of the largest volunteer force in the Army! We want you fully trained and ready for faithful service.

The Chaplaincy Academy for Religious Education (CARE) is your source for targeted, mission-focused training by professional religious educators.

As a CARE trained Essential Volunteer (having taken 4 classes) you are equipped to maintain and advance your garrison Chapel's religious education program. As a CARE trained Volunteer Leader (having taken 8 classes) you join a select group equipped to serve as a religious education model and mentor for others.

While you waited for the class to begin, you answered some questions in our class chat. If you did not get a chance, then you can post your answer now. You will se the questions listed at the start of the chat.

We will share the results of your answers later during the class.

To receive a certificate for today's training, send me an email at the address listed on the screen.

During the class you will also need to download the handouts which are shared here in this Zoom "meeting room."

These handouts are also posted on the USACHCS Training Portal, and the link will appear on several screens.

- Handouts for this class are:
 - Volunteer Academy Brochure
 - "Children In Worship: Celebrating Children at Saint Alban's"
 - "Children and Worship" by Dr Yeuell
 - "Gabi Goes to Mass"
 - Pew Pal Position Description

Administrative Information

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: No food or drink is allowed near or around electrical equipment (CPU, file servers, printers, projectors, etc.) due to possible electrical shock or damage to equipment. Exercise care in personal movement in and through such areas. Avoid all electrical cords and associated wiring. In the event of an electrical storm, you will be instructed to power down equipment. Everyone is responsible for safety.

RISK ASSESSMENT LEVEL: LOW

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects.

EVALUATION: The student is required to fully engage in lesson by applying critical and creative thinking throughout the lesson as well as completing all assignments.

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Instructor Note: Review safety requirements, risk assessment, environmental considerations and expected outcome and evaluation.

On your screen you see some safety reminders for our time together.

Terminal Learning Objective

ACTION: Create local chapel relationships and plans for Pew Pals in chapel congregations.

CONDITIONS: In a video classroom environment, given access to AR 165-1, scriptures, and civilian church resources on religiosity & relationality.

STANDARD:

- Review Pew Pal volunteer position description
- Create bag/kit/handout for children to use in worship
- Elaborate on chapel as formal and fictive family
- Integrate understandings of relationality and religiosity



Send your activity & mailing address to Rebecca.a.powell16.civ@mail.mil

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30 March 2020

Instructor Note: Have students read the TLO.

This training provides a framework to plan for chapel links between congregations and homes. Your chapel community will be better equipped to teach and assist all who are authorized and assigned support on our installations.

Plan to take other Volunteer Academy classes listed on the Volunteer Academy brochure. Take special notice of "Usher Training" and "Parenting in the Pew;" we can offer these again at your convenience.

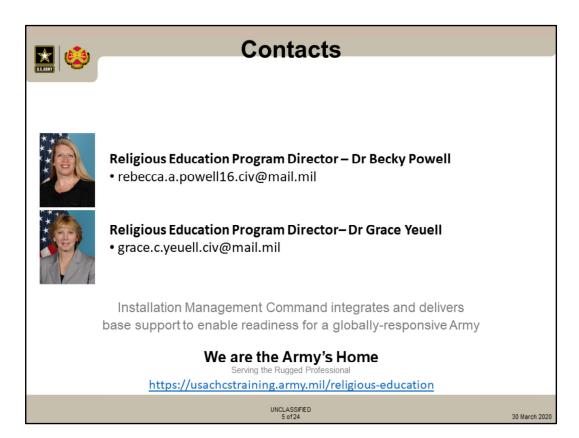
Next week, Wednesday 8 April we will have "Military Child Resilience & Religion" here on Zoom at 3pm Germany time.

Today is training for the fictive kin in our chapels. Fictive kin can be ALL people, particularly caring adults (and teen leaders) in our chapels. Think "a Friend Who Teaches."

Because our Zoom classes are 40 minutes long, each class will be 1/2 Continuous Learning Point (CLP). There is an assignment at the end for an additional 1/2 CLP.

Your assignment is to pick 1 of the following;

- Edit a Pew Pal Position Description.
- Create a first draft of a Pew Pal Handbook.
- Build a Pew Pal Supply Bag



I am Dr. Becky Powell. My colleague, Dr Grace Yeuell and I are the Religious Education Program Directors for IMCOM-Europe. We lead the Chaplaincy Academy for Religious Education (CARE) Center which is a generating point and destination for religious education and chapel training.

We work within IMCOM's mission statement which reads:

"The US Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) integrates and delivers base support to enable readiness for a globally-responsive Army."

We are partners with the US Army Chaplain Center and School, USACHCS.



In any church or chapel, every person has a role to play.

Today, we are thinking about the role of a Pew Pal – a person who helps children or others feel welcomed and included in worship.

Today, worship might happen in a chapel.... Or on a living room sofa watching a computer or phone. No matter what the religion is AND no matter where it happens, we all need help in connecting with the worship experience, and we can all <u>provide</u> help.

A Pew Pal is intentionally trained in how to be casually in relationship with individuals.

If you are too... formal, then you cut into your relationship.

If you are too... casual, then you become a distraction.

We are building a new way of thinking about our chapel relationships.

This training is embedded in training topics listed from the Volunteer Academy.

Worship is probably the most important time in a religion's practice. It is when people and God meet up. The worship experience is the only time in society when people of all ages and abilities participate equally in what happens.

- What exactly happens in worship depends on your own congregation.
- We can talk about Pew Pals for all congregations, because we are all talking about the shared welcome idea.

Pew Pals balance a tightrope of intentionally caring.... but NOT being rigidly formal.

WHAT IS A PEW PAL?

Like a Special Needs Buddy, Pew Pal is a person willing to provide assistance, support and friendship to a person or family during their time at the chapel.

- Dependability
- □ Flexibility
- □ Sensitivity
- **□**Confidentiality



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In December 2019, Stuttgart volunteers started talking about how to help chapel families.

A Pew Pal is like a Special Needs Buddy.

The Pew Pal PD that you can download from this class is something that Stuttgart volunteers invented!

It includes:

- ☐ Dependability The family need to know that their Pal will be present and on time.
- ☐ Flexibility –Working with the family and the worship service.
- □Sensitivity Speaking to and about a person in positive, caring and affirming ways.
- □ Confidentiality
 - □Individual (or parents) choose when and to whom they disclose details of their life.
 - □Pals do not reveal identities discuss medical conditions or behavior with others.

Who might need a Pew Pal?

Let's look at your notes from the chat room for ideas on when a Pew Pal might be needed.

- What did the children attending say?
- What did the parents say?

Does anyone have other ideas of how a Pew Pal might be helpful?

Let's turn the idea upside down. How could BEING a Pew Pal help YOU?

- These ideas are from adults who do not have children at home.

General Considerations for All Persons

- 1. Listen to what the person says about ability and needs; ask questions.
- 2. Identify each person's abilities/strengths and find achievable activities.
- 3. Give short clear instructions; break instructions into chunks.
- 4. Use extra patience.
- 5. Be encouraging and give praise frequently.
- 6. Be firm with limits that are set for safety.
- 7. Limit choices from one to three specific activities.
- 8. Offer help when a person is frustrated.
- 9. Engage individuals in activities with peers.
- 10. Play and have fun!

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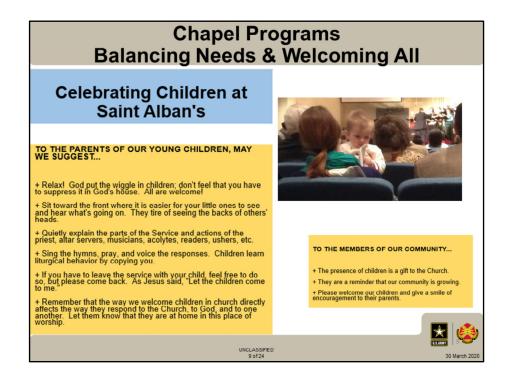
Take a picture of this slide from Special Needs Training. It can be a Pew Pal "pocket guide."

These are principles that can inform us as we welcome all people into the chapel.

All people can learn & worship.

All people can participate in religious activities.

How can you modify this into a resource that you can help the people sitting next to you? - Type your ideas in the chat area of our class.



Ushers are the first friends in a congregation. They welcome at the door and set the tone for the place.

One congregation's ushers provide this card to all people to manage expectations.

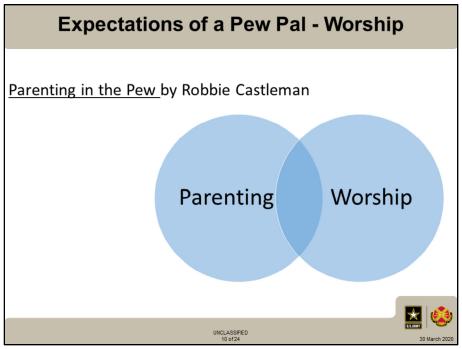
Many congregations have welcome packets and children's worship bags with similar cards.

Imagine you are an usher, and a family arrives with 5 small children. How would you offer a Pew Pal to them?

Imagine you are a Pew Pal, and you see an adult who is new and does know when everyone stands and sits? How can you help?

Imagine you are watching worship on a computer, and there is a wiggly person next to you (maybe a child bouncing, or an adult using his/her phone). How can you help them redirect to worship?

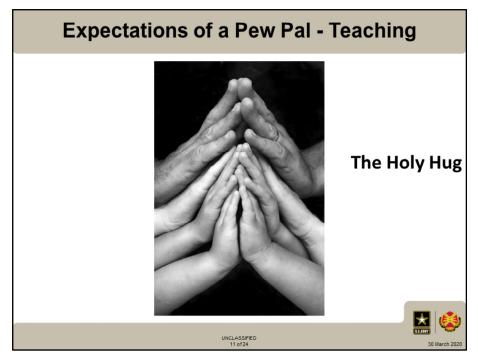
AHA! In all these things, you are thinking like a Pew Pal!



The Parenting in the Pew Class looks at the intersection of what it means to:

- Be a responsible leader in another person's life (Parent)
- And engage with God (worship)

A Pew Pal, like a parent, is a friend who teaches during worship.



Being together in a congregation builds strong links. These strong links to God and people, are a critical factor in resilience. (Resilience Doughnut, p.85)

Note how the hands in this picture gently guide the child's into a movement of prayer. Discipline means teaching. Guiding a child in how to sit, stand, kneel or otherwise interact in worship is like discipline – teaching – coaching a child on a baseball team. These hands are modeling and shaping the prayer behavior.

Sometimes modeling is not enough and consequences or other helps are needed. There are a variety of behavior modifications that work in helping learning and teaching in worship.

Parents are always the ones to do discipline when Pew Pals are with a family. It is always fine to remind people of Dr Powell's 3 Rules:

- Stay with the Group
- Listen to Instructions
- Don't Do Anything to Hurt Anyone (including God)

How do these rules fit with a worship situation?

- Stay with the group might mean stand and sit when everyone else does.
- What do you think listen to instructions might mean....?
- What about not hurting anyone?

As you might have learned in my VBS and other classes, my 3 consequences are:

- Warning
- Time Out
- Contact Principal and Parent

A warning and contacting the parent are easy in the pews.

Even for parents with their own children, we all need new ideas for time outs.

- What are your ideas?

As a Pew Pal, you will likely just let the parents handle everything above a warning....

□ Dependability – The child and family need to know his or her Pal will be a chapel and be on time. □ Flexibility – Children can be unpredictable. Trying to rigidly control situations or behavior will only frustrate you and the child. □ Sensitivity – Speak to and about the child in positive, caring and affirming ways. □ Confidentiality – The child's parents choose when and to whom they disclose details of their child's life. Pals do not reveal identities of children or discuss medical conditions or behavior with others.

Pew pal Is a mediator.

Mediators are the Basic building blocks of education.

A mediating teacher gets to know the topic to be taught.

A mediating teacher gets to know the learners.

A mediating teacher interprets the topic in a way that learners can handle.

As a Pew Pal, I expect you to meet the expectations on the screen. They are pretty much the same as for a Special Needs Buddy.

As a Pew Pal, you are a mediating teacher.

A Pew Pal gets to know worship.

A Pew Pal gets to know the friend in the Pew.

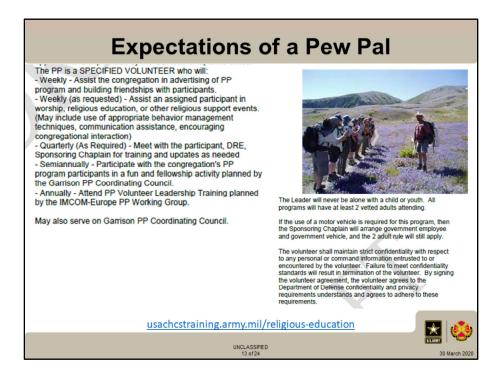
A Pew Pal will interpret and introduce worship to their friends.

How do you get to know worship

- Attend
- Listen
- Ask the pastor for advance copy of the order of service, the music, and the bible verses. You can get to know these before worship, then you are ready for what is coming and how to help your pals.

How do you get to know a person?

- Active listening
- Pay attention
- Remember and reach out during the week.



Like tour guide – a Pew Pal directs attention to the important things.

See the Pew Pal position description. Pieces are on the screen.

- It is not science or a formula.
- It is relationship between you, your Pal, and your congregation!

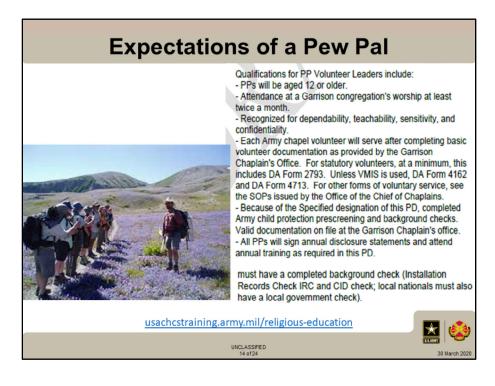
What responsibilities do you see in the position description?

At the end of our session, you will have a choice of 3 activities to work on and send back to me. Once I receive your completed activity, then I will send your second ½ Continuous Learning Point.

One of the activities is to edit the Pew Pal Position Description. Improve it with your experience, your thoughts, and for your congregation.

The current Pew Pal Volunteer Position description is on the USACHCS Training Portal. The link is on the screen.

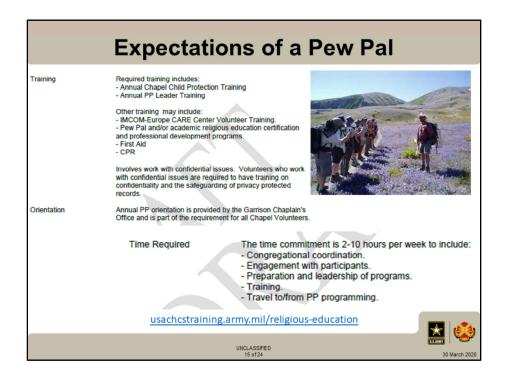
You should be able to download a copy from Zoom during our class.



Why might we have included background check on this?

On the other hand....

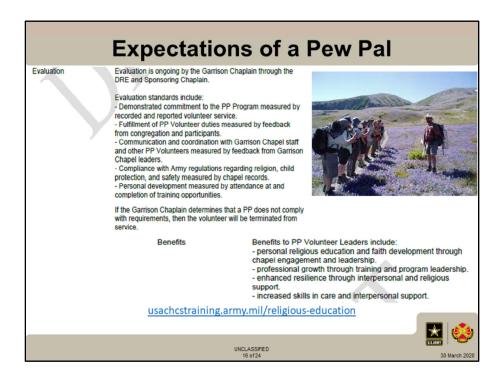
Why might your congregation decide to have a Pew Pal position description that does not need a background check?



You are attending Pew Pal training right now. What other training does a Pew Pal need to take?

Look at the time required.

If you volunteered as a Pew Pal for 10 weeks, how many volunteer hours could you get credit for?



When we talk about evaluation, we think of how an "ideal" Pew Pal acts.

- Why have included an evaluation section?
- Who is in charge?

We also include benefits YOU get from being a Pew Pal?

- If you were editing the Position Description as your activity, do you have any extra ideas for Benefits?



The baby in the photo is surrounded by family and fictive kin.

Family means those people who legally or biologically are connected. Fictive Kin means those people who FEEL like Family.

As a Pew Pal, you are being invited into a relationship of Fictive Kin.

The baby is being taught to practice public piety. The baby is also surrounded people who welcome her in reciprocal relationality.

Trust is a basic requirement of learning and human capacity. Pews are locations for teaching and supporting all ages.

Participation "in the pew" is important for surviving crises and relocations. (Parenting in the Pew, p.28)

Responsibilities	
(These will vary depending on the Pew Situation)	
Provide necessary physical assistance for mobility, seating and activities.	
Assist with self care skills such as eating, wiping mouth toileting.	or
Use appropriate behavior management techniques specific to the child, learned through parent interview and training opportunities.	
Assist with communication with others.	
Encourage social interaction with peers.	
usachcstraining.army.mil/religious-education	(6)
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Editing the Position Description is 1 of the 3 possible activities for credit in this class.

Another activity is to work on a Pew Pal Handbook.

A handbook begins with the position description and goes into details. This will be a guide given to Pew Pals, parents, and others in your congregation. There is a sample handbook for WatchCare volunteers on the USACHCS Training Portal. The link is on your screen.

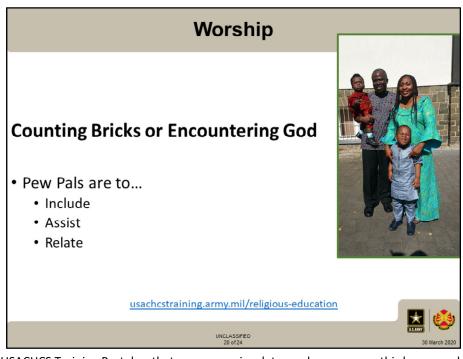
This slide has some notes from the Special Needs Buddy Training. These are points that you could include in a Pew Pal Handbook.

Behavior Disorder	
Tips To Help	
Break up your lesson so that there is movement and children aren't sitting long.	
☐ Use a multisensory approach using music, visuals, objects and games.	
Seat away from windows and doors.	
☐ Keep them close to you.	
Clear rules and reminders.	
 Create small spaces free of distractions. 	
☐ Limit the use of wall space to materials related to the lesson of the day.	
☐ Use a variety of media such as computers, Power Point, DVDs, etc. when available.	
☐ Give 2 to 3 minute warning before any transition whenever possible.	
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Here are some teacher ideas of helping a person who has behavior disorder.

As a Pew Pal which of these ideas could you use?

These and other ideas are in the Special Needs Buddy training of the USACHCS Training portal. They are here to help you think about being a Pew Pal. They are also good ideas to edit these into a Pew Pal Handbook.



I put today's slides on the USACHCS Training Portal so that you can review later and you can use this lesson and script in your activities. This slide is great for a Pew Pal Handbook

"Counting Brings or Encountering God" is one chapter in the book, "Parenting in the Pew," & the Volunteer Academy Class of the same title.

- Pew Pals are not to shush but to focus on the work of worship.

Think back to your experience as a child in worship. Care for children demonstrates a caring God. (A Friend Who Teaches Me, p.213)

- To use language from Special Needs, Pew Pals and Worship bags/activities are examples of *inclusion*

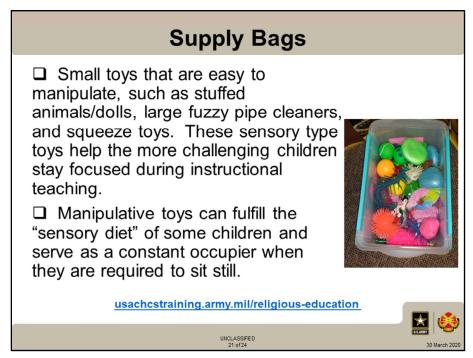
Part of *training* to pay attention is <u>learning</u> how to remain in the room for the entire event. Baseline ideas from parents who have survived raising their own children in the pew are:

- Bathroom before worship.
- 2. Journals and pencils/crayons for making notes, drawing pictures **about** the worship experience. It is a good idea for all people.
- 3. Use the principles of the "I Spy" game, and point out important words, images, sounds, or actions.
- 4. All children stand when the congregation stands, kneel when they kneel, sit when they sit, sing when they sing, and sit quietly when they sit.
- 5. Even if your congregation allows food in the sanctuary, limit the snacks....

Parenting in the Pew Chapter 5 Discussion question 3

- "If your [chapel] provides papers and projects for children ..., how can you use these to make sure worship, not just a well-meant distraction, is the result?"
- "How can you use the ...bulletin, hymnal, and so on... to guide ... child(ren) in participating more directly in the service?"
- Pause for answers.

The Parenting in the Pew Volunteer Academy Class is posted on the USACHCS Training Portal. You can use it for additional ideas no matter which activity you select.



Let's think about how you can build a Pew Pal Supply Bag. This is the 3rd activity that you can choose for your credit.

It would be similar to the Kids' Worship Bulletins or Worship Bags that many congregations use. But it is a bag that the Pew Pal keeps ready for any situation.

The Pew Pal Supply Bag is personal to you, your Pal, and your congregation. On the screen you see some ideas. These came from the Special Needs Buddy training.

My Nanny Anderson's purse was her supply bag. When I was little, she had mints, handkerchief, and a pencil. Her supplies were just right for her, that church, and me.

You will build your supply bag based on what is right for you.

As a Pew Pal, you might be helping a person who is:

- just NEW and needs help to know when to stand, sit, and what book to use.
- or
- Wiggly and very young.

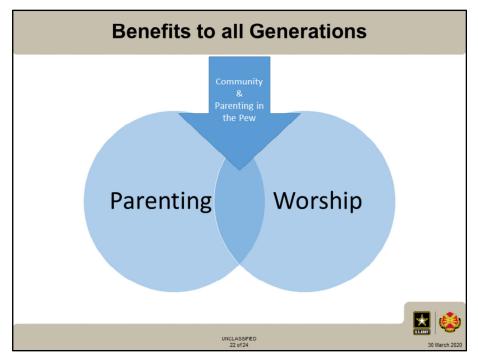
or

- Has a physical, emotional, or learning disability that needs extra help.

You might just sit with a person who is just new to this type of worship.

- The Bavaria Chapels worked with Dr Yeuell to create a Children Communion Booklet.
- A sample is on the USACHCS Training Portal. It might be something to include in your supply bag or an inspiration to be tailored for your congregation and included in your handbook.

If you select the Supply Bag activity, then send a photo and/or list of your Bag contents. Include why you chose what you included. I will share your creation with other students.



Faith and chapel attendance provide connections making a safety net or scaffolding for the individuals in a location. Attendance and involvement also reinforce identity and connection to the wider religious group.

- In all Christian and Jewish worship, there are prayers and Bible passages to help us "recall the gift of faith... which travels with us as we move into a new community." (Unpacking Faith, p.6)

"Large majorities of [young people] ... report having <u>nonfamily</u> adults in their religious congregations whom they enjoy talking to and who give them lots of encouragement. Jewish teens report the highest percentage (92 percent)...." (Soul Searching, pp.60-61)

Wider research marks the significance of adult <u>relationships</u> on the resilience in the lives of children and teenagers. "Outside the nuclear family, children need connections to multiple groups of friends, relatives, community, and the world." (Building Resilience, p.123)

All people need to have connections and relationships. We want "connections [which] show children that they are part of a safe and supportive community." (Building Resilience, p.125)

Being a Pew Pal is a benefit to people who need assistance, to the larger congregation, and even to YOU (the Pew Pal).

Military children grow up – often far from their biological grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Adults without children in the home play a vital role. They become fictive kin – a network of multilayered relationships which function like family. (A Friend Who Teaches Me, p.210)

The Pew Pal benefits as much as the one who *needs* help. The Book of Job ends by pointing out the blessings that Job did get he lived to see "his sons, his sons' sons, even four generations." (Gift of Grandparenting, p.38) Being a Pew Pal is like being a member of the family and seeing connections.

In Army Chapels, even when we have age specific programs, we are reinforcing trusted relationships. Regulations require a minimum of 2 vetted adults to be with children (0-18 years old) anytime the parent is not present. (Chaplain Corps Child Protection Guidance, Enclosure 1, pare 3.b.1.b)

What has helped you?

- Pause for answers.

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ACTION: Create local chapel relationships and plans for Pew Pals in chapel congregations.

CONDITIONS: In a video classroom environment, given access to AR 165-1, scriptures, and civilian church resources on religiosity & relationality.

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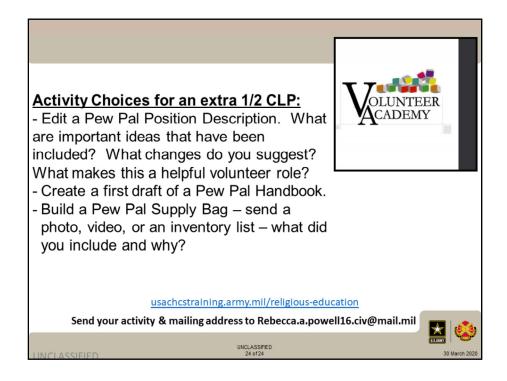


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Because our Zoom classes are 40 minutes long, each class will be 1/2 Continuous Learning Point (CLP). There is an assignment at the end; you will get an additional 1/2 CLP for sending in your response.

As a Pew Pal, your assignment is to pick 1 of the following;

- Edit a Pew Pal Position Description. What are important ideas that have been included? What changes do you suggest? What makes this a helpful volunteer role?
- Create a first draft of a Pew Pal Handbook.
- Build a Pew Pal Supply Bag send a photo, video, or an inventory list what did you include and why?

My email address is on the screen for your activity and for me to send you a certificate.