

General Info about the Wild Places and the Human Spirit Family Retreat

The retreat will take place at the Timbercrest Girl Scout Camp on the edge of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness and Rock Creek. It's a short drive from Red Lodge itself. To reach the camp, take the road to the ski area that heads west off 212, right after the hotel and right before the Forest Service district headquarters. (Click [here](#) to see directions and maps).

The retreat is designed to be an environmentally sensitive family/community oriented event with activities and fun for all ages.

The Timbercrest Girl Scout camp is a rustic summer camp that is equipped with some basic amenities. Lodging consists of both dorms and small cabins. The dorms are inside larger buildings and sleep about four to a room. Most beds are singles, most are also bunk beds. You will need to bring your own bedding (sleeping bags or whatever you prefer.)

This is true for the small cabins. There are quite a few of these, but they do not have electricity and are very 'open air' – meaning that they have screens and shutters, but not windows. You can achieve privacy but not climate control. The cabins also do not lock. Each cabin can sleep four on small cots with mattresses.

Bathrooms are rustic as well. In the dorms, they are shared with several others but offer all the typical features of a home bathroom, including showers.

The outdoor facilities have separate outhouses and shower houses. Facilities are not differentiated by gender. People staying in the cabins are free to use the indoor facilities as needed.

Food and Meals

The food offered at this retreat is intended to be an integral part of the camp experience and reflective of our consciousness of our natural world and the web of life.

We are thrilled to have Erica Sparhawk in charge of providing everyone with local and organic, tasty, healthy meals. Erica has interesting tales of her previous cooking-for-crowds experiences – be sure to ask her about it at the retreat. Erica will be ably assisted by her hubby Ryan Sparkhawk in her culinary endeavor. The menu will be vegetarian and friendly to those with other dietary needs.

Local Amenities

There are several trails and other walkable surfaces that offer great day hikes very near by. The river is also very close.

Space is Limited

Due to the relative small size of the camp facilities and grounds we only have space for about 45 people in residence – including presenters and organizers. So – please let us know right away if you are planning to come!

Camp Facilities

- Hot showers and restrooms and toilets
- A main lodge with tables, fireplace, electric outlets
- Full kitchen and utensils and a walk-in cooler
- Emergency telephone

Lodging/Camping

Make sure to bring your own sleeping gear (bags, pillows and mattresses) as these are not provided. The cabins are cozy and dry but are NOT heated and have no outlets.

For those eager to pitch a tent, there is a large designated area in a grassy meadow. (But doing so will not reduce your registration rate, sadly!)

Things to Keep in Mind

Campers will need to be prepared for all types of weather conditions. Nights can be cold and the afternoon sun can burn. (See the Check List below to know what to bring).

The camp is in the Custer National Forest and is on the edge of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Area. It is home to various wildlife including large animals such as moose and black bear. Although encounters with these are not common, campers are nevertheless encouraged to be mindful and use caution (they will probably stay away from our noise, but it is smart to be cautious).

Things to Bring (Check List)

- Sleeping bags and pillows
- Bath towels, washcloth, soap/shampoo
- Hiking/trail shoes or boots
- Bug spray and sunscreen
- Sunglasses, sun hats and rain gear
- Flashlights
- Crazy Creek or lawn chairs (for outdoor workshops)
- WARM clothes for COOL evenings!

Responsibility

You are responsible for your possessions. Retreat organizers, presenters and camp owner are not responsible for lost or stolen property.