

**Calling all past attendees!
California Men's Gatherings Presents...**



We're keeping this shorter-and-sweeter for those of you who have been with us before so please do give it a good read and then click the link at the very end to register.

A sweet Friday-Monday getaway with warm wonderful men!

With the stress of the holidays about to come after a busy fall, you deserve some away time first!

All kinds of workshops run by anyone who wants to run one (and we want yours!), lots of hang out time, plus the fun list of activities below.

Without so many assemblies, we have time for more workshops and even to repeat some. We also might throw in some other full group fun. Or take that time to enjoy the woods. Or take a long coffee with old/new friends. Or sit by the fire without intentions. It's your getaway! And we all need that now and then!



Where... and when...



Pathfinder Ranch in Mountain Center, CA is a serene and picturesque retreat in Garner Valley, across the San Jacinto Mountains from Palm Springs, and just outside the scenic town of Idyllwild. The camp is known for warm hospitality, environmental awareness, and great freshly cooked food. The Getaway this year lasts from **FRI, NOV. 25 (arrive between 2 p.m. & 5 p.m. if you can) through MON, NOV. 28 around 1 p.m.**

If you can't arrive til Saturday or must leave Sunday, that's okay (though do let us know if you leave early so we don't worry!). Better to come for much of the event than none, right? But to answer that common question, the rate is the same.

Why is this called a Getaway and not a Gathering?

So, is this a Gathering...or not? Well, sort of. It's like a Gathering...lite! More about letting go and having fun together than focusing on ritual. It's been a heck of a year (with a big election coming to boot!) and we just want to blow off steam together. And since we don't have a big committee, rather than not coming together at all, we're just simplifying...believing we can plan less and have it be just as much fun!



So, no theme that we'll explore. Only one assembly at the beginning, where the focus will be almost entirely on playing and meeting each other. And at the end, sure...a light closing. But in between, way more loosey-goosey!

Are my favorite activities going to still be there?

Probably! The **main** difference will be more workshops and fewer ritual-based assemblies, but we're still planning on having all of these:

- the variety show (where returnees and newcomer acts are SO welcome on stage)
- late-night games and movies

- massage
- puppy piles
- hikes
- the “Wear Anything” dance
- Pajama Party
- and more!



Present a workshop!

Do you have a talent, passion, special gifts, wisdom or experiences you would like to share with other men? Consider giving a workshop or running an activity! Workshops are presented by attendees on a volunteer basis. This gives the weekend a wonderful sense of community.



Submit a proposal at check-in or, even better, submit it now online at bit.ly/workitatCMG. Spending time now will allow for thoughtful, accurate and readable descriptions and allow us to plan ahead. If you have questions: question@theCMG.org



What if there aren't enough workshops to make up for fewer assemblies?

A few large-scale play activities are up our sleeve if that should happen and again, it's a Getaway. If we have an open period, grab tea with someone and get to know them better! But we're hoping that the greater focus on workshops will encourage a few people to get more creative than in the past and try something new!

Accommodations and meals



The base registration fee includes a bed in a shared, heated bunkroom, with shared bathroom/shower.

For details on how you could upgrade to more private accommodations (and they go fast), click to thecmg.org/lodging/ Please note that upgrades are not made available to those requesting financial aid.

Eight meals in all are served from Friday Dinner to Monday Breakfast, with vegetarian and vegan options always available. If you want to bring more for yourself (non-refrigerated), feel free! In addition, snacks are available 24/7. Want to add to the snack table with your own delights? We'd love that! Regardless, you will not go hungry! :-)



The Buddy Program

As a returnee, you know that the buddy program gives first timers someone they can reach out to if confused, overwhelmed, or just needing to talk. We appreciate your offering to take on this role if you are willing; check that box when you're signing up!

The camp map for spring was SO confusing! Has it been re-worked?

Big time! First, the cabins all are going to have **A-B-C order names** going around the circle, making it way easy to figure out where you're going. Second, we have a much simpler map that makes it super clear. Click the image below for a preview!



The CMG Variety Show!

Is it a talent show? A no-talent show? A semi-talent show? Whatever we've called it in the past, it's got variety and we're going with that name. And we'd love for your under-five-minute act to be in it!

Although you *can* fill out the form by hand, we encourage you not to wait for someone to rope you into performing something you haven't practiced, costumed, and thought through. We recommend submitting your super-legible, exquisitely worded intro and act details via our online form at: bit.ly/CMGPerform. Questions? question@thecmg.org.

The "Wear ANYthing" Dance!

What sounds like fun to you? Drag? Leather? Jockstrap? Toga? A giant panda? Whatever feels fun to wear is welcome.

And for those who have been missing some **clothing-optional** events from days-gone-by at CMG, remember that this party is fully indoors! So, while the *theme* says to "Wear Anything", that *could* mean just a bow-tie, harness or go-go boots! Just remember a robe for the trip from your cabin!

The Pajama Mocktail Party

Dig out those flannels. Footies, maybe? Or puppy slippers? Speed Racer PJs? Or perhaps lingerie or undies is more your pajama of choice? Whatever says sleepwear to you, even if it's just a big T-shirt and sweats, come see what everyone chooses. (But staff could be around so sorry, you can't say, "But I sleep nude!")

The Play Zone

At the request of a number of people, including first-timers, we're lightening up on the tone of the Play Zone and saying, "Go get your groove on, Stella!" Late night is likely to be its prime time, but if you're between workshops and want to see who else is feeling the vibe, pop into the Play Zone.

That said, our team has a lot on our plate, so if you love the idea of us having a great looking Play Zone, what could you contribute? Erotic décor? Lighting? A portable glory hole? Contact our Play Zone coordinator Garrick at GarrickWilhelm@TheCMG.org if you have ideas or items to bring; you can also add your touches at the last moment!

How do I get to camp? What should I bring?

Information about Pathfinder Ranch will be included in your "Final Confirmation" email. For those immediately curious, some may be answered on the Ranch's website: pathfinderranch.com

Around two weeks before the Getaway, you will receive a "Welcome Letter" email with necessary information about the long weekend, including a program guide of all activities, directions to Pathfinder Ranch, and a recommended list of what to bring (and not bring). If you have questions, (we'll keep saying it) Question@thecmg.org.

Oh, and if you need or can offer a ride, there's a place to say so during registration.

Smoking Policy

Smoking, including medical marijuana, is allowed only on the patio behind the dining hall. The issue isn't so much your smoke; it's the potential for fire. Gummies and gum are safer!

Cell Phone & Internet Service

Electronic devices are welcome, but please be present with the weekend, not your life outside of the weekend. Cell phone service may be spotty, depending on which provider you have. The camp has Wi-Fi available in some areas, but it's not super reliable.



What does it cost to attend?

- **Early-bird rate (\$310)** is available through **October 24** to encourage you to commit nice and early!
- **Standard rate (\$325)** will be available **through Nov 15** for those who cannot commit during early bird.
- **Late registration rate (\$345)** will apply for those who wait until those **final few days: Nov. 16 through noon on Nov 25th** to register.

Returnees will notice that we've changed from a complicated sliding-scale structure to this simpler, flat-rate structure (click [here](#) if you'd like to know why)

Financial aid

It is our intention that every man who wants to attend be able to do so. Limited financial aid is available. If you've attended Gatherings in the past, you may apply to receive a grant of **\$100**. If you are inviting first-timers, they are offered a **\$150** discount at registration instead of financial aid. Note that early/standard/late rates apply to all, so if you're applying for financial aid, we REALLY encourage you to jump on that early rate!

To request financial aid, fill out the form at bit.ly/getCMGaid . In return for this grant, recipients are encouraged to volunteer a little more during the weekend than others might as a way of giving back and supporting our efforts to include as many as possible.

Donations to financial aid

When you register, please consider making an additional, tax-deductible contribution to the Financial Aid Fund. Your donation will help make the Getaway available and affordable to men from all walks of life.

What about COVID?

At this time, our intention will be to require proof of **one** of the following:

- a booster (or first time immunization) administered March 25, 2022 or later
- a negative test result taken on the day of arrival at camp and brought with you

If cases rise again, we reserve the right to ask everyone for a test. Meanwhile, please do boost if you haven't in that time for your own protection and that of others.

If you already have proof of booster, we recommend doing the upload of an image of the image during the registration process so that you don't have to worry about even *possibly* forgetting to bring such proof to camp... 'cuz that'd be super awkward.

Refund policy

Until 11:59pm on Nov 15, you can apply for a refund and all will be returned, minus a \$50 cancellation fee. After that, you may make a plea for you reason for cancellation and often, if possible, we work with you on that.

The exception would be someone who tests positive for COVID and cannot come. Should this happen, write to registration@theCMG.org as soon as possible and we will not keep your cancellation fee.

Registration

There will be no on-site registration or “day pass” options. Registration may only be done *prior* to the Getaway via our online system.

Registration will close at noon on Nov 25. Requests made after that time will be honored at the discretion of the CMG Registrar...after all, it IS his Thanksgiving Day! Write him at registration@theCMG.org and, if it's possible, he'll get back to you.

Ready to sign up??

Great! Click below to get to the registration page:

<https://thecmg.info/civCRM/event/register?reset=1&id=122>

We can't wait to see you there for the fun!