



RELAX | RELATE | BE REAL

Fall 2024



Welcome

We are so glad that you will be joining us for the Men's Retreat. These weekends are designed to prepare and equip men to be godly men in their church, families, and workplaces by giving them the opportunity to Relax, Relate, and Be Real.

Please feel free to ask any staff member for assistance during the weekend. We want to be able to remove distractions so that you can focus on connecting with God and the other men.

Check-In: 6:00PM-7:45PM

- Your group may arrive separately or together as a group
- Each individual guy must check in at our office when they arrive
- Upon Check-In, each person will receive a Men's Retreat booklet that contains the weekend schedule, workshop information, campus map, activity options and more. There will also be an electronic version of this booklet for you
- Upon Check-In, each person will receive a name badge. We ask that you wear these badges all weekend so that we know you are participating in the event and so that you can get to know other men
- If you know that you or your group will be Checking In after 8:00PM, please call our office so we can offer assistance with Check-In when you arrive
- Please do not arrive before 6:00PM on Friday as we may be serving other groups at that time



Final Attendance and Balance

Two Weeks Before:

Final payment for your group is due 2 weeks prior to the retreat.

Please have your group leader make a single, final payment.

Individual registrant's final balance is due 2 weeks before event.

Costs During The Event:

Most activities are included in your reservation fee. Activities with an added cost include horseback trail rides* and spending money for the Camp Store (which will be open at different times throughout the weekend).



Meal Information

Friday Night Snack

A light snack will be available during your Check-In process.

If you require a more substantial meal on Friday night, please plan to visit one of the fast food locations or restaurants located just off the Hart/Mears exit.



Health and Safety

Grace Adventures takes the health and safety of our guests and staff very seriously.

To view our current health practices and safety information, please visit the Men's Retreat webpage at www.graceadventures.org/men



Housing

On-Campus

- Housing is assigned by Grace Adventures Staff based on group size. Special requests may only be made if there is a need for handicap accessible housing. Please make your need clear and in full on your online Health Form
- **Groups will receive their housing assignment when they Check-In**
- All Housing units are smoke-free. Please only smoke/vape in the designated areas on campus.
- **Our housing is primarily twin-size bunkbeds.**
- While we utilize bottom bunks as much as possible, some attendees may need to sleep on top bunks in housing units.
- On-Campus attendees must bring their own bedding (See Packing List on page 7)
- All housing units are heated and have bathrooms and showers located inside the building
- We try our best to not have separate groups share housing units

Commuter

- Groups choosing to Commute are not assigned housing on campus
- Commuters may stay for the duration of the program during each day
- Parking is free
- Groups/Individuals are responsible for their own transportation to Grace Adventures

Hotel

- We partner with a local hotel to give our participants a discounted hotel experience. Hotel rooms are reserved by Grace Adventures. Special requests that will be considered are for physical handicaps. Please make sure that your need is indicated on your registration (and, if applicable, communicated to your group leader)
- Hotel rates are based on two people per room. There is an upcharge of \$75.00 for a single occupancy room
- Hotel attendees will be housed at the Dunes Express Inn & Suites in Hart, MI.
- You may Check-In to your hotel starting at 4:00PM on Friday or choose to Check-In after the evening events
- Hotels require the names of individual guests for room assignments. Group Leaders must send a rooming list to our Registrar (registration@graceadventures.org), two weeks before the retreat date as well.
- Grace Adventures partners with the hotels for these events, please be respectful and considerate of all other guests and hotel staff during your stay
- Check-Out at the hotel is at 11:00AM on Sunday. Please check out before the last session on Sunday.
- Groups/Individuals are responsible for their own transportation from the hotel to Grace Adventures

Weekend Activity Info

Target Sports - Personal Firearms Allowed

During the weekend the Trap Shooting Range, Rifle Range, and Handgun Range will be open. Guests are allowed to bring their own firearms and ammo. All firearms must be locked in a vehicle when not in use.

Open Activities

Open activities are available for you to enjoy during the specified open times and have no extra cost. You'll receive the full list of activities and times in your booklet at Check-In, activities are subject to change.

- Rock Climbing Tower
- Laser Tag
- Shotgun Trap Shooting
- Rifle Range
- Handgun Range
- High Ropes Course

Man Games - Team Competition

In this annual competition you'll get to team up with a group of 6 or more and compete against other groups to become the manliest men at the Men's Retreat.

Horseback Trail Rides – \$25

Come ride a horse at Paradise Ranch! We'll take you on a ride through our vast system of trails for a chance to enjoy the beauty of autumn in Michigan.

To sign up:

Information to sign up for a trail ride will be emailed to all retreat participants prior to the retreat. All spots are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Payment is required prior to check in. All payments for trail rides are non-refundable.

Please Wear:

Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required for riding.

Special Notes:

Participants must be able to mount the horse unassisted in order to ride. Participants with recent surgeries or joint problems should avoid riding.





Sample Schedule

FRIDAY

- 6:00PM Registration, Move-In, Snack
- 8:00PM Session 1
- 9:30PM Activity Sign-Ups, Evening Activities
- 11:00PM Courtesy Quiet Hours



SATURDAY

- 7:30AM Breakfast
- 9:15AM Session 2
- 11:00AM Man Games Competition & Workshops
- 12:00PM Lunch
- 1:30PM Free-Time Activities & Workshops
- 5:30PM Dinner
- 7:15PM Session 3
- 9:00PM Evening Activities
- 11:00PM Courtesy Quiet Hours



SUNDAY

- 7:30AM Breakfast
- 9:15AM Session 4
- 11:30AM Depart



Connect, Share, and Tag Us



/GraceAdventures



@grace_adventures_mears



/GraceAdventuresVids

Packing List

- ☐ Bedding - Including Sleeping Bag/Sheets and Pillow (On-Campus Attendees Only)
- ☐ Toiletries (Including Towels, Comb or Brush, Toothbrush, Toothpaste)
- ☐ Warm, Outdoor, Comfortable Clothes
- ☐ Rain Gear (Just in case)
- ☐ Bible, Notebook, Pen, Highlighter
- ☐ Closed-Toe Shoes (for Horseback Riding and Rock Climbing)
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Water Bottle
- ☐ Spending Money (Cash) for Camp Store Snacks
- ☐ Guns and Ammunition in locked cases (bring your own or use ours)

Includes: rifles, pistols, and shotguns

**All firearms and weapons need to be in a locked vehicle when not in use.
Weapons are not allowed inside housing units.**

We recommend that you “unplug” during this retreat. Cell phones and other electronics can be a distraction. We will require that phones and electronics are silenced during sessions and events. Anything brought on campus, including electronics, are the owner’s responsibility. We are not responsible for items lost, stolen, or broken.

Grace Adventures desires to provide a safe environment for all employees, campers, and guests and to create an environment where they can focus on and learn more about a deepening relationship with Christ. Grace Adventures has zero tolerance for illegal substances and intoxicants, including marijuana and alcohol, on all our properties, in all our facilities and vehicles, and at all our events. All such substances are strictly prohibited.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHAT DOES THE REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDE?

The registration fee covers your housing, meals, sessions, and most activities. The only extra money you may need is for a horseback trail ride (\$25) and extra snacks and drinks at our Camp Store during the weekend.

2. IS WI-FI AVAILABLE DURING THE RETREAT?

We now have wifi available in the Keep (where the sessions are), but recommend that you use it on an emergency basis so you are able to be present throughout the weekend.

3. WHAT IF ANY OF US HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

We are happy to accommodate some dietary needs and restrictions that our guests may have. We are pleased to offer Gluten Free, Tree Nut/Peanut, Dairy and Vegetarian menu options. If your allergy/dietary needs fall into any of these four categories please inform us at least one week prior to your experience by filling out those needs on your online Health Form. If your allergy/dietary needs exceed those listed above please contact our Registrar at registration@graceadventures.org or 231-873-3662 to make arrangements to bring your own food with you.

4. DO WE HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES?

No you do not. This retreat is yours to relax, relate and be real with other men and with God. You don't have to participate in any of the activities if you don't want to.

5. HOW MANY PEOPLE USUALLY COME TO THE MEN'S RETREATS?

Every weekend is different and will have a variable number of people. Our weekends range from 150-225 people.

6. ARE YOUR BUILDINGS HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE?

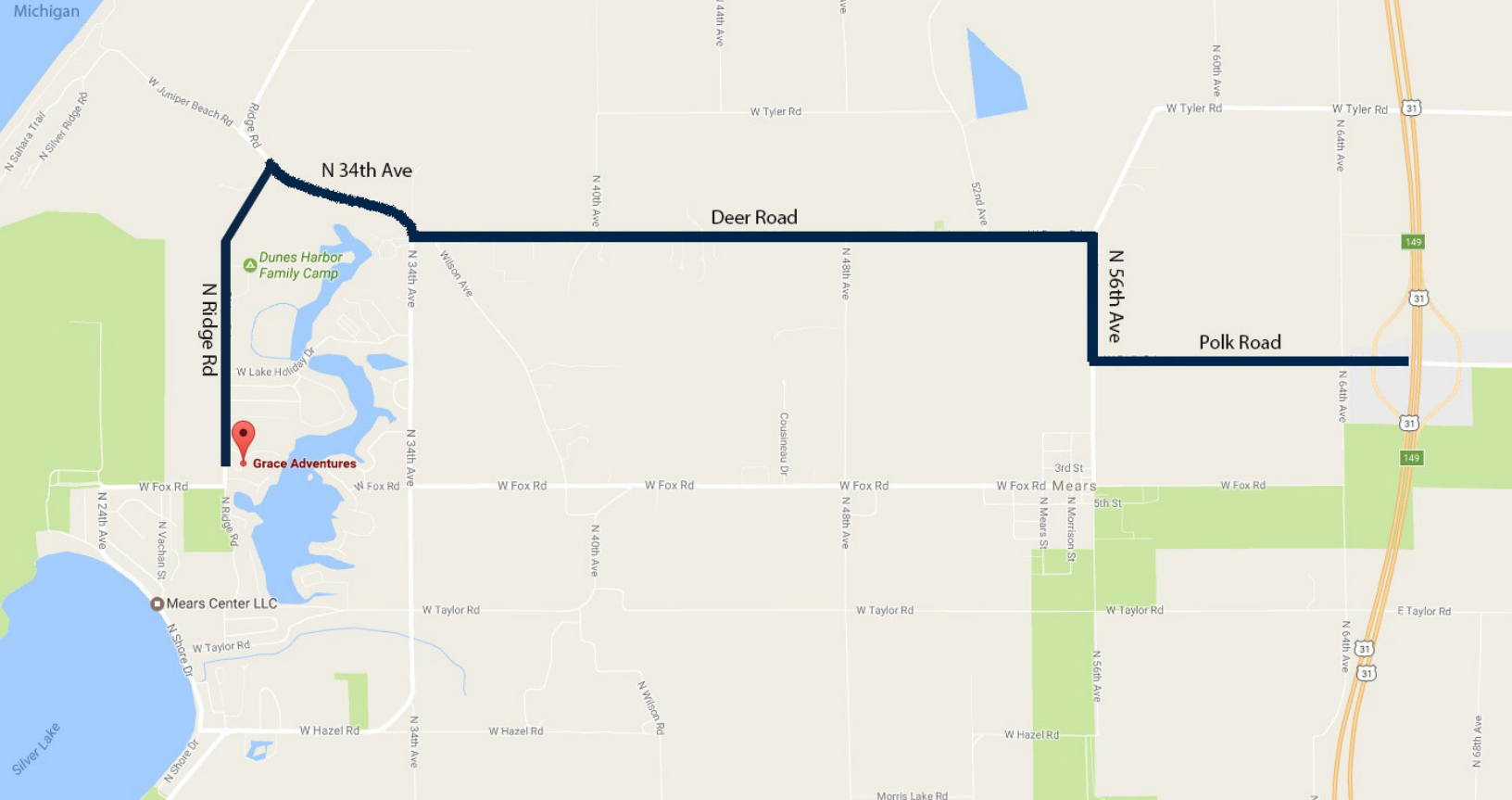
Many of our buildings and housing units are handicap accessible, but not every housing unit and activity site. We have paved sidewalks that go between the main session space, gymnasium, Dining Center, the Lodge housing unit, and the Retreat Center housing unit. There is a significant amount of walking required to get around campus. If you require handicap accessible lodging or accommodations, please let our staff know ahead of time on your online Health Form.

7. SERIOUSLY, WE CAN BRING OUR OWN GUNS?

Yes. We encourage guys who like to shoot their own guns to bring them and ammunition. There will be times for shooting guns at our ranges. We have a rifle range, shotgun trap shooting range, and handgun range. While firearms are not in use, they MUST be locked in vehicles. No firearms are allowed in housing units.

8. WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?

In the event of an emergency, please call 911 and inform a Grace Adventures staff member. Make sure your men have the proper insurance and medical information on hand. At Check-In you'll be given more information on how to reach a staff member at any time. The nearest hospital is Mercy Health Lakeshore in Shelby, MI. (72 S State St, Shelby, MI 49455)



Directions

Grace Adventures is located about 35 miles North of Muskegon, 20 miles South of Ludington, and 80 miles Northwest of Grand Rapids. Grace Adventures is on Upper Silver Lake, almost 7 miles West of US-31.

Traveling from Grand Rapids

Follow I-96 West toward Muskegon and take the exit for US-31 North toward Ludington, follow US-31 Northbound to Hart/Mears (Exit 149). Turn Left (West) and stay on this road until it stops (approx 1 ½ mile) and follow the signs.

Traveling from Holland

Follow US-31 Northbound to Hart/Mears (Exit 149). Turn Left (West) and stay on this road until it stops (approx 1 ½ mile) and follow the signs.

Traveling from Ludington

Follow US-31 Southbound to Hart/Mears (Exit 149). Turn Right (West) and stay on this road until it stops (approx 1 ½ mile) and follow the signs.

Grace Adventures 2100 N Ridge Rd. Mears, MI 49436 (231) 873-3662