

Ferry Beach Family Retreat – Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29, 2017

Registration Packet

The Ferry Beach Retreat Committee is happy you are considering attending this year's retreat and we look forward to welcoming you to "The Beach" in May! We have prepared this registration packet so you will have the information needed to register and prepare for this year's retreat. **Please read the entire packet.** We hope it will answer most of your questions, though we encourage you to speak with a committee member if you have questions we have not covered. If you are new to the Ferry Beach Retreat, you may also want to pick up the Ferry Beach "FAQ" sheet available at coffee hour with information for newcomers.

Some important notes:

- The Ferry Beach Retreat is a **RAIN or SHINE EVENT**, and **NO REFUNDS** will be given due to weather conditions. By the time we know what the weather is going to be like, food has been ordered and contracts have been signed. Even in years when the weather has not been good, we've had a great time!
- The fee for those in onsite rooms is \$200 for adults and \$105 for children ages 5 to 12, or \$715 maximum for families. Campsites are available for \$55 for the weekend, plus \$110 for adults and \$75 for children for meals and materials. For those arranging their own offsite accommodations, the fees are the same as for campers, but without the campsite fee. In all cases children aged 0-4 are free and the **family maximum is \$715**. The registration fee includes three nights and eight meals! **Sorry, we cannot prorate fees if you plan to attend only part of the weekend.** Some financial assistance may be available -- please contact either Elisabeth Jas (elisjas@outlook.com) or Deb Weiner Soule (djweiner101@gmail.com).
- **The deadline for ALL registrations, including campers and those staying offsite, is Sunday, April 30**, and all registrations received by then will have an equal chance for onsite rooms, if desired. Lexington is limited to approximately 75 bed spaces, plus campsites, with an overall cap of 250 people for Concord and Lexington combined. If more than the maximum number of individuals apply, requests for accommodation will be filled on a first-come first-served basis; those who can not be accommodated in FB housing may either camp or stay in a local motel or other rental. We will notify you if there are concerns about accommodation; if you do not receive a message, it means all is well. Late registrations accepted if space is available.
- Due to the large numbers of First Parish people who want to attend, we have to limit invited friends to those who are also active parishioners. First Parish youth may attend without their parents, but must have an adult sponsor **if under age 21** and submit all required forms (elsewhere in packet).
- Details of the weekend and directions will be sent **via e-mail** in mid-May to those who have registered.
- If you are going to arrive after 9:00pm on Friday, you **MUST** let us know ahead of time, or on Friday, call Darien Smith (978-337-8747) from Concord or Deb Weiner Soule from Lexington (617-513-6614). If we do not hear from you, we reserve the right to give away your room to someone requesting it.

Please read all the attached materials regarding the Ferry Beach Community, Changes this Year, Youth, Ferry Beach Rules, Medical Info required for all minors, and the Registration Form. If you would like to know more about Ferry Beach, ask any of the members of the planning committee. Those from Lexington include Elisabeth Jas (co-chair), Erik Svenson, Deb Weiner Soule (co-chair), Dave Cannon, Jim Slack, and Jill French. Please direct registration questions to Elisabeth Jas (elisjas@outlook.com).

Contents of this Information Packet:

Forms that are needed for Registration

• General Info (read and keep)	• Registration Form (required for all families)
• Ferry Beach Community Info (read and keep)	• Medical Info Form (required for <u>all</u> children and youth under age 21)
• Ferry Beach Park Association Rules (read and keep)	• Youth Permission Form (required for all from 6 th grade through age 20 attending with a sponsor instead of their own family)
• Ferry Beach Safety Code (read and keep)	

Ferry Beach 2017

Reminder - Checkout Time

A reminder that check-out time for rooms is 10:00 on Monday morning. The campus will still be open for lunch and activities for the day, as always, and of course, there are the porches and the beach!

Fees

Happily, fees for our use of the Ferry Beach campus are the same this year! For those in onsite rooms, the fee is \$200 for adults (13yrs and older), \$105 for children ages 5-12, free for ages 0-4, or \$715 maximum for families. Campsites are \$55 for the weekend, plus \$110 for adults (13+) and \$75 for children (5-12) for meals, and free for 0-4. For those arranging their own offsite accommodations, the meal fees are the same as for campers. The registration fee includes three nights and eight meals! **Sorry, we cannot prorate fees if you plan to attend only part of the weekend.** Some scholarship assistance is available, and you may contact Registrar Darien Smith (darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471) to inquire about this possibility.

Contributions - Scholarship Fund

As always, some scholarship funds are available to assist those who could not otherwise attend. The Ferry Beach Committee is now making it possible for all “beachers” to contribute to a Scholarship Fund. Participation is completely optional - see the new line on the registration form if you would like to make a donation (tax deductible)

New Chef

There is a new chef this year at Ferry Beach, Chef Chris Loftus. We’ve heard good things about his meals and are confident that you’ll enjoy the meals too. As always, be sure to note dietary restrictions and allergies on your registration form.

Reminder - New Rooming Option

For the second year, we have (in addition to the three dorms where we have accommodations) 4 additional new rooms with private bath available to us in the Cross Cottage, near the Rowland dorm. The cost is **\$90 per room for the weekend in addition to** the usual cost per person of onsite rooms. Please see the last page of packet for more info if you are interested in one of these rooms.

Onsite Questions/Issues

There are always at least two committee members onsite and on call via cell phone to answer questions during the day and evening. Names and phone numbers are posted in the Quillen Lobby. There is also an Issue Response Team that is a subgroup of the committee that is available if needed during the weekend to help deal with any issues including irresponsible, questionable, or inappropriate behavior of individuals or groups (of any age).

The Lexington and Concord Ferry Beach retreat offers an opportunity to relax and connect with one another in a weekend filled with the values of Unitarian Universalism. **The Ferry Beach Planning Committee looks forward to seeing you at the Beach !**

Important Notes Regarding the Ferry Beach Community

In order to make the Ferry Beach weekend as pleasant and safe as possible for all participants, the Ferry Beach Planning Committee urges everyone to be particularly aware of the following rules and policies as well as several recommendations for safe behavior.

Please remember that **you** must keep track of your own children and youth, and any youth you are sponsoring, at all times, especially “after hours.” Of course, we hope you will also keep an eye on other kids in our “village”, too, for safety’s sake.

Remember that everyone is responsible for clean-up throughout the weekend, *especially evenings in the dining hall and other public spaces*, and at all times in the restrooms. Parents, please help your children/youth to clean up after themselves (trips to the bathroom in sandy wet beachwear can be a particular problem).

Recall that there are quiet hours from 11:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. throughout the campus, including the campground and tennis/basketball courts. **After 11:00 p.m., no one under 18 is allowed on the beach. Also, no one under the age of 18 is permitted on the beach at anytime without an adult present. Being in the water is allowed only when a lifeguard is on duty.**

Ferry Beach Park Association Rules prohibit drinking alcoholic beverages except in public areas like the porches. Underage drinking (under 21) is strictly prohibited. **There is no drinking allowed on the beach, by anyone at any time.** the Ziegler Room in Rowland is also an alcohol-free area at all times for everyone.

Adults are reminded that they are being observed and emulated by younger adults and teens; and teens and young adults are always modeling for younger kids. Please be aware of this dynamic, and assume some responsibility for those around you in all situations. Violation of Maine law may be cause for the Committee to request that individuals involved in such violations leave Ferry Beach immediately.

The Ziegler Room will also be available during the day, but closed during quiet hours (11pm-8am). There is no sleeping allowed in either of these spaces. We hope that having places where older youth and young adults may gather even later at night will help to avoid the dangerous situation of minors on the beach at that time, and be conducive to the Ferry Beach friendships that young people have enjoyed over the years. It is up to parents and sponsors to determine if and when their youth are permitted in these spaces, and to monitor or supervise their use of these areas.

In general, we suggest all families/sponsors make clear plans with their children and youth for knowing where each other are and what they are doing at all times. It’s just as important for youth/children to be able to find their adults as vice versa!!

We remind everyone that our continued use of the Ferry Beach campus for our annual retreat depends on how we take care of the campus and follow the rules of the community. No one wants the actions of a few to jeopardize that for all.

We look forward to a great weekend!

The Ferry Beach Planning Committee of Concord and Lexington

Welcome to the Ferry Beach Community

(Ferry Beach Park Association Rules)

It is our goal to make your stay as safe, comfortable and rewarding as possible. By coming to “The Beach” you have entered into a relationship of commitment and responsibility to others who share that space and time with you. The following policies are necessary for us to maintain a safe campus for the entire Ferry Beach community. We ask for your cooperation in abiding by them.

In case of emergency.

The Executive Director lives at 5 Morris Ave. and can be reached at 207.423.2529.

Good Stewardship. We are all caretakers of this delicate and precious seashore area. Please help us care for our environment by turning off lights when not in use, taking shorter showers and making sure all faucets are turned off, placing all recyclables in the designated collection containers, and placing all raw fruits and vegetables, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds into the composting bucket in the dining room. Also, *please stay off the sand dunes.*

Fire. Open flames of any kind (including candles, incense, lighters, tobacco products, and even a chalice) are prohibited in all buildings on campus due to their age and dry conditions. All dormitory buildings are equipped with fire alarms that notify the Saco Fire Department automatically. You must leave the building immediately if you hear the alarm. Also, use of fireworks on the grounds or beach is not allowed.

Smoking. Please smoke in designated areas only. You may smoke on Quillen porch, but please be conscious of others around you and smoke downwind. You may not smoke in any buildings or on porches except Quillen. We uphold the Maine State law that forbids the possession and/or use of tobacco products by those under 18.

Alcoholic Beverages. Alcoholic Beverages may be served and consumed in public areas only, and only by those 21 and older. We uphold the Maine State law that forbids alcoholic beverages on the beach.

Controlled Substances. We uphold federal and state laws forbidding the possession or use of illegal or controlled substances.

Feet. Local and State health ordinances prohibit bare feet in Quillen lobby and dining room. Swimsuits should also be covered when in those areas.

Wheels. Skateboarding, rollerblading, bicycling or any such activity is not allowed in any of our buildings or on our porches. Please use the basketball court or paths throughout campus. Also, please be very careful when crossing the streets: All the roads are public and traffic along Route 9 moves very fast.

Good Neighbors. Quiet time throughout the campus is from 11:00 pm to 8:00 am, which includes the basketball/tennis courts. Soft voices in sleeping areas even before that time shows respect for other’s needs.

Pets. Pets are not allowed except for service animals. We will gladly supply names of local kennels for those who wish to bring their animals with them.

Beach Safety. Please note that no one under the age of 18 is allowed on the on the beach at anytime without a lifeguard or adult present. No one is allowed in the water unless a lifeguard is present. After 11:00 pm, no one is allowed in the water, and no one under 18 is allowed on the beach.

Parental Responsibility. Parents are completely responsible for their children under 18. An adult must plan to sleep in areas where youth are sleeping.

First Parish Ferry Beach Safety Code

All youth attending the Ferry Beach Family Retreat of First Parish in Concord and First Parish in Lexington (with their own families or sponsored by an attending adult/family) are expected to be familiar with and uphold the following rules of conduct, which are designed to promote a safe and healthy retreat community. These rules of conduct are in place for the protection of our youth and the safety of all retreat participants.

1. The following conduct is expected of youth participants at the First Parish Ferry Beach Family Retreat, whether staying in a room or camping on the campus, or staying off-site:
 - a. demonstrating mutual respect and personal well being;
 - b. providing emergency information at the request of adult leaders;
 - c. complying with curfew and sleeping arrangements as announced by the adult leadership;
leadership;
 - d. complying with this safety code;
 - e. complying with the rules of the Ferry Beach Association (included in registration materials and posted in lodge) and additional rules as posted or announced by adult leadership;
 - f. signing up for and carrying out clean up or other duties, as stipulated for all retreat participants over age 12;
 - g. keeping parents or sponsors aware of where you will be at all times.

2. The following conduct is not allowed by youth participants at the First Parish Ferry Beach Retreat:
 - a. possessing, consuming or distributing alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco products;
 - b. possessing any weapons or firearms, or using fireworks;
 - c. committing any inappropriate behaviors as determined by the adult leadership or committing any illegal acts, including vandalism or disturbing the peace;
 - d. sexual behavior;
 - e. exclusionary behavior;
 - f. gambling;
 - g. sleeping in the Ziegler Room (lounging room in Rowland);
 - h. being on the beach at anytime without an adult present;
 - i. being on the beach at all after 11:00 p.m., if under age 18;
 - j. **being in the water at all when no lifeguard is present.**

3. Damages incurred by youth participants at the Retreat will be the responsibility of those youths involved in the damages and their parents and sponsoring family.

4. Violations of this safety code will result in sanctions as determined by the adult leadership and may include expulsion from the Retreat. In the case of underage alcohol or drug use, it **will** result in immediate expulsion. In cases of expulsion of sponsored youth, parents/guardians will be required to pick up their child(ren) at Ferry Beach or make arrangements with the sponsor(s) for their departure.