

What's a Gathering?

The Summer California Men's Gathering is a three-day weekend in a beautiful woodland retreat. Hundreds of men come together from California and beyond to take a break from their daily routines, open their hearts and minds, relax and have fun building a diverse community of men.

Each man is encouraged to take part in as much or as little as he chooses, so the weekend can be about enjoying life, meeting new guys, and reconnecting with each other and ourselves.

“Connecting Men...”

Please join us over Labor Day weekend 2017 to explore the power of men connecting!

As men, most of us have been raised in a larger culture in which we were taught to keep our distance from each other. As a result, we can find ourselves alone and sometimes feeling like an “other”— disconnected. This Labor Day weekend, we will look at the way we have been taught to keep distance while exploring healthy ways of connecting with one another. We will work toward being honest with ourselves and with each other in a community in which we're invited to set aside judgment. This is what the California Men's Gathering has been doing since it was founded — creating a safe space where men can open up with each other, where we can bond without fear, and where we can support and nurture each other through caring and honest presence.

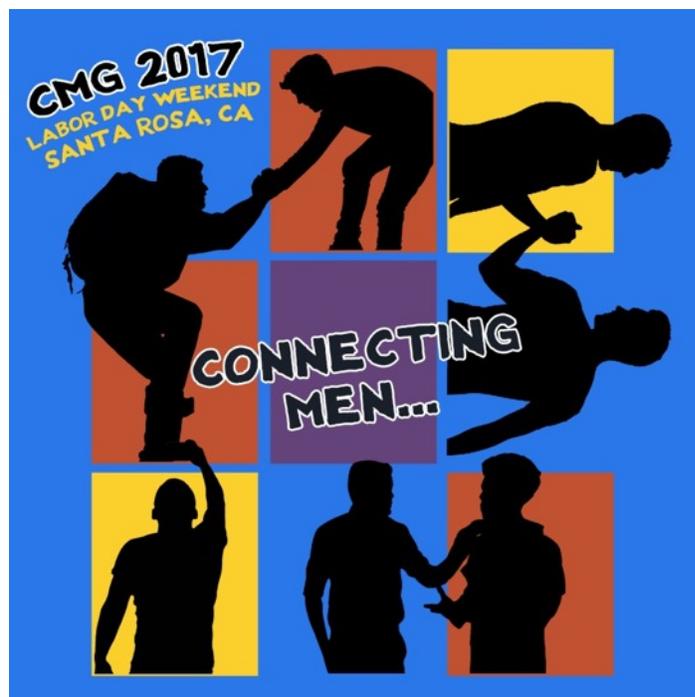
Throughout the weekend, men will have numerous opportunities to connect in a variety of healthy and constructive ways. These include a wide array of workshops and other activities; in each, you can choose to participate and challenge yourself or not. Each in its own way will explore the theme of men connecting with one another with authenticity, respect and caring.

- Each CMG retreat includes large group activities and smaller workshops with a wide choice of topics and perspectives (including some that are clothing-optional).
- A Gathering weekend usually includes pool parties (in season), dances, a talent/no talent show, hikes, heart circles, Puppy Piles, yoga and much more.
- The broad variety of activities allows each man to create his own personal experience. For some, a Gathering is like going to summer camp, for others, it's more about workshops and self-exploration.
- While those attending Gatherings are predominantly gay and bisexual, all men 18 years or older are welcome.
- CMG Gatherings are drug and alcohol-free events.

There's a kind of magic that happens at a Gathering...

If you've been to a Gathering, you know. If this is going to be your first time, you're about to find out! Each Gathering offers something new, even to those who attend year-after-year. Like a weekend summer camp for men, a California Men's Gathering is a coming together of friendly, mostly gay or bi men — or *anyone one who identifies as male* — ages 18 and up, who are looking to relax, have fun, connect, bond, build community, and grow.

We each contribute to the fun, the friendliness and the success of the weekend. We love to share our knowledge, talents and skill, our wisdom and our experiences. We contribute to the community by volunteering, lending a hand to make it all work while having an often-unspoken collective intention that the weekend be, at the very least, incredibly satisfying for everyone there.



For *this* Gathering, whether you're into relaxing, hanging out by the pool, exchanging a massage or two in the *Massage Cabin*, or up for expanding yourself by doing the Ropes Course, enjoying workshops or even LEADING a workshop, you'll be among friends...

You are encouraged to stretch yourself in fun ways... cut loose in the potentially amazing audition-free *Talent/No-Talent Show*, dance your ass off at the Saturday Night Dance, strut your stuff in the poolside *Fashion Show*, mellow out with yoga or get your groove on at the *Pool Party!* No matter what, you'll be sure to connect and have some good-times in a beautiful, serene, safe, drug- and alcohol-free environment.

When and Where

The Gathering is held Labor Day Weekend, Friday, September 1st to Monday, September 4th, sixty miles north of San Francisco, in the beautiful hills of Santa Rosa.

- Check-in begins 4pm, Friday, Sept. 1st
- The Gathering ends 2pm, Monday, Sept 4th

Basic Info to Attend

- Registration ranges from \$280 to \$450, on an income-based sliding scale. This covers lodging, meals, workshops and all events. For an extra \$50, The Ropes Course is truly transformational - Limited space available!
- If this is your first Gathering, you can take a \$35 discount off your registration fee!
- Limited financial aid grants of \$100 are available while they last. Send a *brief* request to registrar@thecmg.org.
- As part of creating a safe space for all, gatherings are drug- and alcohol-free events.
- Electronic devices are welcome, but please keep it private, excuse yourself politely to make or take calls, etc. Public usage may be wholly appropriate, for example, to take notes or set up reminders.
- In some areas of the camp, clothing may be optional. However, it's not a nudist event. Most men remain clothed, except at the pool.

Registration Fees

The registration fee is sliding scale based on your annual income.

Annual Income	Fee
0 - \$30K.....	\$280
\$30K - \$60K	\$330
\$60K - \$90K	\$385
\$90K and up.....	\$450



Financial Aid

We do our best to make it possible for every man who wants to be at the gathering be able to attend. This summer, we have a limited number of \$100 grants available on a first come, first-served basis. Send your *brief* request for financial aid to registrar@thecmg.org prior to registering.

First Timer Discount

We're glad to meet you! To prove it, if you've never been to a CMG *Gathering* before, you can take \$35 off your registration fee!

Register and Paying

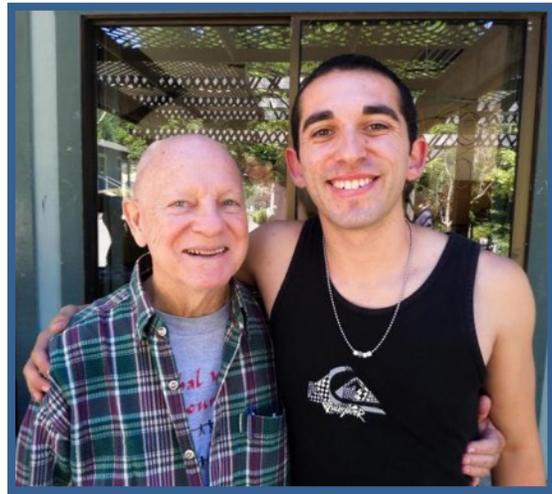
Online Registration is open now through the Wednesday before the event. Registration *and payment* must be completed prior to the start of the weekend. There is no on-site registration or day-passes. For help or questions about online registration and Payment options, email the registrar at registrar@thecmg.org.

Donations to Financial Aid Fund

When you register, we invite you to add on an additional, tax-deductible contribution of any size to the Financial Aid Fund. Your donation will help make the Gathering available and affordable to men from all walks of life.

Refund Policy

If a refund is requested on or before August 19, 2017, a full refund will be made, minus a \$50 processing fee. Qualifying refunds will be issued by the end of September. Refunds requested after August 19th will not be available, however, there are options provided in lieu of receiving a full refund.



Accommodations

NOTE: These accommodations may be quite comfortable, ***but none of them include linens***, and the camp does not have any. You are responsible for bringing your favorite camp-style bedding.

Standard Dorm - Included - Very basic but clean and nice, newly built 4-bunk cabins are now included with registration fee. More rustic accommodations also available. Attached bath, eight men max. Cabin and bed choice is on a first come, first-served basis.

Housing for Men with Mobility Issues

Accessible rooms are available for those men who require accommodations due to mobility issues. Indicate when registering if you need special accommodation.

Pitching a Tent/RVs

Sorry, there are no tents or RV hookup options at this camp.

Room Upgrades

Prices are for the whole weekend.

- **Deluxe Dorm - The Sweetest Deal!** - only \$25! Enjoy bunking with your fellow man in these modern, recently built, dorm-style cabins. Each cabin has four upper & lower twin-sized bunk beds. Room number will be assigned. Four men to a dorm. Bed choice is first-come, first-served, but all lower bunk. One community bathroom per cabin. A nice upgrade. Enjoy Life! You're worth it!
- **Conference Center Private w/Queen** - \$200 per room. Queen bed, private bath. Limited supply. Great for Couples.
- **Share a Conference Semi-Private** - \$70 per man. These new units feature two twin beds, a shared bathroom with one other room, and right across from the Dining Hall. Share it with a friend, or we'll pair you with someone nice!
- **Private Room** - Like a little peace and quiet on your own? This is the place for you! \$100 for the weekend gets you two twin beds (or twin bunks), your own bathroom, and a quiet space. A limited number of these rooms have a full bed, which are reserved for couples. You can pay for a Private Room and share it with a friend. **NOTE:** *these rooms are WAY at the top of a steep hill, so not recommended for men with mobility concerns, out of shape, etc.*

Accommodations, continued

- **Half of a Semi-Private Room** - \$50 per man. **Twin Bunks, Private bath.** NOTE: WAY at the top of a steep hill. - Please see above description for Private Room. We can pair you with one man to share a room, or you can coordinate with a friend.
- **Private Room in 2-bdrm Suite** - Suitable for couples, guys who like to have a room with a door, guys who are grumpy until they have their morning coffee, etc. There is one room with a QUEEN sized bed for \$200, and the other has a FULL-sized for \$150. Suite includes an attached bath, kitchenette with mini-fridge and coffee maker, open-plan sitting area & dining. All suites include AC. Two men max per room. We won't assign you a bed-mate for a Suite, but we're glad to assign Suite-mates for the other bedroom. Or one man can pay \$350 for the whole Suite and work out whatever he would like to.

Events and Activities

There will be several Community Gatherings held over the weekend (that you won't want to miss!), as well as many workshops presented by the men attending the Gathering. All workshops and activities are included in your registration fee, except for the Ropes Course Tower.

This year, we're going all out with a special Saturday night dinner, an after-dinner dance, as well as the always-terrific *Pool Party* and *Fashion Show*. As usual, we'll have the hilariously unpredictable *Talent/No-Talent Show*, plus campfires, a mustard-tasting weenie roast, movie nights, Puppy Piles, "Assassins" and other fun games, and probably a few surprises! Have a snack in the *24/7 Café* and hang out in the Lounge, play a game or two, and meet the other men!

Ropes Course Tower \$50 per man

The Ropes Course is a transformational experience that can make your whole weekend. Develop yourself around trust and teambuilding. You never know what you'll get, but you'll get something amazing! *Super popular*, so sign up early... You'll always remember the men you do the ropes with!



Workshops

We invite you to share your experience, gifts, and wisdom by presenting a workshop. A workshop can be anything you are interested in and want to share. Workshops are part of what make a Gathering great! When you register, just check off the "I want to lead a workshop" selection, and you'll be directed to a form to fill out – or sign into your account at www.thecmg.info and find the link to "Workshop Proposal" on the left-hand side.

Questions: workshop@thecmg.org

Talent/No-Talent Show

Always a highlight of the weekend, the "Talent/No-Talent" show offers an opportunity for any man to show off what he's got... sing, dance, read poetry, or just get on stage for the first time (for 5 minutes or less!). You can't find a more supportive audience for your debut! No audition required - just let 'er rip! Questions? talent@thecmg.org

Saturday Night Dinner *followed by dancing*

On Saturday, starting with a virgin cocktail party on the patio, enjoy an evening of dining, dancing, and fun. Often, men dress up or wear interesting costumes. Let your fun side roam free and get into the mix!

Events and Activities, Continued...

Sunday Afternoon Pool Party

An afternoon of poolside fun and frolicking... Fashion Show, aquatic games, festive food, drink, and music. As always, bring a big ugly dress, but loincloths are optional...

Yoga, Fitness, and Sports

For you early-risers, there'll be morning yoga every day at 7am, plus volleyball, hikes, and other fun, sporty, fitness-related activities throughout the weekend.

question@thecmg.org

Massage Exchange

Massage is super popular at CMG gatherings. We're going to work it out so that when the Massage Cabin is not in use for a workshop, there will be a sign-up sheet for those who want to give and/or receive a massage. question@thecmg.org

Mustard-Tasting Weenie Roast

Join Uncle Drew on the patio for a late evening nosh of yummy weenies, sausages, and veggie dogs, with an array of culinary condiments to drizzle on them. question@thecmg.org

Puppy Piles

Each night there's a hosted clothes-on, no-grope, cozy, cuddly puppy pile of men. It's nice!
question@thecmg.org

Silent Auction to refill the Financial Aid Fund

The silent auction is a big part of raising funds for next year's financial aid. Donate services and new or used items in good shape to the silent auction – and bring your checkbook and bid high!
auction@thecmg.org

Make the Most of Your Weekend

Be a Buddy

A **buddy** is a man who has been to at least one CMG Gathering and is willing to share his thoughts and experiences with a man who is there for the first time, or anyone wanting a Buddy connection. If you would like to be a buddy, check the buddy option when you register. buddy@thecmg.org

Lend a Hand / Be a Champion

CMG is always an all-volunteer group. We can't do it without you! Your volunteering is a fun and social way to connect with the other men at the Gathering and be a part of the community. Every man who attends will sign up for at least one volunteer opportunity when they check-in at the camp. Champions take the lead for specific jobs. Let us know how you'd like to lend a hand in a specific way on your online registration form or send a note to: volunteer@thecmg.org



Camp Facilities

- Most areas of Camp Newman are wheelchair accessible, and all main events are held in accessible areas.
- Vegetarian & Vegan meals are an option. Indicate dietary needs when registering.
- Smoking (including medicinal marijuana) is not permitted anywhere at the camp.
- Cell phone reception is spotty. Although men are encouraged to let go of their devices for the weekend, the camp has Wi-Fi and electronic devices are welcomed.
- There is no tent pitching or RV sleeping/hookups at this camp.

Additional information and directions will be emailed mid-August after your registration is confirmed.



Getting to the Camp

- Ride sharing is strongly encouraged as camp parking is limited. Choose your Rideshare preference when registering.
- For those flying into the area, use San Francisco (SFO) or Oakland (OAK) airports.
- Driving directions will be provided to registered men prior to the gathering.

Contact Information

Email with questions about...

- the Gathering - question@thecmg.org
- registration - registrar@thecmg.org
- buddy program - buddy@thecmg.org
- Rideshare - rideshare@thecmg.org
- volunteering - volunteer@thecmg.org
- workshops - workshop@thecmg.org
- talent show - talent@thecmg.org
- silent auction - auction@thecmg.org

For more information about CMG's year-round activities as well as other Gatherings and weekend retreats, visit our website at <http://www.thecmg.org>

If it's your first time to register for a CMG event – or if it's been a while – you'll need to create an account on our customized registration system. Having an account at www.thecmg.info is free and easy. Just select a username and password, and submit with your favorite email address. That way, when you register for events in the future, the info you added last time will be kept on file for next time!



Register online: [Click to Register](#)