



## RENTAL GROUPS & RETREATS FAQs

Read below for answers to some of our most frequently asked questions concerning rentals.

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

#### **Q: How do I make a reservation?**

A: Navigate to the Retreat Request Form on our website (located under “Rental Groups” on the RETREATS menu). This will provide our Retreat Team with all the information needed to discover if your preferred date is available. After a date is agreed upon, you will be “penciled in” and sent a contract. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your signed contract and deposit. Remember as you’re navigating the rental planning process that all communication with the camp should flow between one Group Leader and one Retreat Director.

#### **Q: Can my group rent your entire facility?**

A: It is not common for one group to rent the entire facility. It would require a group of over five hundred guests and a need for all lodging spaces in order to be eligible to rent the entire facility.

#### **Q: Do you have wireless internet?**

A: Yes. Wi-Fi is available in every building except the Treetopper Cabins, the Basswood Knob Cabins, the Hickory Grove Cabins, and the Horse Barns. There is no charge but the connections are password-protected. This password will be provided to the Group Leader before or upon arrival, and it is up to the Group Leader to distribute the password as needed. We suggest not sharing the password with kids and teens so they can truly unplug during their time at camp!

#### **Q: Do you have cell phone service and cable TV?**

A: In general, AT&T, T-Mobile, and TracFone users struggle to acquire a strong signal at Hidden Acres. US Cellular & Sprint have decent signals but tend to work better outdoors, and Verizon has coverage everywhere on the camp. The metal roof in the Family Life Center tends to block signals and drop calls.

The only TV with cable on the grounds is in the foyer of the Family Life Center. The other screens you see around camp are for announcements or are Smart TVs in meeting rooms. Let us know if you need an HDMI cable for a Smart TV.

## **Q: What do I need to bring with me for a stay at Hidden Acres?**

A: Bedding (sleeping bag or blankets & sheets), pillow, towel, washcloth, toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.), modest swimwear (no speedos for guys, no stomachs or cleavage showing for girls)\*, and gym shoes. All clothing packed should be modest – not too low-cut, tight, or short, with midsections always covered.

\*Note on swimwear: Please wear appropriate swimwear in the pool and lake areas. If you move to other areas, please change back into regular clothing or cover up. Guys should keep their shirts on unless they're actively swimming.

## **Q: What are your rules for our stay?**

A: We like to keep it basic. (1) No alcohol is allowed on the grounds. (2) No smoking is allowed inside buildings; please smoke outside away from building entries. (3) Our pet policy follows ADA guidelines and only certified service animals are allowed in any building. Other rules are listed on the back of your Group Contract, so be sure to read that document carefully before signing.

## **Q: What equipment can my group borrow from Hidden Acres?**

A: Many groups request tables, chairs, microphones, and music stands. Basic sound equipment may be available. Please submit any needs to your Hidden Acres Retreat Director and they will reply with availability. Equipment needs must be finalized two weeks before your arrival date.

## **Q: Does the camp have quiet hours?**

A: All-camp quiet hours are from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am; a "lights out" time is up to your Group Leader. Everyone should be back in their lodging building by midnight.

## **Q: What are my check-in and check-out times?**

A: Per your group contract, check-in can begin any time after 4:00 pm on your arrival date. Only the Group Leader needs to check in with Hidden Acres; other guests can check in with their Group Leader(s). Check-out on the final day of your stay is as follows unless otherwise noted on your contract: lodging rooms should be vacated by 11:00 am, meeting rooms should be vacated by 3:00 pm. You are welcome to stay on the grounds until 4:00 pm that day. If these check-in and check-out times create an issue for your group, please contact us in advance so we can work on a solution for you. We will be as flexible as possible. Charges may apply if you are arriving early or staying later than these standard times.

## **Q: Do I need to do anything when checking out?**

A: Your lodging and meeting spaces should be cleaned (all garbage, big & small, in trashcans; no glaring messes) and in order when you depart. Please do not place bags of garbage outside. Leaders should go through all rooms after everyone is packed up and check for items left behind. Groups will be responsible for any damage, intentional or unintentional, that they cause during their stay.

## **Q: How does billing work?**

A: Hidden Acres bills rental groups after their departure. We will be in touch and send you a bill based on the attendance numbers, equipment & activity requests, and meal needs expressed to us before arrival. No taxes are added. Fees may be added if property was damaged by your group. Payment is due within 10 days of receipt. Groups will receive one bill from us and should collect fees from all attendees and send us one lump sum payment in return.

## **Q: What is your lost & found policy for rental groups?**

A: Hidden Acres holds onto items for about two weeks after they are found. A found item will be brought to the Welcome Center, logged, and stored. This allows us to determine quickly whether your item has been located. Please call the office if you're missing something. If it is found we will discuss return options with you. After two weeks, all unclaimed items may be donated to local charity. If your item has not been found, we can add it to a call sheet and contact you if it turns up.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Q: What can we do for free?**

A: The Family Life Center (FLC) contains a gymnasium, a 70' x 30' indoor swimming pool ranging from 3 to 5 feet deep, a hot tub, a game room with ping pong, pool, and foosball, a lobby with a fireplace and big screen cable TV, a large room for parties or meetings, and an outdoor fire pit. It also includes our Snack Shop and Gift Shop areas, opened and operated by Hidden Acres nearly every weekend. Snack Shop and Gift Shop areas accept cash, check, and credit cards as payment.

Lechler Lake and Jesse's Pond are two waterfront areas that provide several free activity options. Lechler Lake is the perfect location for swimming, boating (canoes & paddle boats), fishing, and relaxing with family and friends. From Memorial Day to Labor Day you can try out the Blob, a 35' inflatable waterfront toy. Imagine a giant pillow on the water that when jumped on from a platform above launches a "rider" from the other end of the pillow into the lake. Also at Lechler Lake is our 410-foot commercial waterslide.

At Jesse's Pond, you can find even better fishing as well as more boating. Swimming is not allowed, as this is a geothermal pond with piping at the bottom. Waylon's Gazebo nearby is a perfect shaded area with seating for 6-8 people.

At both Lechler Lake and Jesse's Pond, children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, and life jackets must be worn for most activities. The two exceptions to the life jacket rule are (1) the new 410-foot water slide and (2) the roped-off shallow swimming area at Lechler Lake.

Our Mini Golf Course, located near the Pavilion, is a self-serve location open from spring to fall. Putters, balls, and score cards are located in a nearby rack so you can come and go as you please.

We have several Hiking Trails and Special Areas for you to enjoy. The *Prayer Tree Maze* north of the Johnson Lodge includes many hiking trails as well as two special spots to visit. The first is the *Prayer Tree Cross*, which is the remnant of the giant oak tree where our founders prayed over the decision to purchase the land that later became Hidden Acres. The trails in that area will also lead you to the second spot, *Jonathan's Treehouse*, a small cabin with a spectacular view built in the memory of a former camper, Jonathan Hintz. If you're near Lechler Lake, check out *Ben's Trail*, a moderate hike through timber and ravines.

As you explore the rest of Hidden Acres, we suggest visiting areas like *The Three Crosses* (near Lodge 139), *The FLC Playground* (southeast of the FLC), *Joe Hove Grove* (an small orchard between the FLC and Tower Area), *Jenny's Chapel* (overlooking Lechler Lake on the southeast side), and the *Big Swing*, an oversized, swinging wooden bench near the Tower Area.

Hidden Acres owns a few Yard Games like ladder golf and corn hole that we'd be happy to set up for your retreat. Just provide us with advance notice.

You can enjoy our Soccer Field and Sand Volleyball Courts, located near the entrance to camp, during your stay. Soccer balls and volleyballs are located inside a large deck box in the tree line near the Volleyball Courts.

Octoball, Carpetball, and Human Foosball are three outdoor games ready for you to enjoy at any time. Octoball pits and Carpetball tables are distributed throughout the grounds, but the most popular ones can be found at the Tower Area and south of the Family Life Center (FLC). Human Foosball is a large wooden apparatus located in The Hangout, an outdoor space by the FLC.

9-Square, an activity similar to Four Square but larger and played with the ball in the air, is commonly set up in the FLC Gym stage area or on the Pedal Cart Racetrack. If you want to ensure this activity is set up for your group, contact your Retreat Director.

Indoor Volleyball and Classic Dodgeball are two free activities available in the FLC Gym. Check with your Retreat Director if you're interested in having us set up volleyball nets or set out dodgeball equipment for you.

We also provide Campfires free of charge. Let your Retreat Director know two weeks in advance that you're interested in adding a campfire to your schedule, and we'll stock the firewood and start it for you. We can add S'mores, too, for a fee. See the end of this document for more information on snacks and pricing.

## **Q: What extra activities do you offer for a fee?**

A: For an additional charge, you can add the following activities to your group's stay. These activities *must be scheduled four weeks in advance*, including your preferred day, time, and number of participants. They are available to our overnight guests, but are not available to the general public.

**Trail Rides:** A 45-50 minute horseback ride on trails in our timber costs \$20 per person. Participants must be at least 10 years old. Minimum of 10 riders & maximum of 12 riders per ride.

**Lead Me Rides:** Kids (under age 10) are led on a horse by a parent around the horse arena. Cost is \$5 per person. Must have at least 10 riders to schedule this event.

**Climbing Wall, Zip Line, & Giant Swing (Tower Area):** Charge is \$150 per hour per activity (each one separately). This area is only available when the “feels like” temperature is 40°F or higher. To add a tower activity to your schedule, you should have a minimum of 15 interested participants for the Climbing Wall, 15 interested for the Zip Line, or 20 interested for the Giant Swing. All riders must fit into a harness; our smallest size usually fits a 5-7 year old child. Additionally, the Climbing Wall has a weight limit of 50-300 lbs and the Zip Line has a weight limit of 50-225 lbs. The Giant Swing has no weight limit. For reference, per hour, we can typically service 25 people on the Climbing Wall, 15 people on the Zip Line, and 35 people on the Giant Swing, but this can vary.

**Archery Tag:** We charge \$50 per hour for this dodgeball-esque activity. Held in our Family Life Center (FLC) gymnasium, Archery Tag can accommodate 14 people playing at one time. Players must be able to pull the bow back and shoot the arrows properly, which is typically ages 10 & up. One game lasts about 15 minutes. Run by our staff, this event can be free play or tournament-style.

**Blacklight Dodgeball:** This event costs \$20 per hour and is self-facilitated, not staffed by Hidden Acres. We'll set out the equipment and turn on the black lights in the FLC gym. If you want a Hidden Acres staff member to facilitate this event, and we're able to fulfill that request, the price is \$50 per hour.

**Inflatable Joust:** This fun inflatable is facilitated by Hidden Acres staff and costs \$40 per hour to book. It is held indoors in the FLC.

The **BB Gun & Archery Range** is an area set aside in the woods west of the FLC that is perfect for shooting BB guns and bows. You can choose to use our equipment or bring your own. This event must be run by a Hidden Acres staff member, and a group leader must be present, too. Up to 10 people can participate at one time, five shooting BB guns and five shooting bows, and in one hour roughly 60 people can enjoy this activity. If you provide your own equipment, the cost is \$15 per hour. If you use our equipment, the cost is \$30 per hour.

**Hatchet Throwing** is one of our newest activities! Held in our NEW-in-2024 four-lane throwing cage in the wooded Hangout north of the FLC, Hatchet Throwing can be run as free play or tournament-style. This activity must be facilitated by a Hidden Acres staff member and a group leader must be present, too. Two people can throw at one time, and up to 40 people can participate in one hour. You can use our hatchets (and we'll keep score for you!) for \$50 per hour, or you can bring your own hatchets and pay \$25 per hour. For safety reasons, all participants must be at least high school age.

**Pedal Carts:** Pedal Carts can be added to your schedule for \$30 per hour and are staffed by Hidden Acres. We'll set out 4-6 carts ranging in size from kids to adults and you can format your time as "fun riding" or race-style. Hidden Acres will choose a location for this activity prior to your retreat.

**Zorb Ball Soccer:** Playing soccer in these human-size hamster balls is just as fun to watch as it is to participate! Schedule this event for your group for \$150 per hour. This activity is held indoors in the FLC gym. We have up to 14 Zorb Balls that can be used at one time.

**Wagon Rides:** We offer three different styles of Wagon Rides you can schedule for your group. We offer Tractor Wagon Rides for \$30 per hour, with carts that can seat 18-36 people per ride and accommodate 2-3 rides per hour. Tractor Wagon Rides with Dessert, a \$7 per person activity that also accommodates 18-36 people per session, lasts 90 minutes and includes s'mores or peach packs to cook over the fire.

### **Q: What activities do you add during wintertime?**

A: Hidden Acres adds a handful of activities for the winter season. Just north of Lechler Lake, in the woods, is a winding ravine sledding hill. Jesse's Pond also provides a great location for Broomball or Ice Fishing (ice fishing equipment not provided). Even though all three of these activities are free of charge and self-facilitated, please let your Retreat Director know if you'd like to add one to your schedule. We'll check the sledding hill and set out sleds & tubes, set up broomball equipment, and check the thickness of the ice prior to your arrival.

## **FAMILY LIFE CENTER (FLC)**

### **Q: Is the use of the Family Life Center (FLC) included in the cost of lodging?**

A: Yes. If you are spending the night with us, you are welcome to use the Family Life Center. If you have guests who will be visiting during the day and not staying overnight, they pay a \$10 day fee for access to things like the Family Life Center and the camp's other free activity areas.

### **Q: Can we reserve part of the FLC during our stay?**

A: The FLC is a common area for all guests to share. Retreat groups can request an hour of half the gym and one hour of pool time for exclusive use via the Activity Request form. We will post a gymnasium schedule for other guests to see which shows when the gym and pool are available for open use. Your lodging rooms and meeting spaces are the only parts of your reservation that are exclusively for your group's use.

### **Q: What do I need to know about your Snack Shop and Gift Shop?**

A: Located in the foyer of the FLC, our Snack Shop and Gift Shop are open nearly every weekend. We will look at all groups' schedules and open them during key free times, most often Saturday afternoon and evening. Snacks vary in price from \$0.25 to \$4.50, small gifts and mementos range

from \$1 to \$8, t-shirts range from \$15-\$25, and sweatshirts and jackets range from \$20-\$50. If those areas are closed during your retreat or you miss them while they're open, you can order almost every item in our Gift Shop online at [store.hacamps.org](https://store.hacamps.org). The FLC has candy and drink vending machines that are always available.

## MEALS

### **Q: What time are meals served in the Dining Hall?**

A: Hidden Acres has standard meal times set for all groups. Breakfast: 8:00-8:30a, Lunch: Noon-12:30p, Supper: 5:30-6:00p\* (\*Friday Supper is served 6:00-6:30p). All guests should arrive before the end of their scheduled meal time. Hidden Acres reserves the right to adjust these times as needed, and Group Leaders will be informed of meal time changes no less than four days prior to arrival.

### **Q: How much do meals cost?**

A: For ages 12 and up, each meal is \$9 per person. For ages 3-11, each meal is \$6 per person. Children ages 0-2 eat free. If you are the only group eating a given meal, you must have at least 25 people partaking in the meal for our Dining Hall to open.

### **Q: What is the Dining Hall experience like?**

A: Food is served buffet style. Your group should arrive during your designated serving time and go through the food lines into your assigned dining room. We ask that each group clean tables and leave their dining room as they found it. A dish return window is located near the kitchen, and buckets of cleaner and washcloths are placed in each dining room prior to each meal.

### **Q: My group is cooking our own meals. What do I need to know?**

A: Retreat guests who wish to cook their own meals are typically housed in a building with a kitchenette and seating area that can accommodate their cooking and dining needs. These kitchens have a sink, refrigerator & freezer, stove, and microwave. Basic small appliances, serving utensils, and cookware are stocked in the cupboards and drawers. These buildings include the Inn, Welcome Center, Bunkhouse, Family Life Center, Lodge 139, and Johnson Lodge. The old camp kitchen, located in the Main Lodge, is larger and can accommodate the needs of bigger groups. It is available first to the group that has booked the Main Lodge, and, if not being used, can be rented to other groups for an extra fee.

**Q: Can my group provide some of our own meals and have Hidden Acres provide others in the Dining Hall?**

A: Yes. Anything is possible. We need to know two weeks in advance which meals you would like to have with us in the Dining Hall, how many people will be partaking in each meal, and information on any food allergies for which we need to prepare.

**Q: Can my group rent the main camp kitchen in the Dining Hall?**

A: No. State laws restrict us from allowing guests to use or even enter the camp kitchen. Only trained staff and volunteers can access these areas.

**Q: Does Hidden Acres serve snacks outside of meal times?**

A: Yes, you can add snack times to your bill for a small fee. The prices for ages 3+ are as follows: Ice Cream Sundaes, \$3.50 per person; S'mores, \$2.50 per person; Cinnamon Rolls & Hot Cocoa, \$2.50 per person; Root Beer Floats, \$2.50 per person; Popcorn & Drink, \$1.50 per person. Medium pizzas (12") are \$10 each and are cut into eight small slices. Most guests eat 3-4 slices of pizza at a meal. You are also welcome to bring supplies and serve your own snack.

**Q: Can Hidden Acres accommodate food allergies?**

A: Yes. If you have a food allergy that requires a substitution for health reasons, please fill out our allergy form at [www.hacamps.org/allergy-form](http://www.hacamps.org/allergy-form). We need to have an accurate list of food allergies two weeks out from your arrival. We can't always accommodate every food allergy, but we will try our best and will reply to you or your group leader if we cannot accommodate something.