



Chaplain Training & Approval

A Training Experience Designed to Equip Those Called to Serve as Chaplains to the Motor Sports Community

National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries

P.O. Box 1300

Pilot Point, Texas 76258

www.racewayministries.com

Why Have Chaplains at a Raceway?

Motor sports competition has been around from the early, early days of the development of the automobile. And, as racing has progressed as a sport, so has the level of attention and popularity. In fact, for the past few years, auto racing—especially NASCAR—has been identified as the fastest growing spectator sport in America. All of this simply means that when you have a racing event, you are going to have a sizeable gathering of people—competitors, spectators and employees and staff who operate the raceway property, facilities and programming. It may be a local, weekly dirt track where a few hundred gather each weekend to watch the local competitors battle to be first to take the checkered flag; it could be a parking lot or an airport runway where road racing takes place under the guidance of a group like the SCCA; or it may be a super-speedway where up to 200,000+ folks come to watch the major series of racing, such as NASCAR, the Indy Racing League, or Grand Am.

It follows, then, that when you have gatherings of people in attendance at such events, things are going to happen. Someone will experience trauma, demanding a response. The most obvious trauma is that which involves the competitors in accidents on the speedway which result in injury or fatality. Sometimes, however, others—employees or spectators—find themselves victimized by racing accidents. Or, injury or fatality might occur as a result of some disastrous event having to do with things such as the collapse of a portion of the facility, the striking of lightning, or a fall on a stairway. And, of course, those unpredictable incidents of heart attacks, seizures, strokes and allergic reactions to insect stings occur as well. We all hope and pray that such occurrences do not take place at racing events, but the odds of something eventually happening at a facility such as a speedway are pretty high.

When such traumas occur, a variety of people should respond. Raceway management and staff certainly should respond appropriately regarding the current status of the event and in terms of providing all necessary care. Typically, medical and/or rescue personnel are needed when traumatic events take place at the speedway, and at any competent facility, these always will be available. However, another essential piece of the trauma response puzzle is that of the chaplain—someone who is called, trained and equipped to offer consolation, encouragement, guidance and counsel from a Biblical and Christ-like perspective.



Why Chaplain Training and Approval?

Through a variety means, Christian ministry at racing events has grown rapidly over the past twenty years as thousands of people have emerged to share the message and hope in Christ and to offer encouragement to people in the racing community. Volunteers who are available to serve fans in a variety of ways; those who make themselves available to offer the invocation as part of the pre-race activities; and those who offer prayer and encouragement on a personal basis to the competitors—all of these have begun to appear at racing venues in increasing numbers. In the midst of all this ministry activity, the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries joins the ranks of those who believe that official training and approval need to be available for those who wish to carry the title of “Chaplain.” Why establish such an approval experience?

- ✓ It provides information and training necessary to perform the chaplain’s task.
- ✓ It provides chaplain information and training from a strongly Biblical, evangelical Christian perspective.
- ✓ It provides credibility by assuring raceway owners, managers and promoters that those who wear the name “Chaplain” have been trained and endorsed by an organization familiar with the unique aspects of racing.
- ✓ It provides a forum for chaplains of the racing community to gather and exchange information and encouragement with other like-minded servants of Christ.
- ✓ It establishes a network of communication and fellowship among those who uniquely are called to serve as chaplains to those who provide and attend motor sports events.



Overview of N.F.R.M. Chaplain Training & Approval

I. Introductory Training

This training consists of 7 hours of class time, which will include an overview of ministry to the racing community as well as discussion of unique opportunities for chaplain ministry in the raceway setting, general crisis ministry, case studies, recognizing evangelistic opportunities, and professionalism for the chaplain. This training session is available both to those who intend to go through the approval process, as well as to those who are not interested in the approval. Details regarding the certification requirements and process will be presented during the Introductory Training. Current cost is \$50, which includes materials.

Note: Anyone is welcome to attend the Introductory Training. Attendees will benefit from the content of the training, whether or not they decide to pursue NFRM Chaplain Approval with the next phase of study/work.

II. Application for Approval Phase

This application phase begins after the Introductory Training. During this phase, the potential candidate will receive information about prerequisites for approval, and will submit an application for review. Once the application has been reviewed, the potential candidate will be notified regarding status or progress.

Note: Other training may qualify as an adequate substitute for the NFRM Chaplain Introductory Training class. If you have been through some other chaplain or disaster relief training program, for example, your previous training may suffice.

III. Provisional Approval

A 12-month provisional approval period will allow time to provide summaries of three chaplain interactions while involved in ministry activity at a racing venue, which interactions must occur following the date on which the application is received. After the chaplain interactions and fulfillment of all other requirements, the approval process will be completed and a Certificate of Completion & Approval will be issued.

IV. Continuing Education

Two hours of chaplain-related continuing education will need to be completed every two years. The N.F.R.M. will offer such courses at its annual meetings, and will develop a list of other approved continuing education courses.



For More Information, Contact:

Dr. Roger Marsh
P.O. Box 1300
Pilot Point, TX 76258
roger@racewayministries.com