

Ferry Beach Family Retreat – Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-28, 2018

Registration and Information Packet

Welcome to First Parish Lexington at Ferry Beach!

Ferry Beach, founded in the last part of the nineteenth century by visionary Universalists who wanted to develop an inspirational and welcoming retreat in nature, is a gorgeous retreat and conference center in Saco, Maine. For decades, First Parish in Lexington has joined with our sibling congregation, First Parish in Concord, for a lovely Memorial Day weekend retreat. The retreat runs from Friday evening through Monday late-morning (although the facilities are available for lunch and activities on Monday as well). We look forward to you joining us.

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 all materials.** 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.

Fees

Dorm rental and campsite fees have increased this year, necessitating an increase in our fees as well. Happily, food service fees are the same as last year. **For onsite rooms**, the fee is now \$210 for adults (13yrs and older), \$110 for children ages 5-12, free for ages 0-4, or \$750 maximum for families.

Campsites are \$75 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 may be available, and you may contact Lexington Registrar Elisabeth Jas (elisjas@outlook.com) to inquire about this possibility.

Food Service

Ferry Beach offers plentiful food for vegetarians, vegans, and omnivores. We are planning for Ferry Beach food to be nut-free this year; this includes our request that you refrain from bringing nuts or nut products with you. There will be vegetarian and vegan choices at each meal, and with advance notice, gluten free and lactose intolerant diets can be accommodated. Other dietary restrictions cannot necessarily be accommodated, but there is a refrigerator available if you need to bring supplemental food. Please make sure that you note dietary needs on your registration form.

We will again have the option of signing up for a pizza and salad dinner in the dining hall on Friday evening this year. Stay tuned for further information about this option.

Checkout Time

Check-out time for rooms is now 11:00 on Monday morning! The campus will still be open for lunch and activities for the day, as always.

Reminder – Private Bath Rooming Option

In addition to rooms in 3 dorms, we have 4 additional 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 information on this option on our registration form 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 Incident 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). If you have questions about the registration process, contact Elisabeth Jas (elisjas@outlook.com) or Deb Weiner Soule (djweiner101@gmail.com).

Some important notes about registration:

- 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 deadline for ALL registrations, including campers and those staying onsite, is Sunday, April 29**, and all registrations received by then will have an equal chance for onsite rooms, if desired. Each congregation is limited to approximately 75 bed spaces, plus campsites, with an overall cap of 250 people for Concord and Lexington combined. If we go over the overall cap for participants, we will have a lottery for being able to attend, and priority will be given to signed First Parish members, as per the FP Membership Policy. Late registrations will be 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 members of the congregation. First Parish youth may attend without their parents, but must have an adult sponsor **if under age 21** and must 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 Deb Weiner Soule (617-513-6614). If we do not hear from you, we reserve the right to give away your room to campers.

Please read all the attached materials. We encourage you to print out those sections that are informational about the weekend. **Contents include:**

- General Info
- "It Takes a Village" - Ferry Beach Community Info
- Ferry Beach Park Association Rules
- Ferry Beach Safety Code
- Youth Permission Form (required for all from 6th grade through age 20 attending with a sponsor instead of their own family)
- Medical Info Form (required for all children and youth under age 21)
- Registration Form (required for all)

Some 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).

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 any time 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 or in the dining hall (individual lodging spaces are not considered public areas). Due to our insurance restrictions, only wine or beer are allowed. Under-age drinking (under 21) is strictly prohibited. There is no alcohol allowed on the beach, by anyone at any time (state law). The Ziegler Room in Rowland is always an alcohol free area. 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 is available during the day for older youth or young adults to gather, but closed during quiet hours (11pm-8am). There is no sleeping allowed in the Ziegler Room. The Quillen Lobby and Dolphin Room (former dining hall) are open to all as places to hang out, as is the current dining hall. We hope that having places where older youth and young adults may gather even late 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.

The Ferry Beach Planning Committee looks forward to seeing you at the Beach!

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 of Lexington and Concord 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.

Youth Permission Form - For All Under 21 Attending Without Parent/Guardian

Please note: There is no Youth Retreat within the Ferry Beach Family Retreat. However, youth are welcome to participate without their parents so long as they are sponsored by an attending adult, agree to the terms below, and submit a completed Permission Form and Medical Information Form along with their Registration Form. No adult/family should sponsor more than two youth. This form applies to youth in 6th grade through age 20.

Sponsoring Family:

I/We, _____, have agreed to sponsor _____ for the Ferry Beach Family Retreat of First Parish in Lexington, MA, which includes: providing transportation to the retreat from home and from the retreat to home; lodging, meals and medical services as necessary. I/We understand that **no sponsored youth under age 18 under our supervision may drive**, in part or in totality, to the Retreat from home or from the Retreat to home. I/We also understand that I/we are responsible for supervising the conduct, activities and sleeping arrangements for youth under my/our sponsorship and that youth must be sleeping in reasonable proximity to my/our sleeping quarters for us to supervise - e.g. tent must be near the sponsor's tent or their room must be near the sponsor's room.

Parent/Guardian of Sponsored Youth:

I, _____, give permission for my child, _____, to attend and participate in the Ferry Beach Family Retreat of First Parish in Lexington, MA, and I understand that there is no Youth retreat within the Ferry Beach Family Retreat. I give permission for my child to be sponsored by the _____ family for this weekend long event. I/We have made the sponsoring family aware of any and all health issues and medications (prescription and over-the-counter), including any conditions that would be critical in an emergency, as well as severe allergies requiring an epi-pen, diabetes, and medications for disorders or depression that my child will be taking during the Retreat. The _____ family has my permission to seek emergency medical treatment for my child if deemed necessary. I understand that my child is expected to uphold the *First Parish Ferry Beach Safety Code*.

Youth Being Sponsored:

I, _____, understand that the _____ family is sponsoring me at the Ferry Beach Family Retreat of First Parish in Lexington and that I am expected to abide by their rules, those of the Ferry Beach Association and the *First Parish Ferry Beach Safety Code* (elsewhere in registration packet).

Youth, Parent(s)/Guardian(s), and Sponsor(s) Agreement:

I/We have read and agree to uphold this Permission Form and the *First Parish Ferry Beach Safety Code*.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Sponsor Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Medical Information: Required for All Under Age 21

For Youth attending with a Sponsor, must be turned in with Registration or Permission Form.

For children/youth attending with Parent(s), must be turned in with Registration OR at Check-in upon arrival at Ferry Beach.

1. Name(s) of child(ren)/youth _____

2. Birth date(s) of child(ren)/youth _____

3. Contacts:

Name(s) of parent(s)/guardian(s) and contact info during weekend

Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Other Emergency Contact(s) if parent/guardian not immediately available:

Name _____ Phone(s) _____

Relationship to child/youth _____ Address _____

If attending Ferry Beach with a sponsor, give name of sponsor: _____

4. **Medical:** Please list any medications that each child/youth is taking: _____

Date of most recent tetanus booster: _____

Drug allergies: _____

Food allergies and/or special dietary considerations _____

Medical Insurance and Information:

Company: _____

Policy number: _____

Subscriber Name: _____

Child/Youth's primary doctor _____ phone _____

5. **Emergency Treatment Authorization**

This health history is correct as far as I know. In the event that I am unable to be reached in an emergency, I hereby authorize the physician selected by the adult leaders or volunteers of the Ferry Beach Weekend, to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and order injections, anesthesia or surgery for my child/youth named above.

Signature of parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

If there is any other information that might be needed please add below:

First Parish Ferry Beach Family Retreat: Registration Form – Due April 29, 2018
May 25 - 28, 2018: Memorial Day Weekend

Please note: Sponsored Youth must fill out and submit their own registration forms.

Name(s): Adults and children, **as you would like them to appear on your name tag**. Please include **ages for children and youth**.
(Please, no guests who do not attend FP.)

_____ Age _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____ Age _____

Will you be camping? _____ Will this be your first year at Ferry Beach? _____

If you are not camping, how many actual (twin) beds do you need? _____
(e.g. one of your children will sleep in a port-a-crib or on a mat you provide.)

E-mail address(es): _____
(Note: Email will be the primary mode of communication about Ferry Beach, unless you do not have an email address.)

Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____

Please give cell phone number, if you have one, for on-site contact: _____

If you plan to arrive later than 9:00pm on Friday, approximately when will you arrive? _____

Are there special or particular activities you would like to see happen during the weekend and are you willing to organize or lead an activity?

Do you have any special needs for rooms? (We'll try to honor requests, but can't guarantee it will be possible.)

There will be vegetarian and vegan choices at all meals. We plan for Ferry Beach to be a nut-free environment this year. Food services can accommodate gluten-free and lactose intolerant needs, **if we know in advance**, but other dietary needs may not be able to be accommodated. Please list any special dietary needs **and for whom**:

Due to insurance requirements, retreat participants may be in the water at the beach only if a certified lifeguard is on duty. Times when the beach is "open" (lifeguard on duty) and "closed" (no lifeguard on duty) will be clearly posted, and all are asked and expected to stay out of the water when the beach is closed. We hope to arrange lifeguard hours beginning at 10am through afternoon. Please note that lifeguards cannot serve as babysitters. Parents/sponsors are still responsible for their children/sponsored youth on the beach and in the water, as everywhere on campus, at all times.

Also, Ferry Beach has a "**No Pets**" policy for the entire campus and bringing your pet jeopardizes our use of the facilities in the future. Contact Darien Smith (First Parish in Concord) if you'd like information on kennels near Ferry Beach.

Please sign below to acknowledge that you are aware of the Waterfront Policy and the Pet Policy for Ferry Beach and that you, your family, and any youth you sponsor will abide by these policies.

Signature _____ Date _____

Family Name(s): _____

Name(s) of sponsored youth, if any (or if Youth, Name of sponsor): _____

(Sponsored youth must complete their own Registration and Youth Permission forms.)

Please see info on the first page of the packet regarding cost of the weekend, the limited number of rooms and space overall, and the lottery for all participants, if the retreat is oversubscribed.

Please Note: The Retreat is a RAIN or SHINE event and NO REFUNDS will be given due to weather conditions!

**** If TOTAL for a family is over \$750, then total owed is \$750! ****

(Sponsored youth are not included in the family maximum of their sponsors.)

We prefer online payment. If you are paying by check, please make check out to "First Parish in Lexington," with "Ferry Beach" in the memo line.

FOR those requesting ONSITE ROOMS:

(Single rooms are not generally available. We will do our best to match singles with one or more suitable roommates, if you do not specify a roommate with your registration.)

***** SEE NEXT PAGE FOR NEW ROOM OPTIONS with PRIVATE BATH!*****

of adults & children 13+: _____ x \$210 = _____

of children ages 5-12: _____ x \$110 = _____

of children ages 0-4 _____ x 0 = _____ 0

** TOTAL = _____

Maximum payment per family: **\$750

TOTAL PAID: _____

FOR CAMPERS or those staying in a MOTEL or other OFFSITE RENTAL:

(Cost of meals and participation for the weekend, plus campsite fee for campers.)

of adults & children 13+: _____ x \$110 = _____

of children ages 5-12: _____ x \$75 = _____

of children ages 0-4 _____ x 0 = _____ 0

of **Campsites** (campers only): _____ x \$75 = _____

** TOTAL = _____

Maximum payment per family: **\$750

TOTAL PAID: _____

Some financial assistance may be available – please contact Elisabeth Jas: elisjas@outlook.com.

***** ROOM OPTION with PRIVATE BATH and QUEEN or DOUBLE BED*****

**IF you are interested in this option,
please fill out the information below:**

**You are welcome to indicate interest, if you would just LIKE to have one of these 4 new rooms,
even if you have no particular or special need to have one.**

I am (We are) interested in one of the new onsite rooms with private bath:

Name(s) _____

I/We prefer the following option:

- _____ Room with private bath, queen bed plus chair that pulls out into a small single bed, appropriate for child or petite youth. With a squeeze, could also accommodate a small infant travel crib (provided by yourself). Linens are provided with room.
- _____ Room with private bath and double bed that is also fully accessible. No room for additional beds or cribs. Linens are provided with room.
- _____ Either would be fine.

Please tell us the following: (Preference will be given to those with a need.)

- _____ I/We do specifically need an accessible room.
(Note that one of the dorms also has an accessible floor with shared accessible bathroom.)
- _____ I/We do not specifically need an accessible room.
- _____ I/We have a particular need for a room in a smaller building and/or for a private bathroom.

Please check to affirm the following:

_____ I/We understand that the cost of a room with private bath is a total of \$90 above the per person cost for onsite rooms as listed on Page 2 of the Registration Form. I/We understand that if informed that one of the new rooms is available to me/us, then I/we will need to pay this additional \$90 fee. *At this time, payment is included with my/our registration for a regular onsite dorm room as listed on Page 2 of the Registration Form, and I/we have filled out that page. (Or I/we have filled out the form for camping or staying offsite, if that's the preference if there is no room with private bath available.)*

We will make every effort to let those interested from both Concord and Lexington congregations know as soon as possible after May 1, if we can accommodate your request for one of these rooms.