

WEEKEND IN THE WOODS

YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION

The Sierra Club's Piasa Palisades Group cordially invites members, prospective members, families and friends to a weekend retreat in the woods.

NOTE: WE HAVE A NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR, BUT IT'S IN THE SAME VICINITY.



When: 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, through noon Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022. Stay one night or two, or just come Saturday evening for the group meal and campfire.

Where: Beautiful Pere Marquette State Park, 7 miles west of Grafton. We've reserved Camp Piasa for the weekend.

CAMP FACILITIES

Camp Piasa was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. It's rustic, wooded and isolated from the rest of the park, high on the Mississippi River bluffs.

Lodging: Individuals or families can stay in private rooms in large rustic cabins with shared full bathrooms. They have screened windows, electric lights and steel bunk beds with mattresses. Bring sleeping bags, sheets, blankets and pillows.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, PEOPLE ALSO CAN USE THEIR OWN TENTS OR CAMPERS IN DESIGNATED AREAS.

Dining hall: A large dining hall will serve as our headquarters. It has a full kitchen with a refrigerator, freezer, walk-in cooler, a great old gas range, toaster, coffee pot, dishes, silverware, cooking utensils, pots and pans.

Bath house: Yes, the bath house is a modern, concrete-block facility with electricity, flush toilets, sinks, mirrors and private showers with hot water.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

You can take advantage of Sierra Club activities, explore the park on your own or just hang out around camp. It's your choice!

Scavenger hunt: Experience the delightful sights, sounds, smells and feel of the outdoors with a scavenger hunt around camp all weekend. An activity for the young and young at heart. Pick up instructions in the dining hall. Organized by Carol Klinger.

Pacific Northwest talk: Rich Keating will

give an illustrated presentation called "Views and Ecology of the Pacific Northwest" at 8 p.m. Friday in the dining hall. It's based on his trip to the northwest corner of Washington State with son Phil. Topics include the unusual forests and ecology of the coast and Olympic and Mt. Rainier national parks.

Grafton bike ride: Meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the dining hall and convoy to the equestrian parking lot at Graham Hollow and Illinois 100. Ride on a paved trail to the Loading Dock in Grafton and back (6 miles total). We'll be biking along the Illinois River and may see migrating birds. Flat easy ride for all skill levels, including beginners. Bring your bicycle, or let us know in advance if you need to borrow a bike. Led by Craig Heaton.

Hickory Trail hike: This 2.9-mile loop can be extended to include the Fern Hollow Trail for a total of 4.4 miles (the group will decide). Both trails move up and down through a mature second-growth forest. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the dining hall and convoy to the visitor center. Led by Matt Self.

Forest bathing (the un-hike): Venture into the woods and immerse yourself in all its wonder. Invented by the Japanese, this activity is known for several health benefits. Great for people who can't endure long hikes. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in the dining hall. Led by Carol Klinger.

Illinois River paddle: Meet at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the visitor center parking lot and convoy across the road to the Pere Marquette boat ramp. Paddle 4.3 miles to just past the Brussels Ferry. Suitable for all levels. Minors must be in boats with adults. Canoes, paddles and life jackets provided. Let us know in advance if you prefer a kayak or will be bringing your own gear. Led by Craig Heaton and Chris Krusa.

McAdam's Peak hike: Rigorous 1.7-mile loop on the Goat Cliff and Ravine trails. Hike along the best cliffs in the park, stopping to listen for birds and observing whatever else Mother Nature presents. The scenic vistas alone make it worthwhile. Meet at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the dining hall and convoy to the trailhead. Led by Dave Holloway.

Rattlesnake Trail hike: This ¾-mile spur trail begins at a scenic overlook parking area then connects with the Fern Hollow Trail. It moves along rock outcrops and descends to low elevations through a mature forest. Meet at 9 a.m. Sunday in the dining hall and con-

voy to the trailhead. Led by Rich Keating and Segolene Renaze.

MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Meals: Just like home. You supply and make your own breakfasts, lunches and Friday evening meal (and wash your own dishes).

Saturday evening meal: Eat at 5:30 p.m. Volunteers will prepare a crowd-pleasing buffet with build-your-own nachos, burritos, soft tacos or taco salads with a variety of fresh toppings (meat and vegan). Traditional garden salad as a side option. Homemade pie for dessert. Tea and lemonade provided. Bring other beverages if desired.

Stargazing: Astronomy guru Steve Sands will bring his giant telescopes for stargazing in an open field after the Saturday evening meal, weather permitting.

Saturday evening campfire: Gather around a campfire in front of the dining hall for socializing and music by Jan Marra, who plays guitar and sings folk, classic rock, singalongs and more. Feel free to bring guitars, drums, harmonicas and other instruments to join in.

Games and stuff: Bringing kids or grandkids? Check out our family activity table, complete with bubbles, sidewalk chalk, puzzles and more. What happens if it rains? Weekend in the Woods bingo!

OTHER INFORMATION

Bring: Bicycles, cameras, books, binoculars, day packs, rain gear, water bottles and flashlights.

Don't bring: Guns, radios or pets.

Special needs: If you have health problems, financial issues or other special needs, please let us know in advance.

Cost: \$7 per person (ages 6 and older) per night for the cabins or camping; and \$14 per person for the Saturday evening meal (\$7 for children ages 6-12; 5 and under free).

To register: Print out the registration form and mail it with payment to 440 W. Union St., Edwardsville, IL 62025. Make checks payable to Piasa Palisades Group of Sierra Club. Deadline is Friday, Sept. 16.

Questions: Call Teri Maddox at 618-656-8132 or send an e-mail to palisadesviews@gmail.com.

WEEKEND IN THE WOODS REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN CABINS (6 and older):

Friday	Saturday	Total	Cost
_____	_____	_____	X \$7 = _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN TENTS OR CAMPERS (6 and older):

Friday	Saturday	Total	Cost
_____	_____	_____	X \$7 = _____

SATURDAY EVENING MEAL (indicate if vegan):

Number of adults	Number of children (ages 6-12)	Cost
_____	_____	X \$14 X \$7 = _____

Mail with payment by Friday, Sept. 16, to Weekend in the Woods, 440 W. Union St., Edwardsville, IL 62025. Make checks payable to Piasa Palisades Group of Sierra Club. *A map can be sent on request.