



Wildacres Commitment to Care (Updated 08.01.2022)

Welcome to Wildacres! We want to assure you that the health and safety of our guests and employees is our top priority. Whether you have been a long-time Wildacres guest, or this will be your first visit, please review our **Commitment to Care** plan regarding what you can expect when you arrive at the retreat and throughout your stay.

General Property Information

- We have returned to double-occupancy in our rooms as in pre-pandemic seasons. As vaccinations increase and guests feel more confident in sharing rooms, more individuals can visit the retreat and share spaces.
- ***With the exception of the dining hall, masks are optional at the retreat. All guests are asked to bring their own masks and wear them entering dining hall and anytime they are moving through dining hall.***
- As always, the retreat is deep-cleaned and sanitized using bio-based products.
- No-touch hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the property at building entrances.
- A No-touch thermometer is available upon request.

Arrivals and Departures

- Check-in begins at 3pm unless set later by your group leader. *Due to the sanitation processes we have in place, guest rooms may not be ready until 4pm. Please plan accordingly and do not anticipate early check-in.*
- Guests may check out any time the morning of their departure date. However, we ask that all guests are completely out of their rooms no later than 9:30am. This allows our housekeeping staff to begin airing and cleaning the rooms. No late guest room checkouts are available.

These are the check-in/check-out times required for us to complete our sanitation process. Should you arrive slightly early, you are welcome to walk around the property until your group is ready to begin check-in.

Housekeeping

As always, we strive to provide guests with the highest level of service, to keep them safe and comfortable. This year, housekeeping continues to implement updates in response to the pandemic.

- Once guests check out, we air out and sanitize each room and workspace.
- Beds are made as usual but do not have pillows on them. We encourage guests to bring their own pillows. If a guest cannot bring a pillow, we will have retreat pillows available for your use. They are not new but instead have been cleaned and stored over the past two seasons. They will be donated to a local animal shelter after their use.
- Towels and extra blankets are provided in the rooms as usual.

Food Services

While we are always diligent in maintaining health and sanitation standards, surfaces throughout the retreat are being sanitized with increased regularity. All dining hall staff are wearing masks and gloves during service.

- ***We ask that guests wear masks inside the dining hall regardless of vaccination status,*** except when seated at their tables. This provides greater confidence and safety for all guests and staff.
- Service is currently buffet style instead of family style. This allows us to offer the salad bar and provide more food options for guests. Guests enter the dining hall through the upstairs door or lower sliding doors and can either enter the service line or find a seat at a table and then return for service. Diners are required to wear gloves and masks while in the buffet line. (Disposable gloves are provided.)
- Weather permitting, we have limited outside seating for those preferring to eat outside. We also have a table upstairs in dining hall as well. Guests may use takeout containers if they wish to take their meals elsewhere such as the Patio or to one of their workspaces instead of staying in dining hall.

Meeting Spaces

- Meeting spaces are deep-cleaned and reset in between groups as always. Apart from the auditorium, we keep meeting spaces set up for one group at a time.
- Your group may choose whether to require masks or not in your own meeting spaces. If you are at the retreat while another group is here, we ask that you check in with the leader regarding their mask guidelines if you plan to visit their meeting spaces.

Guests and Employees

- We have implemented employee safety training focused on social distancing awareness, correct cleaning procedures, and PPE equipment protocols.
- We are requiring all staff to have a completed round of the COVID vaccine, along with a booster, with their doctor's approval.
- The health of our employees is being carefully monitored. Any employee that has any reason to believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or is showing symptoms is asked to remain home and isolate as recommended by the CDC. They will be eligible to return to work after a negative COVID test, or approval from a health professional.
- In the instance a guest experiences potential COVID symptoms they are expected to let us know immediately. At that time, they will be asked to go to Spruce Pine for a rapid test and let the group leader know of their results. We are unable to provide options for guests to isolate if they test positive. As we wish to keep other guests and staff safe from exposure, any guest testing positive is expected to checkout of the retreat. We are working with local medical professionals to handle any potential guest illnesses and will follow their recommendations to protect the health of all guests and our staff.

Miscellaneous

Wildacres has endless opportunities for guests to connect in outside spaces. From our lodge patio to the amphitheater, there are numerous places to hang out and relax. We ask that guests use good judgment while in those spaces, keeping in mind social distancing, sharing of items, and keeping each other safe.

In light of the current COVID variant and its high transmission rate, we highly recommend group leaders consider their group's policy regarding masking indoors. Wildacres is not currently requiring masks indoors – except for in dining hall. It is up to each group whether they require group members to wear masks indoors.

These protocols are based on the CDC and NC guidelines currently in place. We continue to monitor CDC and NCDOH guidelines and with the recent surge in the variants, we reserve the right to update our protocols as needed to keep guests and staff safe.

If there are any issues or concerns, we ask that you let us know. Our goal is to keep all of us safe and healthy this year, so we can continue to connect at Wildacres in the future!

**All procedures are subject to change based on guidance from the CDC and applicable government authorities.*