

# **CONTENTS**

- The Divine Blueprint:
  How Prayer Sets The
  Tone for Successful
  Event Planning
- Sustainable Swaps for the Christian Event Planner
- Engaging Every Generation at Ministry Events
- A Wellness Plan for Christian Event Planners
- Seating Strategies: How to Choose the Right Seating Style for Your Event
- 28 Six Modern Retreat Themes for Women's Retreats
- How To Use Facebook
  Hashtags On Facebook
  and Instagram to Keep
  Tabs on Your Event

# **CRN PROPERTIES**

- O6 Faholo Christian Conference Center
- **08** Lost Valley Retreat Center
- 12 The Crossing Retreat Center
- 20 Lake Williamson Christian Center
- **26** Wheat State Retreat Center
- 30 Potomac Park Retreat and Conference Center
- 32 Pine Creek Retreat Center



























# WHO WE ARE

Christian Retreats Network has over ten years of experience hosting affordable, all-inclusive retreat packages that consistently exceed expectations.

All of our network properties strive to be an environment where faith can grow and lives can be transformed.

# OUR ROOTS

Our headquarters are located at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, Illinois, and we're here because it's where everything started!

Lake Williamson is a 60-year veteran in the field of Christian retreats. They host over 30,000 guests yearly on their 450-acre property and are well known for their signature all-inclusive retreat pricing that includes: lodging, meeting, dining, and recreation.

# HOW IT STARTED

In 2007, Lake Williamson began to receive requests from other retreat properties to mentor their staff. The word spread and more properties began to reach out.

Lake Williamson partnered with two properties in Michigan to form Midwest Christian Retreats. As more properties from states outside the Midwest joined, the team chose to rename the company to **Christian Retreats Network**.

# WHO WE ARE NOW

Today, we're the same fantastic team but with added flexibility, knowledge, services, and value. Even better, all seven of our network properties offer the same amazing all-inclusive retreat packages—lodging, dining, meeting, and recreation all bundled at one price!

Locations in: Illinois, Michigan, Kansas, Nebraska, Virginia, and West Virginia



/lake.williamson /eca.team.building /faholo.mi /lost.valley.retreat /potomacparkretreat

/pinecreekretreat offsiteministry

/wheatstateretreat /crossingretreatcenter



Search "Christian Retreats Network"



offsiteministry



offsiteministry

# LOOKING BACK

The network is an excellent example of the powerhouse that is *collaboration*. By combining forces, we are able to share resources and expertise.

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The heart of our ministry is to provide spaces where people can get away from their day-to-day and spend time with God. Our goal is to continue to provide guests with:

- a comforting environment where faith can be deepened,
- a place for fellowship where relationships flourish,
- wholesome food that is delicious and nourishing,
- fun activities that make lasting memories,
- and affordable rates that don't break the bank!

# HOW WE OPERATE

Today our headquarters remains at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, Illinois. Staff members who work at headquarters include retreat planners, management, marketing, and sales.

Each property has an on-site Conference Services Coordinator and Guest Services team. These staff members work at their respective properties.

For more information about Christian Retreats Network, please call our headquarters at 877-833-2272 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST.



877-833-2272 christianretreatsnetwork.org info@christianretreatsnetwork.org

# The Divine Bluepint: How prayer sets THE TONE FOR SUCCESSFUL EVENT PLANNING

As Christians,
we know prayer is
fundamental to our
walk with Jesus.
We take our worries,
concerns, and
praises to Him daily.

"I pray because I can't help myself.
I pray because I'm helpless.
I pray because the need flows out of me all the time—waking and sleeping.
It doesn't change
God—it changes me."

- C.S. Lewis

vent planning can be absolutely stressful, and if you're a seasoned event planner, you've undoubtedly been asked before, "Why do you do that to yourself?" Mulling over the fine details to ensure they align with the big picture... bringing in the right people for the job(s)... matching the physical decor with the graphic design... it's a lot of work! But for those of us who've done it a time or two, we know that it's the end result that makes it all worth it!

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."—Matthew 7:24-27

Event planning is a service and a form of worship. While we may not be on the stage with the microphone or giving the sermon, our job is so important. Planning a successful Christian event requires not

only meticulous organization and attention to detail but also a solid foundation built on faith. Prayer is our #1 tool!

By inviting God into the planning process, we can promote peace, clarity, and purpose among our team. In this blog, we'll share ways to incorporate prayer into the planning process, ultimately leading to a more fruitful and spiritually enriching event.

Prayer is a powerful tool that can transform the event planning process. By starting with Prayer, we lay a spiritual foundation that guides our future decisions and actions. Let's dive in and explore how Prayer can set the stage for successful event planning.

# **#1 Pray First**

Pray first before planning a single detail. When we put God first, everything else falls into place. He binds our hearts and minds with His will.

By beginning with Prayer, we invite God's wisdom into our planning process, reminding us why we're planning the event in the first place. A strong spiritual groundwork helps us focus on the event's true purpose, ensuring our goals align with our Christian faith.

## #2 Ask for Guidance

When we ask God for guidance, we open ourselves to unexpected inspirations and solutions He provides us. How many times have you laid awake at night ruminating over the details of your planning meeting earlier that day, thinking about the next steps?

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him." - Colossians 1:17

Prayer helps us discern between the right or wrong decision, and our spiritual connection with God can lead to creative ideas and innovative approaches we otherwise wouldn't have come up with.

# #3 Build a Prayerful Team

Make prayer agenda item #1. Creating a prayerful team that puts prayer first is the key to success. When team members come together in prayer, it promotes unity, teamwork, and a shared sense of purpose.

Regular prayer before meetings can strengthen relationships within the team, promoting clear communication and mutual respect. A spiritual team modeled after God's love helps resolve (and prevent) conflicts among members.

# #4 Be a Disciple

Logistics are more than just items on a checklist list—they are opportunities to bear witness and disciple to others. Planning the logistics of an event requires purchasing supplies, outsourcing tasks, and, most importantly, collaborating with individuals outside the core committee.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." – Matthew 4:19

As you engage with secular businesses and individuals who may not share your faith, prepare yourself with prayer. Ask God to use these exchanges as an opportunity to share your faith. Let your words and actions reflect His kindness, turning even routine tasks into moments of

Challenges and frustrations may arise when working with vendors. Pray for peace and approach every interaction with Christ's love, patience, and grace.

# **#5 Schedule Prayer**

There are phases to event planning, and as mentioned earlier, praying prior to planning is a great first step. You may also consider incorporating spiritual reflections into the planning process. This reminds the team to consider both practical and spiritual aspects at each stage of planning.

An effective strategy is to pray with your team at each of these major planning phases. This sets the tone for productive and spiritually aligned discussions. For example, when selecting a venue, pray for guidance to find a space that not only meets logistical needs but also a Holy and uplifting environment. This practice helps maintain focus on the event's higher purpose while addressing practical matters.

# HERE IS A LIST OF SUGGESTED **PRAYER CHECKPOINTS**

- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ **Pre-planning Session**
- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ Team/Committee Formation
- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ **Budget Establishment**
- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ **Venue Selection**
- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ **Event Decor**
- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ Promotion and Advertisement
- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ Logistics and Management
- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ **Pre-event Preparation**
- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ **Event Execution**
- $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ Post-event Evaluation

Prayer provides clarity and direction when faced with difficult decisions, and it's a tremendous tool for event planning. Instead of feeling stressed or anxious the next time you plan an event, trust God and lean into Him.

By seeking God's wisdom, we can make decisions that align with our spiritual values and the needs of our community, and a prayerful team is more likely to stay focused on the event's core goal—to worship our Holy Father—ensuring that every decision and action contributes to the overall mission.



# OVERVIEW

Faholo Conference Center, located in Grass Lake, Michigan, is a warm and welcoming retreat surrounded by peaceful land-scapes and mature trees. Guests enjoy the healthy balance of quiet reflection, spiritual renewal, and exciting recreation. Designed to facilitate total renewal through Christ-like hospitality, Faholo is a place where groups can deepen their faith, connect with nature, and create lasting memories together. With spacious meeting areas, peaceful surroundings, and a wide variety of activities, it's the ideal destination to step away from the everyday and draw closer to God.

# ALL INCLUSIVE RETREAT PACKAGES

All-inclusive retreat packages are designed to make event planning seamless and successful. All packages include lodging, dining, meeting space, and recreation activities bundled at one per-person price.

- Lodging Choose from motel or dorm-style lodging
- Meeting Private meeting space with A/V equipment
- **Dining** Three high-quality meals served daily in the dining room
- Recreation Both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages to keep your group busy any time of year!

# NO COST ACTIVITIES

There's no shortage of fun at Faholo! All retreat packages include the following (and more) at no extra cost.

- Gymnasium
- Game room
- Pickleball
- 4-way Volleyball
- Disc golf

- Horsehoses
- Cornhole
- · Recreation fields
- Fishing
- · Giant lawn games

















# UPGRADE THE FUN

Add a little something extra to your schedule! Premium Recreation activities are a great way to energize your group, create core memories, and add a little pizazz to your itinerary.

- · Indoor and outdoor pools
- Beachfront
- Indoor rock climbing wall
- Ropes Course High Level
- Ropes Course Low Level
- Wagon ride and bonfires
- Go Karts

# HIGHLIGHTS

- · Year-round overnight accommodations for up to 500 guests
- Auditorium with seating for up to 600 guests
- Christian environment and seasoned leadership team









- 30-minute drive from Ann Arbor, MI
- 45-minute drive from Lansing, MI
- 45-minute drive from Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport
- 1.15 hour drive from Gerald R Ford International Airport



# CONTACT INFORMATION

888-532-4656 faholo.org info@faholo.org



# OVERVIEW

Lost Valley Retreat Center is a three-season retreat center located in northern Michigan's Lower Peninsula, just outside Gaylord, Michigan. Tucked away in a quiet, wooded setting with lakefront access, Lost Valley invites groups to unplug, reconnect, and soak in the beauty of God's creation. Every aspect of the retreat center reflects a cheerful heart and Christ's love, creating a welcoming space for rest and renewal. With its unique blend of peace and adventure, Lost Valley is the perfect backdrop for your next retreat, camp, or conference.

# ALL INCLUSIVE RETREAT PACKAGES

All-inclusive retreat packages are designed to make event planning seamless and stress-free. All packages include lodging, dining, meeting space, and recreation activities bundled at one per-person price.

- Lodging Choose from motel or dorm-style lodging
- Meeting Private meeting space with A/V equipment
- **Dining** Three high-quality meals served daily in the dining room
- **Recreation** Both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages to keep your group busy any time of year!

# NO COST ACTIVITIES

The outdoors take center stage at Lost Valley with plenty of activities to keep your group active and having fun.

- Gymnasium
- Outdoor basketball court
- Sand volleyball
- · Disc golf

- · Recreation fields
- Hayrides
- · Bonfire sites
- · Hiking trails













Fresh air and fun go hand in hand at Lost Valley! Consider scheduling some rest and relaxation at Pettifor Lake Beach, where your group can unwind and enjoy God's creation. Guests can choose to spend the afternoon swimming in the lake, building sandcastles on the shore, or taking a peaceful canoe ride. Looking for something more challenging? Amp up the excitement with the go-karts, high ropes course, or climbing tower.

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Open seasonally from May through mid-October
- · Overnight accommodations for up to 250 guests
- Spacious Tabernacle with seating for up to 250 guests
- Christian environment and team



- 1.25 hour drive from Traverse City, MI
- 2.5-hour drive from Lansing, MI
- 1 hour drive from Cherry Capital Airport



# CONTACT INFORMATION

888.532.4656 lostvalleyretreat.org info@lostvalleyretreat.org













# FOR THE CHRISTIAN EVENT PLANNER

ime, energy, strategy, creativity, and efficiency are just some of the main ingredients of event planning. But what about sustainability? Does that term seem daunting? As an event planner, you probably already have a lot on your plate and are not actively looking to add more. However, incorporating sustainable practices into your planning is not as challenging as it may seem. With the right approach, you can easily make a significant difference.

But first, let's look at what sustainability entails. While the definition means to maintain at a specific rate or level, the term "sustainability" took on a broader definition as it became more mainstream in the last decade. In 2024, sustainability refers to a collective social goal

to maintain the Earth and its natural resources as intended.

As Christians, the concept of sustainability is not new to us. In Genesis 2:15, we are called to care for God's creation, "for the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." (Genesis 2:15) This aligns perfectly with the modern definition of sustainability, which is a collective social goal to maintain the Earth and its natural resources as they were intended.

Our faith inspires us to prioritize sustainability in our event planning, so we've compiled a list of simple, sustainable swaps to share with you when planning your next event.



# I. Venue

When choosing a venue, ask about their on-site practices.

Specific questions may reference recycling, tableware, and cutlery. By choosing a venue that has already incorporated sustainable practices, you're making headway without any added effort.



# **II.** Transportation

If guests will be driving to your venue, a ride-share or carpool sign-up is a simple way to reduce transportation emissions and costs. An easy way to tackle this task is by creating a Sign Up Genius form. Reference this how-to blog from Sign Up Genius on how to build a form using their website: www.signupgenius. com/blog/sign-up-guide-carpools. cfm



# III. Invitations

Mailing invitations is a classic and respected tradition: however. a

sustainable swap would be to create an online invitation. If you cannot avoid mailing invitations, decrease paper (and postage) by switching to a postcard instead of an invitation and envelope combination.

A popular online invite option is Facebook Events. Facebook stores all your information in one place and tracks your RSVPs. Alternatives to Facebook include Sign Up Genius or Event Brite. These event planning giants will also track and maintain RSVPs and collect attendees' personal information. Lastly, if your organization has a website, ask the site administrator if it has an event planning portal. Many drag-anddrop website editors have this feature. From there, attendees can register and RSVP through your website.



# **IV. Communication**

Instead of printing itineraries, opt for a digital PDF

or slideshow. A fringe benefit is that you'll likely be able to include more information this way. When printing, we typically try to condense information; too much paper can be overwhelming, and it take up a lot of space on a table. Create an online document using Microsoft Word or Canva and share it using a QR code. If there is a large monitor on-site, stream the QR code on the monitor. Otherwise, print a QR code and place it at each table.

You can link this QR to so much more than just your itinerary. Linktree is a great way to succinctly share a variety of information about your event, organization, and speakers.



# V. Catering

Regarding catering, a sustainable swap is to

opt for local and seasonal food. By buying locally, you'll reduce your gas consumption and the environmental effects of transportation. The same goes for buying seasonal and local produce. When items are grown close to home, less energy is used, and less pollution is created as a byproduct of transportation.



# VI. Tableware and Cutlery

One of the best swaps you can make for disposable tableware and cutlery is to use real plates and utensils. If this is not plausible due to the volume of quests and workforce. choose disposable options made from recycled and biodegradable materials. Here are some green companies making biodegradable and compostable

www.greenpaperproducts.com www.bambuhome.com



# VII. Décor

When choosing décor and centerpieces, consider upcycling, renting,

or buying used décor. All three of these choices decrease consumption and consumerism. Unique, eye-catching centerpieces are appealing but cannot always be easily reused.

If you plan a lot of events, consider investing in a few sets of versatile vases that can be used for various seasons and themes. Arrange fresh flowers that are naturally biodegradable and add simple enhancements such as picks and ribbons to customize. At the end of the event, pack up the flowers and send them home with speakers and leaders as a token of appreciation.



Without sharing every swap or detail, share with your guests that you have prioritized sustainability and stewardship at this event. If the budget allows, consider purchasing reusable water bottles to use at the event that can also be taken home as souvenirs. Have them personalized with a sustainable message or icon that matches your brand and theme.

Making sustainable swaps will become easier with every event you plan, and eventually, these green practices will become second nature. Continue to maintain focus on forming positive relationships with vendors and other event planners who have similar priorities and encourage others to do the same.

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31)



The Crossing Retreat Center, in Lexington, Nebraska, blends rural charm with modern comfort to create an inviting Christian retreat destination. Guests enjoy flexible meeting spaces, state-of-the-art A/V technology, and the support of a friendly, attentive team. Clean, contemporary interiors in soothing tones of gray, white, and black offer a calm and tasteful setting for any retreat. At The Crossing, everything is designed to help your group refocus, recharge, and renew your faith in God.

# ALL INCLUSIVE RETREAT PACKAGES

All-inclusive retreat packages are designed to make event planning seamless and successful. All packages include lodging, dining, meeting space, and recreation activities bundled at one per-person price.

- Lodging Choose from motel or dorm-style lodging
- Meeting Private meeting space with A/V equipment
- **Dining** Three high-quality meals served daily in the dining room
- Recreation Both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages to keep your group busy any time of year!

# NO COST ACTIVITIES

All-inclusive basic recreation will keep your group busy and entertained during free time, making planning and creating a schedule easy!

- Indoor pool
- Gymnasium
- 4-way Volleyball
- Carpetball
- Nintendo Switch
- Disc golf

- Mini golf
- Sand volleyball
- Archery tag
- Gaga ball
- 9-square
- Recreation fields























# UPGRADE THE FUN

Add some high-speed fun to your schedule with our go-kart track! Or, try out the inflatable slide. It can be used wet or dry, making it the perfect spot to cool off during summer or add excitement to spring and fall events.

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Year-round overnight accommodations for up to 500 guests
- Auditorium with seating for up to 500 guests
- · Christian environment and seasoned team





# LEXINGTON, NEBRASKA

- 45-minute drive from Kearney, NE
- 2.5 hour drive from Lincoln, NE
- 50-minute from from Kearney Airport
- 2.5 hour drive from Lincoln Airport





# CONTACT INFORMATION

833-345-8272 crossingretreat.org info@crossingretreat.org



# Engaging Every Generation at Ministry Events

#### Baby Boomers. Gen X. Millennials. Gen Z. Gen Alpha.

What do these five generations have in common? They are all current and active in ministry.

Now, what sets them apart? Plenty of things, but in regard to ministry, they each bring a unique

- · perspective,
- communication style, and
- · set of expectations.

When planning any event, planners have to think about their target audience. Identifying the target audience helps align future decisions, such as what social media platforms to use or what design to use on graphics. However, when planning a multi-generational event, planners have to adjust to appeal to a wide range of ages. This task requires purposeful planning and a creative approach.

Whether you are planning a retreat, conference, or church fellowship night, here are some practical strategies to help you prepare for a multi-generational audience.

# Pre-Planning: Involve Multi-Generational Representatives on Your Planning Committee

One of the best ways to plan a multi-generational event is to plan alongside a multi-generational committee! Having a diverse planning committee will ensure your event meets the needs of each generation. Each member will provide value to the team by providing insights into what resonates with their generation.

By including members from each age group, your team can tackle planning with an inclusive approach. An added benefit: members can act as ambassadors and help generate enthusiasm and interest within their social circles and personal networks.

# Planning Tip #1 Offer a Variety of Entertainment and **Communication Styles**

Entertainment preferences and communication styles can vary widely across generations, so aim to include a mix of activities and presentation formats. Blending these preferences will ensure that everyone feels considered and engaged. While it may not be possible to please everyone, a balanced schedule shows intentional and thoughtful planning.

**Speakers & Worship:** Choose a mix of speakers from various generations. This ensures that multiple perspectives are shared and heard. Similarly, when planning worship, blend contemporary and traditional styles to cater to a range of musical preferences.

Workshops & Discussions: Plan for a blend of interactive sessions with traditional lectures to cater to different age groups. Millennials and Gen Z tend to prefer small groups and breakout sessions, while Baby Boomers and Gen X often favor theatre-style presentations. Meet in the middle and compromise to engage everyone.

Games & Social Activities: Mix it up! Consider board games, trivia, interactive activities, videos, and classic outdoor games to cater to different interests. Schedule low-stress social opportunities that encourage multi-generational mingling.

Tech & Accessibility: Make sure event information is available digitally and in print. It's so important to make information widely available. Some guests will prefer paper, while others are more likely to take a screenshot of the itinerary on their phone.

# Planning Tip #2 Mix Up Seating Arrangements to Encourage **Cross-Generational Conversations**

A ministry event is an excellent opportunity to cultivate meaningful cross-generational relationships. We grow in fellowship, and there is a great deal of spiritual benefit from breaking bread with new friends. However, guests naturally gravitate toward other guests they know, so planners have to get creative to get conversations flowing!

Assigned Seating: Create a randomized seating chart using Excel or Google Sheets. Start by choosing a seating style and the number of chairs per table. For example, the style is round tables with eight chairs each. Then, enter guest names and ages in the sheet. Sort the list by age, from oldest to youngest, and then divide it into eight equal groups. Lastly, pull one name from each group to create age-balanced tables. Repeat until everyone is seated.

Conversation Starters: Provide conversation starters at each table to help fuel conversation. Purchase Christian Conversation Starter packs online, or check out Etsy.com's downloadable and printable files for under \$5.

Team-Based Activities: Plan small group activities that require guests to collaborate and work together. Simple activities are

best! Something too challenging can be more stressful than fun. Stick with something light-hearted, such as Lego kits or puzzles.

Color Blocking: This tactic works best with small groups of 20 to 30 people. As guests enter the room, allow them to choose their seats, but hand each person a color-coded item. The color of the item will determine their group later on. Once everyone is seated and you're ready to begin, instruct them to look at their item and find others with the same color. Items can be the event schedule printed on different colored paper or a style of name tag. Get creative! But keep it a secret until it's time to switch it up.

# Planning Tip #3: Incorporate Service Projects for All Ages

A shared interest is one of the best ways to unite people of different backgrounds. Provide a common ground for guests and incorporate a service project into your event. Christians of all ages will enjoy the opportunity to reinforce the heart of ministry by serving others together.

Hands-On Projects: Organize multi-generational teams for activities such as assembling care packages or writing encouragement letters.

**Skill-Sharing Sessions:** This is a fun ice-breaker for breakout sessions! Instruct everyone to "teach" the group something unique that they know how to do. Examples might include how to change a bike tire, moves to a popular dance, or ways to organize your iPhone apps.

Community Outreach: Plan a group service outing where attendees work together, such as a park cleanup or assisting at a local shelter.

# **Post-Planning: Establish Cross-Generational Prayer Partners**

This follow-up element may push some guests out of their comfort zone, but it's a great way to extend the influence of your event far beyond the time spent together.

Pair attendees up towards the end of the event. Provide each pair with a worksheet or piece of paper to write down prayer requests, contact information, etc. Instruct prayer partners to check in with each other periodically over the next three months, offering encouragement and continued prayer support.

Planning a multi-generational ministry event can be a challenge, but with intentional, thoughtful, and prayerful design, it can also be a meaningful opportunity to bring all ages together. Every generation has something valuable to offer, and when we honor those differences, we create space for deeper connection and unity in the body of Christ.

If you've been given the opportunity to plan such a multigenerational event, consider it a true privilege—because in embracing the richness of every age and stage, we reflect the heart of God and strengthen His church.







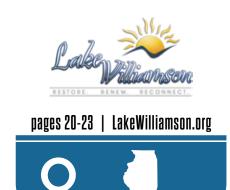




pages 32-33 | PineCreekRetreat.org



















# A Wellness Plan for Christian Event Planners

s event planners, we often juggle more responsibilities than we should. We take on countless details, manage multiple moving parts, and strive to create memorable experiences for those we serve. It's fulfilling, but it can also be exhausting. Raise your hand if you've ever asked yourself, *Do I even like planning events anymore?* 

Regardless of how you got here, you have a calling: to use your God-given gifts to expand His kingdom and serve your brothers and sisters in Christ. If that thought has ever crossed your mind, take a deep breath and think back to the reason why you started event planning. Maybe you saw it as an opportunity to serve God. Maybe it

was because you genuinely love bringing people together and creating meaningful experiences. Or, maybe you were simply the best fit for the role, and someone "volun-told" you.

Regardless of how you got here, you have a calling: to use your God-given gifts to expand His kingdom and serve your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Instead of throwing in the towel, let's talk about wellness—what we can do to take care of ourselves so that we can better care for others. A well-balanced event planner is a more effective event planner.

Here are five essential wellness practices to keep you healthy, energized, and spiritually strong!

## 1. Eat and Drink Well

Nutrition might not be the first thing on your mind when juggling event logistics, but it is essential to your energy levels, mental clarity, and overall well-being. As planners, we often grab quick snacks, caffeinate excessively, and forget to drink enough water. Over time, these habits take a toll on our bodies and minds.

Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.' — Genesis 1:29

Instead, prioritize healthy, nourishing foods that provide sustained energy. Pack snacks like nuts, fruit, or protein bars to keep you fueled. Avoid excessive caffeine and opt for water or herbal teas to stay hydrated. Eating well isn't just about physical health—it helps you stay mentally sharp and spiritually present for your work.

# 2. Sleep and Rest

Late-night planning sessions, early-morning setups, and last-minute adjustments can wreak havoc on your sleep schedule. However, rest is required! And not just for your body but also for your ability to function effectively in your role. Lack of sleep leads to increased stress, impaired decision-making, and burnout.

# In peace, I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. — Psalm 4:8

Prioritize sleep as much as possible. Aim for at least seven to eight hours per night, and if your schedule doesn't allow that, take short naps when you can. The cat nap is often underrated! Beyond sleep, try to incorporate meaningful moments of rest throughout your day—whether it's a five-minute break to breathe, walk outside, or sit quietly with God. Rest is a gift, and we need it to sustain our calling.

# **3. Prayerfully Approach Event Planning**

It's easy to get so caught up in logistics that we forget to invite God into our planning. But He is the ultimate event coordinator! Every event we plan is an opportunity to glorify Him and serve His people.

# Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans. — Proverbs 16:3

Start each planning session with prayer, asking for wisdom, peace, clarity, and energy. When challenges arise, turn to Him instead of relying solely on your own strength. Pray for your team, attendees, and the event's purpose. Let your work be an act of worship rather than just another task on your to-do list.

# 4. Designate and Build Your Team

Trying to do everything alone is a fast track to burnout. One of the best things you can do for your wellness is to build a strong team and delegate responsibilities. Delegating will not only help ease your workload but also empower those around you to use their own Godly gifts!

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

-1 Thessalonians 5:11

Identify reliable team members and assign tasks according to their strengths. Train and equip volunteers so that you don't feel the need to oversee every little detail. Let go of the need to control everything—perfection is not the goal. The goal is to serve well, and that happens best when we work together in unity.

# **5. Remember the Sabbath and Keep It Holy**

Event planning often demands time and energy, but we must remember that God commands us to rest. The Sabbath is not just a suggestion—it's a gift and a necessity for our well-being. Taking a designated day of rest allows us to refuel spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from His.

— Hebrews 4:9-10

Set boundaries to protect your Sabbath. Resist the urge to check emails, finalize details, or squeeze in one more task. Instead, use this time to reconnect with God, spend time with loved ones, and rest in His presence. When we honor

the Sabbath, we acknowledge that the success of our events does not rely solely on our efforts but on God's provision and grace.

#### You've Got This!

Event planning is a calling that requires dedication, creativity, and perseverance. However, it should never come at the expense of your well-being. You can maintain balance and avoid burnout by eating well, prioritizing rest, praying over your work, building a supportive team, and honoring the Sabbath.

God has equipped you for this role, but He also calls you to care for yourself. When you are well, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, you can serve more effectively and joyfully. So take care of yourself, lean on Him, and continue to create events that glorify God and bless His people.



# OVERVIEW

Lake Williamson Christian Center has been serving Christian groups with excellence for over 60 years. Located in Carlinville, Illinois, the retreat center spans 435 peaceful acres of wooded areas, open fields, and its namesake lake on the south side of the property. It's an ideal venue for groups who wish to unplug from everyday distractions but still want a strong Wi-Fi connection and high-quality A/V technology. At Lake Williamson, guests will find the perfect balance of retreat and connection. The dedicated and experienced team joyfully honors God by offering Christ-like hospitality and creating a space where guests can restore, renew, and reconnect with Him.

# ALL INCLUSIVE RETREAT PACKAGES:

All-inclusive retreat packages are designed to make event planning seamless and successful. All packages include lodging, dining, meeting space, and recreation activities bundled at one per-person price.

- Lodging Choose from motel or dorm-style lodging
- Meeting Private meeting space with A/V equipment
- **Dining** Three high-quality meals served daily in the dining room
- Recreation Both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages to keep your group busy any time of year!

# NO COST ACTIVITIES

All this fun (and more!) is included in your retreat at no extra charge. We have plenty of indoor and outdoor activities to keep your group entertained day and night.

- 9 Square
- Gymnasium
- Game room
- Blacklight mini golf
- Blacklight sports
- Fitness center
- Wallyball

- Gaga ball
- Archery
- Gaga ball
- Sand volleyball
- Obstacle course
- Hayrides and bonfires
- Hiking trails













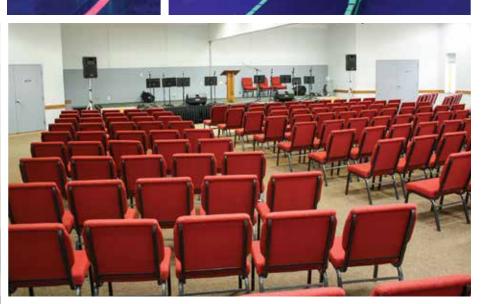
# UPGRADE THE FUN

Schedule an afternoon at the outdoor pool, the beach, or BOTH! The large outdoor pool features a 10-foot-deep diving area perfect for cannonballs and competitions. At the beach, guests can race down the plunge slide, get launched from the famous blob, enjoy a peaceful ride in a paddleboat, and more!

Prefer to stay indoors? The indoor pool is open year-round. It features both shallow and deep areas, a baby pool for little ones, and a relaxing hot tub for adults.

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Year-round overnight accommodations for up to 1,350 guests
- Auditorium with seating for up to 1,500 guests
- Christian environment and seasoned team





- 50-minute drive from Springfield, IL
- 1 hour drive from St. Louis, MO
- 1.25-hour drive from St. Louis Lambert International Airport
- 1 hour drive from Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport



# CONTACT INFORMATION

800-500-5922 lakewilliamson.org info@lakewilliamson.org











































Eagle Crest Adventures offers a variety of quality program options for groups of all ages and abilities. Their professionally facilitated programs are designed to help groups improve communication, build trust, and develop leadership skills.

- High ropes
- Zipline
- Axe throwing
- Group initiatives
- Climbing gym
- Outdoor education
- Escape rooms

# CONTACT INFORMATION

800.500.5922 lakewilliamson.org/eagle-crest info@lakewilliamson.org







# Seating Strategies:

How to Choose the Right Seating Style for Your Event

Seating styles are NOT one-size-fits-all—unless your event is a game of musical chairs. In which case, good luck!

In all seriousness, planning an event involves a countless stream of decisions, but one of the most important decisions—and sometimes most overlooked—is choosing the right seating arrangement. How you choose to arrange chairs and tables impacts guest interaction, visibility, and the overall flow of your event. So, how do you decide which seating style is best for your needs? We've created a visual and a hand checklist for you to keep on hand to help you make the best choice!

But first, ask yourself the following:

- How many guests are you expecting? The number of attendees will dictate how much space you need and which layouts are attainable for your event.
- What is the total number of tables and styles available to you? Some venues provide limited tables, which may, unfortunately, affect your options.
- What is the total number of chairs that can comfortably fit at each table? Overcrowding can make guests uncomfortable, while underutilizing space may make guests feel disconnected from one another.
- What are the ages of your guests? Take into consideration the physical abilities and mobility of your guests. Older guests may require more space and aisles than a younger crowd.
- Lastly, what is your focus? Consider whether your event focuses on a speaker, a presentation, a group discussion, dining, or another activity, and take that into account when deciding on a style.

Now, let's explore the most popular seating arrangements and when to use them.

# Chair-Only Arrangements

Chair-only styles are best for when the focus of the event is on a speaker, stage, or presentation. While snacks and beverages are still appropriate for chair-only styles, you'll want to opt for drinks with lids, small plates, and finger foods.

#### **Rows of Chairs with a Center Aisle**

- Best for medium-sized groups where two aisles are not needed.
- Provides a clear view of the focal point of the event.
- Supplies guests with an easy walking path without spacing the group out too much

#### **Rows of Chairs with a Center Section**

- Best for large groups where two aisles offer ease of entry and exit from rows.
- More suitable for groups with guests who have limited mobility or need to use the restroom frequently.
- Allows for more seating while still keeping the audience focused on a single point

#### **Rows of Chairs in Theatre Style**

- Best for large groups where visibility of the focal point is a top priority!
- Used most often for stage performances, lectures, and large-scale presentations.
- Maximizes space capacity while keeping the line of sight clear and even from across the room.

#### Chairs Only in a U-shape

- Best for small, intimate gatherings.
- Appropriate for panel discussions, leadership meetings, or interactive presentations.
- Highlights the event's focal point while also encouraging whole-group conversation.

#### Chairs Only in a Circle

- · Best for intimate, discussion-based events.
- Most often used for small group meetings, support groups, and brainstorming sessions where open dialogue is highly valued.
- Promotes equal participation because everyone can see everyone.

# Chair-Only Arrangements



**ROWS OF CHAIRS** WITH A CENTER AISLE



**ROWS OF CHAIRS** WITH A CENTER SECTION



**ROWS OF CHAIRS** IN THEATRE STYLE



**CHAIRS ONLY IN** A U-SHAPE AND CIRCLE

# Table and Chairs Arrangements



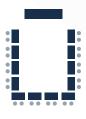
**TABLES AND CHAIRS** IN CLASSROOM STYLE



**TABLES AND CHAIRS** IN CONFERENCE STYLE



**TABLES AND CHAIRS IN ROUNDS** 



**TABLES AND CHAIRS IN A U-SHAPE** 



**TABLES AND CHAIRS IN BANQUET STYLE** 

# Tables and Chairs Arrangements

Table and Chair combos are best suited for when guests need space for activities such as writing or dining.

#### **Tables and Chairs in Classroom Style**

- Best for medium to large groups.
- Ideal for workshops, training sessions, and otherevents where the primary focus is on transferring information from the focal point to the group.
- Provides guests with a workspace for notetaking. snacking, etc., while maintaining focus on a main speaker or screen.

## **Tables and Chairs in Conference Style**

- Best for large groups where conversation is key!
- Commonly used for board meetings, executive discussions, and large-scale brainstorming sessions.
- Encourages interaction across the table because everyone can see everyone else.

#### **Tables and Chairs in Rounds**

- Best for large groups where social interaction is valued
- Most often used for events where the meal is the main focal point.
- Promotes fellowship and intimate conversation.

## Tables and Chairs in a U-Shape

- Best for small to medium-sized groups
- An excellent choice for workshops, training sessions, and small conferences of 30 or fewerguests
- Balances a clear focal point while maintaining opportunities for discussion because everyone can see everyone else.

# **Tables and Chairs in Banquet Style**

- Best for large groups focused on eating or activities
- Often used for fundraisers and award ceremonies.
- Encourages mingling but minimizes deep conversation because quests can typically only talk to the people beside them or directly across from them.

Selecting the right seating style is more than just arranging tables and chairs—it's about crafting an environment that enhances the purpose of your event! Whether aiming for engagement, efficiency, or elegance, choosing the appropriate layout ensures a smoother and more enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Now that you know your options, what seating style will you choose for your next ministry event?



# OVERVIEW

Wheat State Retreat Center is a year-round retreat center for groups seeking rest, renewal, and connection with God. Located just outside Augusta, KS, and surrounded by prairie grasslands and mature trees, Wheat State offers guest groups a peaceful environment to reflect and grow individually and together. The retreat center's central location and dedicated staff make it easy for your group to step away from the noise and draw closer to what matters most.

Plan your next retreat, camp, or conference at Wheat State to get away from everything and get alone with God!

# ALL-INGLUSIVE RETREAT PACKAGES

All-inclusive retreat packages are designed to make event planning seamless and successful. All packages include lodging, dining, meeting space, and recreation activities bundled at one per-person price.

- Lodging Choose from motel or dorm-style lodging
- Meeting Private meeting space with A/V equipment
- **Dining** Three high-quality meals served daily in the dining room
- Recreation Both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages to keep your group busy any time of year!

# NO COST ACTIVITIES

Built-in recreation will keep your group busy and entertained during free time, making planning easier!

- Blacklight dodgeball
- Blacklight pickleball
- Giant billiards
- 4-way ping pong
- Gaga ball

- Sand volleyball
- Basketball court
- Disc golf
- Hiking trails
- · Recreation fields

























# UPGRADE THE FUN

The beachfront offers guests a place to relax and enjoy God's beautiful creation. Groups can cool off with a swim in the lake, enjoy a peaceful paddle boat ride, soar sky-high from the famous BLOB or zip across the water on the zip line.

Beyond the water, groups can battle it out at Wheat State's one-of-a-kind paintball course or take on the outdoor rock-climbing tower!

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Year-round overnight accommodations for up to 400 guests
- Auditorium with seating for up to 750
- · Christian environment and team



# AUGUSTA, KANSAS

- 30-minute drive from Wichita, KS
- 2.75-hour drive from Kansas City, MO
- 30-minute drive from Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport



# CONTACT INFORMATION

833-943-2878 wheatstateretreat.org info@wheatstateretreat.org

# PLANNING A WOMEN'S RETREAT STARTS WITH ONE KEY DECISION:

# the Meme!

A good theme should resonate with guests but also be exciting and fun. It ultimately sets the tone for the event and can fuel fun, connection, and meaningful conversations.

We're sharing **SIX** modern retreat themes for today's women—each paired with a scripture, decor ideas, and a creative icebreaker.



# **FINDING JOY IN JESUS**

Discover JOY in the small, daily moments of life through this uplifting theme.

#### Scripture:

"The joy of the Lord is your strength." — Nehemiah 8:10

#### **Decor Ideas:**

For table decorations, use vases of fresh flowers. Opt for blue and green brightcolored tablecloths for a happy setting. Add smiley faces and sun accents to your decor to build upon the theme.

For extra pizazz, create a "Joy Wall." Keeping your decor theme in mind, create a fun backdrop. Place a basket of sticky notes and markers nearby. When guests arrive, ask them to write what brings them joy on a sticky note and stick it on the wall. Make the Joy Wall dual-purpose and use it as a photo backdrop. Include a fun sign for guests to hold during photos to commemorate the retreat!

**Icebreaker:** Write scriptures about God's promises on slips of paper and place them in balloons. Each Woman gets one balloon tied to her ankle. The goal? Protect your balloon while trying to pop others'. At the end, read the verses out loud and discuss what joy in Jesus means today.

The moral? Protect your joy at all costs, and don't let someone pop it!

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL WOMEN'S RETREAT

(GREAT FOR TEACHERS!)

Celebrate the end of summer and prepare spiritually for a new school year. This theme is excellent for women's groups that have a lot of educators but can also be a general theme with a community give-back feature.

### Scripture:

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." — Proverbs 22:6

# Decor Ideas:

Think pencil bouquets, chalkboards with inspiring quotes, name tags on desks, and apples or mini notebooks as takehome treats.

**Icebreaker:** Go around the room and have each attendee share a funny "teacher hack" or classroom trick that made life easier for them. You'll get a few laughs—and maybe a few lesson plan ideas, too.

# WONDER WOMEN **OF THE BIBLE**

Draw strength and inspiration from women of faith like Esther, Deborah, and Ruth. Channel your inner Women Woman and praise God for your womanly talents.

#### Scripture:

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." — Proverbs 31:25

#### **Decor Ideas:**

Combine comic book flair with biblical elegance. Use superhero capes alongside scrolls, candles, or ancientstyle props. Highlight "power words" like courage, wisdom, and faith throughout your decor.

**Icebreaker:** Play Bible "Guess Who?" Create cards with clues about women like Esther, Ruth, or Deborah. Split into teams and see who can guess the most correctly. Up the ante, and make it charades!

# A REGAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Tap into your elegance with the regal theme that celebrates women's identity and purpose as daughters of The King!

#### Scripture:

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation..."

— 1 Peter 2:9

#### **Decor Ideas:**

Set the scene with purple and gold, faux velvet table runners, crown centerpieces, and candles. Add mirrors with affirmations like "Daughter of the King" or "Worthy and Loved."

Icebreaker: Ask women to come dressed like rovalty—tiaras and all. Then play a round of Princess Mad Libs.

# **DAUGHTERS** (PERFECT FOR MAY)

Celebrate connection across generations with meaningful and playful bonding.

## Scripture:

"Her children rise up and call her blessed." — Proverbs 31:28

#### Decor Ideas:

Use soft florals, framed photos of famous mother-daughter duos, and heartthemed crafts. Set up a "memory lane" photo wall with snapshots of attendees through the years.

#### **Icebreakers:**

Twinning Contest: Moms and daughters dress alike. Best pair wins a prize.

In Her Shoes Relay: Daughters run to put on their moms' shoes and race back. Then switch. It's silly and symbolic—and always a crowd-pleaser.

# PIONEER WOMEN **THROWBACK**

Honor the grit and grace of women from generations past.

#### Scripture:

"She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks." — Proverbs 31:17

#### **Decor Ideas:**

Decorate with burlap runners, mason jars with wildflowers, old-fashioned tools, and handwritten signs. A washtub filled with goodies or snacks gives it an authentic touch.

**Icebreaker:** Split into teams and give each group old-fashioned items (think: washboards, rolling pins, clothespins). Their challenge? Build the tallest freestanding tower. It's all about teamwork, creativity, and appreciating how far we've come.

Whether you're hosting a retreat for spiritual renewal, life skills, or just to celebrate sisterhood, these themes and ice breakers will help you create a memorable experience for women in 2025 and beyond.



# OVERVIEW

Potomac Park Retreat and Conference Center is located in Falling Waters, West Virginia, near the Washington D.C./Baltimore area. Guest Groups will find a flexible and casual setting that can be easily transformed to fit their theme, brand, and vision. The on-site team is committed to providing excellent customer service and Christ-like hospitality.

Potomac Park was designed to be a destination to encounter God, and prides itself on offering Christian groups a peaceful and welcoming venue year-round. The spacious grounds and modern amenities provide groups with everything they need to plan a top-notch retreat, camp, or conference.

# ALL INCLUSIVE RETREAT PACKAGES

All-inclusive retreat packages are designed to make event planning seamless and successful. All packages include lodging, dining, meeting space, and recreation activities bundled at one per-person price.

- Lodging Choose from motel or dorm-style lodging
- Meeting Private meeting space with A/V equipment
- Dining Three high-quality meals served daily in the dining room
- Recreation Both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages to keep your group busy any time of year!

# NO COST ACTIVITIES

All this fun (and more!) is included in your retreat at no extra charge. We have plenty of indoor and outdoor activities to keep your group entertained.

- Indoor gymnasium
- Fitness Center
- Game Room
- Disc Golf
- Sand Volleyball
- Gaga Ball
- Pickleball
- Recreation fields

- Hiking trails
- Hayrides & bonfires
- Snow sledding hill
- Playgrounds
- Horseshoes
- Cornhole
- Mini Golf Course
- Slippery Slopes dry tubing slope





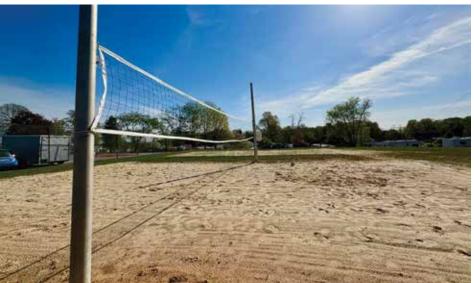
















# UPGRADE THE FUN

Beat the heat at the outdoor pool open seasonally from May through September. The Olympic-sized pool can accommodate up to 200 guests and is supervised by American Red Cross-certified lifeguards for your safety.

# HIGHLIGHTS

- · Year-round overnight accommodation for up to 400 guests
- Auditorium with seating for up to 700
- Christian environment



# FALLING WATERS, WEST VIRGINIA

- 1.5 hour drive northeast of the Baltimore and D.C. region
- 1.5 hours from the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
- 1.5 hours from the Baltimore Washington International Airportts



# CONTACT INFORMATION

855.929.7722 potomacparkretreat.org info@potomacparkretreat.org



# OVERVIEW

Pine Creek Retreat Center is tucked away in the breathtaking Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, surrounded by towering evergreens and just a short drive from the city. It's the perfect place for groups to unwind and reconnect.

- Year-round overnight accommodation for up to 340 guests
- Auditorium with seating for up to 350
- Christian environment
- Experienced team

# ALL-INCLUSIVE RETREAT PACKAGES

Pine Creek Retreat Center is located in Gore, Virginia, and spans across 85 acres in the breathtaking Blue Ridge Mountains.

Surrounded by towering evergreens, the retreat center is just a short drive from the Washington D.C./Baltimore region, making it an ideal venue for metropolitan groups seeking to unwind and reconnect with God in a setting close to nature.

Pine Creek provides Christian groups with a peaceful setting for retreats, camps, and conferences. The spacious grounds, modern facilities, and stunning mountain views provide groups with everything they need to host a meaningful, powerful, and well-organized event.

# NO COST ACTIVITIES

All this fun (and more!) is included in your retreat—at no extra charge. We have indoor and outdoor activities to keep your group entertained.

- Indoor gymnasium
- Basketball
- Sand vollevball
- Pickleball
- 9-square
- · Gaga ball
- Horseshoes
- Cornhole

- Hayrides
- Bonfires
- · Walking/hiking trails
- · Sledding hills
- · Recreation fields
- · Disc golf
- · Pond with water activities



















# UPGRADE THE FUN

Add a little something extra to your schedule for a small added fee! Take a swim in the outdoor pool, tackle the rock climbing wall, or enjoy the newest attraction, Timber Rush, an exhilarating dry tubing slope that's fun for all ages.

# HIGHLIGHTS

- · Year-round overnight accommodation for up to 340 guests
- Auditorium with seating for up to 350
- · Christian environmen







# GORE, VIRGINIA

- 2-hour drive northeast of the Baltimore and D.C. region
- 1.5 hours from the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport



# CONTACT INFORMATION

855.929.7463 pinecreekretreat.org info@pinecreekretreat.org

# HOW TO USE HASHTAGS ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM TO KEEP TABS ON YOUR EVENT

## What is a Hashtag?

A hashtag is a keyword or keyphrase preceded by the # symbol that helps categorize social media posts. For example, a keyword like #dogs or #kitchens identifies general topics, while keyphrases such as #cutedogsnapping or #kitchencolorcombo provide more specific groupings. Both keywords and keyphrases function the same way despite their length.

However, it should be noted that keyphrases should ideally be kept to a max of 3-4 words. When a keyphrase gets lengthy, it can be difficult to read or remember! The exception to this rule is if the keyphrase is widely known or popular like "takemeouttotheballgame"

# How did Hashtags come to be?

The hashtag was introduced in 2007 by Chris Messina, who used the # symbol to group tweets for easy lookup. According to Internet history, Twitter incorporated hashtags into its platform in 2009. From there, hashtags have continued to gain popularity and become widely recognized across most social media platforms.

# **How do Hashtags work?**

A hashtag is a label. When a user types "#dogs" into their Facebook status, the status is automatically grouped with all other statuses on Facebook that also contain "#dog".

# If I use a hashtag, does that mean anyone on the Internet can see my status?

Only if you want them to! A status with a hashtag will only be visible to those you share the status with.

## Per Facebook's Help Center:

When you add a hashtag to your post, the people you've shared your post with can also see it in that hashtag's feed. For example, if you share a post with a hashtag with the audience <u>Friends</u>, people you're friends with can see your post in that hashtag's feed.

If you use a hashtag in a post you share to a <u>Public</u> audience, and allow people to follow you, your post will appear on your public profile and in that hashtag's feed.

# Can I remove a hashtag?

Yes! Simply backspace/delete it from the text, and the status will no longer be categorized whether the post is shared with Friends or Public.

# So why should I use a hashtag at my event?

Hashtags can increase engagement and provide you with real-time feedback. For example, your guests can share photos and videos with one another by using a hashtag.

Additionally, guests can search the hashtag to see content and interact with one another. A third benefit is that guests can information with you, such as "It's cold in Room 201" or "No paper towels in the auditorium restrooms!"

# How do I keep track of hashtags at my event?

It's easy! Simply navigate to the search bar on your dashboard or homepage and enter the hashtag. All relevant results will be populated. You can also click on the hashtag anywhere you see it on your feed to be redirected to the same list.

If you are looking for a more robust tracking tool that includes analytics, you'll need to purchase a subscription. Read this Hootsuite blog for their comprehensive list of tracking tools: www.blog.hootsuite.com/hashtag-analytics/

Hashtags are a powerful way to connect content, improve discoverability, and engage with your guests on social media. Whether you're organizing an event, promoting a campaign, or sharing personal moments, hashtags make it easier for people to find and interact with your posts!

By understanding how to use hashtags effectively, you can expand your reach, encourage conversation, and build stronger online communities that help promote your event and ministry.

Start experimenting with hashtags today to see how they can enhance your social media presence!





# Our Newly Released Recreation Guide

At Christian Retreats Network, we do all we can to make event planning easy and affordable, so we are excited to share that our newly released Recreation Guide is available for download from our website.

This guide is the ultimate tool for event planners! It's packed with exciting features and is designed to cater to all your recreational needs. Here are eight reasons why our guide is a must-have for every organizer and leader on your team:

- 28 Exciting Games: Our guide includes a variety of games to choose from, each designed to foster friendship and provide entertainment. With twenty-eight games to choose from, you'll never need to sleuth the internet again. Everything you need is right here: supplies, instructions, and tips. Plus, instructions are written in script form so you can read instructions to your group directly from the quide.
- Categorized by Type: To simplify your life, we've categorized all twenty-eight games by type, ensuring an effortless approach to finding an activity. Whether you're looking for icebreakers, creative games, or just pure fun, you can quickly and efficiently find the perfect game to suit your needs.
- of Contents, we included an index with additional categories to make finding games and activities a breeze. Flip to the back of the guide to search for games by page number. The hashtag index includes categories such as #outside, #water, #food, #nosupplies, and more.
- Four Nosupplies Games: For those moments when you need a game but lack the necessary supplies, our guide has you covered with four nosupplies games. These games are easy to do anywhere and require no special equipment, making them perfect for spontaneous fun or situations where resources are limited.

- Seven Icebreakers: Breaking the ice can sometimes be challenging, but with our seven carefully selected # icebreakers, you'll get your group moving and interacting in no time. These games promote connections, break down barriers, and create a lively and inclusive environment.
- Printable Coordinating Documents: To ensure smooth planning and execution, we included printable coordinating documents. These resources include icebreaker topics, get-to-knowyou questions, and necessary game addendums. This bonus feature streamlines the organization process, allowing you to focus on relationships instead of administration.
- 12 New Ways to Divide Groups: Dividing groups can sometimes be a logistical challenge, but our guide offers 12 innovative and fun ways to divide large and small groups fairly. From creative methods to random selections, these strategies make group division light-hearted and efficient, ensuring that teams are balanced and ready to compete or collaborate.
- Colorful Printable PDF Package:
  Our Recreation Guide is packaged in a colorful, attractive, and user-friendly PDF file. This digital format allows you to access the guide on any device and even gift it to your team members.

Our Recreation Guide is a complete toolkit for creating memorable and engaging experiences with your group. With its diverse selection of games and practical features, this guide is an invaluable asset for any event planner or team leader. **DON'T MISS OUT** on this **FREE** resource. Download your copy today courtesy of Christian Retreats Network. **HAPPY PLANNING!** 





P.O. Box 620 Carlinville, IL 62626 Change Service Requested Nonprofit org US Postage Paid Carlinville, IL 62626 Permit No. 221



