

Memorial Day Weekend Camping Trip Gifford Pinchot Pennsylvania State Park

Saturday, May 27 – Monday, May 29, 2017

This camping trip is a great opportunity to enjoy nature and to make new friends and to deepen connections with existing friends. Historically the majority of WES families participate in this much treasured event (with around 100 WES folks) and this year we are opening up the event to American Ethical Union members and friends!

Registration portion of the packet is the last 3 pages. Fill out the [online registration form](#) or print the last three pages to hand in, mail, or email to [Melissa Sinclair](#), Director of Lifelong Learning, Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20012. Registration and payment due by May 1st.

Location: Gifford Pinchot State Park, a 2,338-acre full service park, is in northern York County along PA 177 between the towns of Rossville and Lewisberry. The park consists of reverting farm fields and wooded hillsides with the 340-acre Pinchot Lake serving as a prime attraction.

How many spots are available? We have reserved group camping spots for 200 campers.

Who is it open to? EVERYONE. With so many camping spots, I think it would be lovely for different age groups to come join in the camping trip and either join in on the planned activities or do their own activities and join up for meals or something - so many possibilities! Navigator groups. Teen groups. Young Adult groups. Family groups, etc.

Campsite: This is a traditional campsite at a state park. [Camp map here](#). We are actually renting four joined group campsites. Campsites A, B, C, and D. Each campsite has places for tents, eating (picnic tables) and firepits. A bathroom with running water - showers, sinks and toilets - in other words, MODERN bathrooms are joined at the end of the group camping loop near where we are camping. (However, take note - last year due to such demand at the park, showers were usually cold, but I was also told, this should be remedied this year.)

Everyone will need a tent and camping supplies. Don't have supplies? Some members have tents/supplies you can borrow, and [REI](#) also has a renting option. If you know you need camping gear, please contact [Melissa](#) early.

ALSO, if sleeping on the ground in a tent is not for you, there are hotels nearby. [Details about nearby hotels can be found here](#). Come join for the day and evening and then go sleep in comfort down the road and join back up with the group in the morning. If enough people want to do hotel lodging, form a group for more fun!

Or drive up for the day only (Saturday or Sunday or both)!

Please note - if you wish to arrive on May 26th, Friday after 2pm to help set up the group campsite, you can do so with no additional fee. Contact [Melissa](#) by May 15th to commit to helping set up camp. She'll even feed you Friday evening and Saturday breakfast from her own tent site to thank you for your help!

AMENITIES/THINGS TO DO

A designating swimming area for overnight guests is available when the beach is open for swimming. A playground, volleyball courts, and horseshoe pits are available. Horseshoe pits are adjacent to each of the pavilions. Disc Golf Courses: The Boulder Woods 18-hole course is perfect for those who want to develop their Disc Golf skills, while the Quaker's Challenge course offers 18 holes of championship-length competition. Both courses are open to the public and are free to play. Score cards and course maps are available on-site.

Boating: Boat launch and mooring available at our group campground area. There are several types of boats and electric trolling motors for rent at the boat rental.

Fishing: The 340-acre Pinchot Lake has largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass, muskellunge, catfish, carp, walleye, crappie and sunfish. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply. Pinchot Lake is designated a big bass lake. Special regulations cover the minimum size and creel limits for all species of bass. ADA accessible fishing pads are near Boat Launch 2 and a pier is in the Quaker Race Day Use Area.

Hiking: 18 miles of trails

There are more than 18 miles of marked and maintained trails at Gifford Pinchot State Park. Hiking only trails are marked with yellow blazes. A red blaze marks hiking trails that are shared-use trails with mountain bike riding or horseback riding. Mason Dixon Trail is marked with a blue blaze. Most trails interconnect to allow hikers to tailor their outing to meet their individual desires.

Biking: 4 miles of trails

The trails between the campground and the Conewago Day Use Area are for joint-use by hikers, cross-country skiers and bicycles. The Multipurpose Trail network consists of a 3.5-mile outer loop with a number of internal connectors. The trail surface is packed gravel and the terrain is mostly flat with a few gentle hills. The trail is suitable for family use and most bicycles. The trail winds through woodlands and along the lakeshore and is designed for a slow, leisurely ride. Fast and reckless riding is prohibited. Trail access for the general public is from the Conewago Day Use Area. Campers can access the trails directly from the campground. A seasonal bike rental is in the Conewago Day Use Area.

Other things to do:

- Enjoy **making crafts, learning to tie knots,**
- Bring your favorite **board or card games or sports equipment.**
- End the day with **campfire** songs and s'mores on Saturday and Sunday.
- Strut your stuff at the **talent show Sunday Night!**
- Browse through **Gettysburg, Hershey, or the Amish Country** nearby..

Two special notes about this campsite - No dogs (sorry) and no alcohol (as it true for all state parks in Pennsylvania).

Possible Schedule:

Saturday	
10 am on	Arrival
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch & Clean-up
4:00	Volleyball/Frisbee Golf/Horseshoes, etc.
6:00 – 7:30	Dinner & Clean-up
8:00	Campfire
Sunday	
8:00 – 9:30	Breakfast & Clean-up
9:30-5:30	Canoes & kayaks available
9:45	Obstacle Course/Scavenger Hunt
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch & Clean-up
2:00 – 6	Swimming/Games in the Field/Reading/Crafts
4:00	Volleyball/Frisbee Golf/Horseshoes, etc.
6:00 – 7:30	Dinner & Clean-up
8:00	Talent Show and Campfire
Monday	
8:00 – 9:30	Breakfast & Clean-up
Noon	You can stay until noon but no lunch is provided!

Meals: Camping trip planners create the menu, do the shopping, and make cooking team assignments. Nearly everyone will get assigned a time to cook and are responsible for one meal. All ingredients and cooking implements are provided; each person simply brings their own place setting. Dish washing stations are set up after every meal and each person washes their own dishes. Dietary/meal planning options will be sent to you after you register.

Tentative Menu*:

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Breakfast 8-9:30 am		Pancakes, Bacon, Eggs Cereal, milk Fruit Coffee, tea, juice	Eggs, Tortillas, Cheese Cereal, milk Fruit Coffee, tea, juice
Lunch 12-1:30pm	PB&J, Cold cuts, Cheese, Bread Fruit & veggies	PB&J, Cold cuts, Cheese, Bread Fruit & veggies	

Dinner 6-7:30 pm	Build Your Own Tacos (beef, beans, veggies, cheese, flour tortillas)	Hamburgers, Hotdogs Tofudogs & Veggie Burgers, Green salad, crisp veggies	
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* Also, there will be snacks for between meals - contributed by campers and some purchased with food fund- granola/protein bars, fruit, nuts

Packing List:

- Tent and rainfly
- Tarp or ground cloth
- sleeping bags
- sleeping pads
- pillows
- blankets
- plate, bowl, cup/mug & flatware for each person
- mesh bag(s) for drying and collecting your dishes
- water bottles
- picnic blanket
- snacks to share
- flashlights
- lanterns
- batteries
- first aid kit
- bug spray
- sunscreen
- toiletries
- lots of baby wipes
- fanny pack / daypack
- (collapsible) cup
- washcloths
- TOWELS
- hat
- rain jacket or poncho
- hiking boots or sneakers
- jacket
- shorts and T-shirts
- long pants, long sleeves
- socks
- PJs
- underwear
- bathing suit

OPTIONAL:

- binoculars
- board games
- playing cards
- musical instruments
- balls and Frisbees
- kite
- bike & helmet
- bubbles
- art supplies
- camera
- talent show accessories
- lawn chairs

Please label items with your name, especially dishes, flatware, mesh bag(s) and flashlights! Also remember to bring some cash in case you want to go kayaking or canoeing or to buy something from the camp shop.

*****Emergency Information*****

- There is overnight camp supervision by Camp Hosts with a landline phone for emergency use.
- First AID supplies will be brought by Melissa and we will put it in a central location.

Nearest Hospital

Harrisburg Hospital
111 South Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

717-782-3131
www.pinnaclehealth.org/

How to get there:

Use GPS to Gifford Pinchot State Park, PA, but also print directions before you set out just in case you lose connectivity enroute. Details of finding the group tenting entrance will be sent to campers after you register.

Mailing Address of the camp:

GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK
2200 ROSSTOWN ROAD
LEWISBERRY PA 17339

Campground Office: 717-292-4112

Park Office: 717-432-5011

Email: giffordpinchotsp@pa.gov

PAYMENT

MEALS

Food Costs: \$11 per camper, per day, ages 3 and up (*just count for Saturday/Sunday, Monday breakfast is a freebie for those who stay.*) This includes food, truck rental, and fuel cost.

of campers eating meals _____ X # of days _____ X \$11 = _____

LODGING: Camping fee is \$4 per person.

of CAMPERS spending the night _____ X # of nights _____ X \$4 = _____

TOTAL of MEALS + LODGING = _____

Check **PAYABLE TO WES (camping in memo line)**, and can be given or mailed to Director of Lifelong Learning, Melissa Sinclair. Payment is due by May 1st. Failure to pay by the due date will mean a cancellation of your reservation.

If you wish to pay via PayPal, you can, for an additional 2.5% fee. Payment is due by May 1st. Go [here](#). Make sure to mark CAMPING TRIP when making the payment:

TOTAL of MEALS + LODGING _____ X 2.5% = _____ (for Paypal)

Registration is due May 1st.

Late registrations will be accepted on a case by case basis.

Camper Agreement:

For the safety of the children on the trip, we ask all families to agree to supervise their children at all times or to have an agreed upon designated adult supervise your children during particular activities.

Also for safety, if you plan to leave the campgrounds at any time, we ask that you inform someone of your departure.

Signature:

Signature:

Now that you are registered: HELP US HAVE A GREAT TIME!

Please indicate how you could help by writing your name to the left of any activities. This format allows adults to sign up for different job and also invites you to do more than one thing if you are willing and able.

You will be assigned tasks/groups based on your preferences before the camp so you can plan accordingly:

Name:	Activity:
	I could bring craft/badge supplies and set-up an activity table. (crafts, badge activities)
	I could bring sports equipment & organize games like horseshoes, volleyball, frisbee golf, or: _____
	I could take a shift watching kids by the water.
	I could help with obstacle course/scavenger hunt.
	I could act as overall coordinator for the campfire on Saturday and/or Sunday (circle one or both).
	I could tell stories or sing/play songs during the campfire on Saturday and/or Sunday (circle one or both).
	I could keep track of s'more supplies and manage the s'more making process during the campfire on Saturday and, or Sunday (circle one or both)
	I could keep track of the fire making supplies, start, tend to, and put out the fire on Saturday and, or Sunday (circle one or both)
	I could secure the food and coolers and dispose of trash on Saturday and/or Sunday night (circle one or both)
	I could help with last walk-through Monday after everyone has left the campground to pick up garbage and left behind items.
	Other? Please list:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!