

SCHOOL GROUP CONFIRMATION INFO

Thank-you for choosing to bring your group to Shekinah! Shekinah gives us all a chance to experience nature untouched by the technology that distracts us from seeking peace, fulfillment and the wisdom of growing things. Here are some guidelines for preparing your trip to this beautiful valley:

SCHEDULES AND BOOKINGS

Once we have determined which dates are best for you:

1. Fill out and submit a Facility Rental Application form (found online) with the following information:
 - a. Arrival and departure times
 - b. A schedule (the Program Director can help with this if you would like)
 - c. Number of students
 - d. Number of adults/teachers/chaperones.
 - e. Accommodation needs.
 - f. *This information should be finalized with no less than 2 WEEKS prior to arrival date.*
2. Questions along the way? Call (945.4929) or e-mail (office@shekinahretreatcentre.org). We're here to help.

ACCOMMODATIONS

1. Day groups will be based out of the large white tent (seasonal), as well as having access to the chalet. Please make arrangements in advance to use the kitchen.
2. Multi-day groups are also based out of the tent (seasonal) and chalet, with accommodations in the chalet, two cabins, or nine shanty tents (seasonal). Recommendations will be made by the Program Director as to the viability of nights in the shanties. We ask that school group organizers collaborate with the Program Director to ensure the best possible stay at Shekinah Retreat Centre.

FOOD AND WATER

1. There is a full kitchen available for use. Please make arrangements in advance to use the kitchen and/or BBQ, and ensure things are clean before you depart.
2. Shekinah's water is safe to drink, and we want you to enjoy it. However, we ask that you refrain from unnecessary use of water, and keep your showers as short as possible. This is a precious resource.

SITE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Pets are NOT allowed at Shekinah...we are a natural and safe space for wildlife, and for those with pet allergies!
2. Recreation vehicles (i.e. snowmobiles, ATV's, motorbikes etc.) are not permitted on Shekinah property.
3. Smoking is only permitted outside and in designated areas. Please ask Shekinah staff where these places are.

SUPERVISION AND SAFETY

We ask that you have one adult for every six students and that these adults supervise the students at all times, including sleeping times. We expect this level of supervision of the students even when a Shekinah staff member is leading an activity or session. Shekinah staff are not responsible to organize or supervise your students. We will provide leadership and direction for the camp - specific activities (i.e. wall climbing, initiative tasks, etc.) but your adults are responsible to get the students to the activities in a timely manner. Shekinah staff are available to work with your school between 9am - 4:40pm. We are available to give suggestions for possible evening activities at camp and then you will be responsible for leading these activities.

Groups that visit Shekinah in winter are primarily run by teachers and school staff. Shekinah staff can provide suggestions and can be available upon request for leading a particular activity, however, it is important that you check this prior to your arrival.

Please remember to bring your own FIRST AID KIT!!!! This is important in the case of injury or an emergency!

DEPOSITS AND CONFIRMING YOUR BOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR

A minimum non-refundable deposit of \$125/day is required. The best way to ensure that you have the dates you want for next year is to include a deposit when paying the invoice for your current booking! This way we can schedule and confirm your next year's booking as soon as possible as preference for dates is given to groups who pay their deposit.

CURRENT RATES

Please see the current school year rate schedule on our website for the most up to date information.

*Because we recommend a 1:6 adult to student ratio, a school can bring up to one adults per six students at no extra cost. Any additional adults will be charged the same rate as the students. For those students who require more assistance (i.e. children with special needs), one adult is encouraged to accompany him/her at no cost.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. A minimum charge of 15 people is applied to groups smaller than 15.
2. Groups should come prepared with indoor activities in case inclement weather does not allow for outdoor programming/activities.
3. Your group is responsible for any damages incurred over and above regular wear and tear on Shekinah property.
4. Community schools may apply for additional subsidy by contacting Shekinah's office for an application form

TAKING CARE AND CLEANING UP

As guests of Shekinah we ask that you do your part to leave Shekinah as clean as possible when you leave. In each building there is a detailed list of cleanup expectations you are responsible for before you leave. Your cooperation in cleanup duties will greatly assist the Shekinah staff, as well as keep the experience enjoyable for the next visitors! If you are unable to abide by these expectations, you may be asked to pay a damage deposit before your next visit. Also, please remind your students that flushing non-organic matter down the toilets (i.e. sanitary items, etc.) can back up our sewer system...and this becomes unpleasant for everyone involved!

While you are here with us, please take care to remind your staff and students to:

1. RESPECT the wildlife (look/watch, but don't try to touch or bother any animals you might see).
2. RESPECT the plant-life (please refrain from picking flowers, don't touch the frogs, leaves or bark so we can try to preserve the environment as much as possible!).
3. RESPECT the site and facilities (stay on the trails, pick up your garbage, stay in designated areas, etc.).
4. RESPECT each other (it will just be more fun this way).

Please consider the following for the Shekinah Environmental Challenge:

1. If your students are showering, help them keep their showers to 3 minutes (or less!).
2. Have your students bring along a towel that can be hung outside the bathroom for their day to day use (thereby minimizing paper towel garbage).
3. Tell/teach your students about composting and recycling. Here at Shekinah we do both, however, our local recycling depot is restricted to tin cans, plastic water and juice bottles, milk jugs and juice box materials, so maybe you could take the extra recycling back to the city with you?!
4. Teach your students about not wasting food and be sure to bring some containers along to take leftovers home with you (instead of throwing it all away)!
5. PLEASE DO NOT USE disposable dishes!!! We have a full kitchen in the chalet. The plates, cups and cutlery (and all other dishes) are there for your use!

Shekinah Retreat Centre seeks to provide a setting in which the recreational, social, mental, and spiritual needs of individuals and groups may be met. These expectations are intended to ensure that all guests will be able to enjoy Shekinah for years to come. If you have questions or comments, contact us at 306-945-4929.

THE WORD "SHEKINAH" MEANS "THE PRESENCE AND GLORY OF GOD."

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE "SHEKINAH" WHILE YOU ARE HERE!