

Camp Blodgett – 10451 Lakeshore Drive – West Olive, MI 49460

Phone: 616-844-7210 // Fax: 616-844-7212 // E-mail: pdickson@iserv.net

Rental FAQ's

Thank you for considering Camp Blodgett for your event. We want your event to be a memorable one and encourage your questions early in the rental process. We have assembled some of the most frequently asked questions below. These questions are often asked when planning: a wedding and reception, fund raisers, or convention dinners. If your question is not on the list or if you need clarification, please contact us.

Things that are included with every Retreat Center rental:

1. Use of the 700 feet of beach. Please respect the properties on each side of our frontage and keep all activities away from adjoining properties.
2. Use of the deck.
3. Use of the tables and chairs that we have available.
4. Use of the kitchen and all appliances, flatware, water pitchers, etc. All items used must be cleaned and returned to its original storage place and ready for the next use.
5. After the event Camp Blodgett staff will do the tear down of all tables and chairs.

Things that are the RENTER'S responsibilities:

1. Set up of tables and chairs for your event.
2. Table coverings, centerpieces, etc. are the Renter's responsibility.
3. Installing and removing decorations are the Renter's responsibility. During installation of decorations you may NOT use fasteners that puncture surfaces (nails, tacks, pushpins, staples) or that otherwise damage the walls, rails, posts, floors, deck, etc. If staff must remove any part of the decorations or repair any damage, the cost will be deducted from your security deposit for the event.

How many guests can be seated comfortably? Our dining hall can seat up to 166 at round tables. Some caterers recommend 144 or less to allow room for their servers.

Can we hold a wedding at Camp Blodgett? Yes. Many of our renters have held their ceremonies on our deck overlooking Lake Michigan. Our deck will accommodate 160-seated guests and is handicapped accessible. Weddings on the beach lend themselves to some logistic challenges for equipment and people attending, but we do not object if done so as not to disturb our neighbors.

I saw a tent in a picture. Is that included? Camp Blodgett does not provide a tent. Up to a 20'x40' tent may be set up on the deck. Tents are available from rental companies in Grand Haven, Holland, and Grand Rapids.

Does Camp Blodgett have an in-house catering team? No. Our renters may use the caterer of their choice. Camp Blodgett does REQUIRE that whoever you select must adhere to our policies and leave the kitchen in rentable condition. Camp Blodgett has a list of caterers who have catered events and wish to return.

When should I reserve my date? Camp Blodgett is unable to host more than one event at a time within the Retreat Center. We suggest you reserve your date as soon as you are positive that Camp Blodgett is your venue choice. All rentals are first come, first served.

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How do I reserve a date? We will “pencil” you in for a date the day you request a rental agreement for a specific date. We will hold that date for 2 weeks. If we do NOT receive a signed rental agreement with a deposit (30%) within that timeframe the date will once again be made available for rental. We will NOT contact you prior to renting to someone else after that deadline has passed.

Is my deposit refundable if I must cancel? All deposits are NON refundable regardless of when you cancel or if you cancel only part of your rental period. With your signed agreement, we commit our facility to you in good faith for the entire rental period and turn other potential renters for that date away. Since we rely upon income from each rental to enable Camp Blodgett to provide year-round programs for economically at-risk kids in West Michigan, we must insist you honor your commitment. Please make sure of your plans before signing your contract and sending your deposit

Is my deposit transferable? No. For the same reasons given above, your deposit cannot be transferred to another timeframe.

What is the “cleaning deposit”? The cleaning deposit is the renter’s promise to pay for any unusual expenses incurred by Camp Blodgett during the event rental period. Charges for cleaning that exceed the usual charges will be deducted before the deposit is returned. Unusual cleaning expenses include but are not limited to: removal of decorations, kitchen cleaning not done by the caterer, repairs to the building attributed to the renter or renter’s guests, delays caused by the renter delaying the start of the cleaning crew after the event.

When will the “cleaning deposit” be refunded? The cleaning deposit return will be authorized within 3 days of the event.

When is payment-in-full due? Payment-in-full must be received by the date defined in the rental agreement. That date is usually one week prior to the event.

Is smoking allowed? The Retreat Center is a SMOKE FREE facility. Ottawa County’s ordinance also prohibits smoking on the deck or within 25 feet of the Retreat Center or any other structure on the property. Smoking on the property away from the building is permitted. Responsible disposal of cigarette butts etc. is required by Camp Blodgett.

Is alcohol allowed? Renters may serve alcohol during their event at Camp Blodgett. However, an additional alcohol liability insurance policy is required in addition to regular liability insurance. If your caterer has a liquor license and serves the alcohol, they will usually also provide the liquor liability coverage. Camp Blodgett requires responsible consumption of alcohol and expects the renter to monitor guest behavior.

Where can I secure Liability Insurance for my event? Liability insurance is required for your event and is sometimes available through the renter’s homeowner policy at no charge or for a reduced fee. There are “event” insurers that offer a wider variety of insurance options, including liquor liability coverage.

Can we arrange for a site visit? You are encouraged to visit our site facilities on Lake Michigan. Our staff is normally available Monday through Friday from 8:30a to 4:30p though appointments are suggested to ensure that someone will be available to provide admittance, give you a short tour and answer questions. Other times might be available but must be arranged in advance. Call 616-844-7210 or email pdickson@iserv.net to set your appointment.