

## **RETREATS ~ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **OVERNIGHT EVENTS, F.A.Q.**

**Q: Does MCC host overnight events? Who is your general clientele?**

A: Merriwood has been providing quality camp facility, food service, and some programming for hundreds of middle school, high school, and college-aged attendees for decades now, each fall and spring. Due to our housing being mostly cabins (as opposed to motel/hotel style units) Merriwood is not set up well to host couples, older ladies, or families. We will gladly recommend some other sites in our region that could assist these groups better.

**Q: Can you describe your housing?**

A: We have 192 beds. We have 12 cabins that have 12 beds (6 sets of bunk beds) in each room. Each room has mirrors and sinks. Two cabins are connected through a bathroom which includes two showers and two bathroom stalls. Total housing in our normal 12 cabins equals 144. We also have additional housing that could house an additional 48 students. (These four cabins use the bathhouse for restrooms and showers.) There are also 2-3 motel units available for adult leaders or a family if necessary. The motel units consist of one double bed, and a set of bunk beds. Retreat groups are asked to bring all their own linens (sleeping bags, sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, wash cloths, etc.) and toiletry items for cabins and motels as these are not provided. The cabins and motel rooms contain hand soap dispensers, toilet paper, and paper towels dispensers.

**Q: Does Merriwood require any minimum numbers for overnight events?**

A: Since we are a camp (and not a conference center with multiple break-out rooms) we only host one retreat group at a time at our facility. The benefit in being the only group at our facility is that groups may use buildings, outdoor space, and team building and wall times at their own leisure (not having to work around other groups). It's all yours! Because we only have one group at Merriwood at a time, we do ask for a minimum of 50 paying persons for a one-night retreat. The minimum for a two-night retreat is 40 paying persons.

**Q: What months are available for overnight retreats?**

A: We do retreats from March through mid-May and then again from late-August through mid-November. We do not usually do retreats from mid-November through February. (Our cabins are closed down during this time.)

**Q: How does pricing work for overnight events and what is included in that?**

A: Our rates are per-person. For example, a shorter retreat of one night and three meals would be \$72 per person in 2021. A longer retreat of 2-nights and 5 meals would be \$118 per person in 2021 (rates subject to change). We can custom-make your event, adding more or less meals depending on when you arrive and depart. Please contact Merriwood for current rates.

**Q: What is included in the price of an overnight retreat, that our group must provide supervision for?**

A: Included are meals, cabin housing, all of our facilities (2-3 motel units, the gymnasium and chapel area, the dining hall), all our activities (three campfire areas, paddle boats, canoes, and outdoor fields, gaga, baseball field, arena soccer, 9 square in the air, tetherball, playground areas, and more! For a complete listing of additional free time activities, at no additional charge, please see the retreat page on our website or the overnight retreat or day camp event details. The above activities should be supervised by the retreat group leadership.

**Q: What things are included in the rate that Merriwood facilitates?**

A: Included with the price of an overnight event, MCC staff can facilitate two of the following activities: Team building, climbing wall, large group games, blob and water trampoline (in season), archery, or sling-shots. There will be a place in the contract process to choose your activities. Later, the timeframes will be agreed upon by both parties. MCC will facilitate these activities, but group leaders are encouraged to help with supervision as well.

**Q: How can I book an event?**

A: Call MCC's office at 336-766-5151 to check availability or email us at [office@campmerriwood.net](mailto:office@campmerriwood.net). Once a retreat date and activities are decided upon, MCC will email a contract packet to the group. There is a deposit of 10% of the total anticipated amount due in order to save the date (or minimum of \$400; maximum of \$1,000 deposit). The deposit is non-refundable and will be deducted from the full amount. For day-events, the deposit is 10% of the total estimated amount (or \$200 minimum non-refundable deposit) which is deducted from the full amount, to be returned with the contract. Once the contract and deposits are returned, the retreat will be confirmed. Final numbers are due 14 days out. Balances are due during your time with us.

**Q: What is Team Building?**

A: Team building activities are group initiatives. They are fun activities that are challenging and designed to teach life lessons and/or spiritual lessons. Some activities have an apparatus and some do not. Some are physical challenges and some are more mental challenges. Groups will have fun, learn something about themselves, and learn something about the others in their group. They will learn to work together as a team, notice one another's strengths and weaknesses, communicate, see who the leaders and followers of the group are, and to trust one another. MCC Staff will process how the group worked together as well as what life lessons can be learned after each activity. These activities are great for school sports teams, youth groups, leadership teams, and any group that wishes want to increase their learn to work together more effectively and appreciate one another. Typically, 60-75 minutes is a good time-frame for team building.

**Q: Can you describe your Climbing Wall and how that works?**

A: Our 48' Climbing Wall is an Alpine Tower and was built at Merriwood in 1996. There are six different climbs available, although we usually offer four climbs at a time with four MCC staff belayers. They are different levels of difficulty rated from 5.5 to 5.10 based on the Yosemite Decimal System. We encourage each climber to bump their personal comfort zone. They are encouraged to make a goal of how high they would like to climb and to reach that goal and perhaps exceed it. Each climber wears a harness, a hairnet (for sanitation purposes) and a helmet. Each climber's equipment is checked by MCC staff before climbing and equipment is rated at 5,000 pounds. Individuals from children to senior citizens are welcome to climb the wall. Typically, a group of 40-60 can climb in 90 minutes or so.

## DAY EVENTS, F.A.Q.

### **Q: What kinds of day events does Merriwood host?**

A: Merriwood can host field days, team building days, day youth groups events, church picnics, leadership events, Sunday School Class picnics, school field day events, etc.

### **Q: What activities are available for day events?**

A: We can design a package that will fit your needs. Typically, paddle boats, canoes, gym use (ping pong, carpet ball, foos ball, basketball, indoor volleyball), sand volleyball, softball field, soccer area (not regulation), fishing (gear not provided by MCC), tetherball, 9 Square in the Air, 9-Hole Disc Golf, three campfire areas to choose from, and cafeteria use are available. For additional rates, Merriwood staff can facilitate team building activities, Climbing Wall, Large Group Games, and/or Blob/Water Trampoline (in season). See the one-day event package listing on our retreat page on our website for more details.

### **Q: Does Merriwood require any minimum numbers for one-day events?**

A: Yes, for a day event on a Friday through Sunday, the minimum required is 60 persons. For a day event Monday through Thursday, the minimum is 30 paying persons.

### **Q: What are the day event rates?**

A: The rates depend on what the group uses and if Merriwood Staff facilitation is necessary or not. A one-day event detail page with several different packages is available on the retreat page of our website. Please feel free to call the office if you have additional questions or to discuss specifics.

### **Q: What is a sample day event schedule?**

A: We can modify this schedule for the group attending. If a group wishes for MCC staff to facilitate some of the programming, typically, MCC staff would facilitate one activity in the morning, followed by lunch, followed by a second activity in the afternoon. There would be additional timeslots for the group to hold their own meetings and free time (if they desire). The schedule can be modified to meet the needs of the group attending in a way that works for both MCC staff and the attending group.

We hope you'll consider Merriwood for your overnight or day event! We look forward to hearing from you soon!

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