

**Outdoor
Camp Fun!**

ARCHERY, CANOEING,
ALPINE TOWER,
HIKING, HORSEBACK
RIDING IN THE NATL.
FOREST, AND
CLIMBING WALL!



JOIN US IN THE
BEAUTIFUL SAN
JACINTO MTS!



PADDLE AROUND IN
THE CAMP LAKE



JOIN US FOR
MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND 2017!

CALIFORNIA MEN'S GATHERING

SPRING 2017



"The Gifts We Bring"

Join us Memorial Day Weekend!

It's that time of year again! Let's get together to see old friends and meet new ones! We invite you to spend this year's Memorial Day weekend in a beautiful mountain woodland retreat in the San Jacinto mountains near Palm Springs! The Planning Committee is excited, and

"It's so wonderful to see men heal and grow and contribute and really come into their own."

we're sure you will be too! Bring your hiking boots and sleeping bag as well as your swimsuits, flip flops and towel and join us for fun and relaxation:

California Men's Gathering Spring 2017
San Jacinto Mts. (near Idyllwild, CA, Riverside County)
Friday, May 26 - Monday, May 29, 2017

Who We Are

Hundreds of men come together from California and beyond to escape from their daily routines, open their hearts and minds, relax, play, and connect with a diverse community of men. The CMG Spring Gathering is an opportunity to explore "**The Gifts We Bring**" in a great program of spiritual, physical, and creative arts & crafts activities as well as a selection of fun evening social events. Each man is encouraged to create his weekend as he chooses, so the weekend can be about what you want, simply enjoying life, laughing with new guys, exploring yourself, and having a great time! As part of creating a safe space for everyone, all Gatherings are drug- and alcohol-free.

The Spring Gathering weekend includes all meals, accommodations, workshops, and evening social events. A wide variety of traditional outdoor activities such as swimming, hiking, canoeing, Alpine tower, climbing wall, and archery are also included, with two sessions of extended horseback riding in the national forest available for an additional fee. With our spiritual, artistic, and social workshops, we're sure you'll find something to keep you active, returning home rested and reinvigorated. The CMG Spring Gathering is the perfect weekend getaway to rediscover yourself and even to find those hidden strengths you didn't know you had!

What I Need to Know

1. **MEET NEW MEN**

The men who attend CMG Gatherings (and our hundreds of local events) are a diverse group of varying ages, beliefs, religious traditions, and spiritual practices. We have differently-abled men and men from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds. While those attending Gatherings are predominantly gay and bisexual, all men 18 years or older are welcome, including those who are straight, transmen, genderqueer, intersex, or gender fluid.

*CMG Spring 2017
welcomes you to
the San Jacinto
Mountains*



In May 2017, the CMG Spring Gathering will again take place in the San Jacinto Mountains south of Palm Springs. The camp features a conference center, dining hall, and five comfortable temperature-controlled dorms with bunk beds, as well as a nature center, archery range, Alpine tower, ecology center, lake, and horse shelter.

2. **DISCOVER A SERENE PLACE**

The camp features a conference center, dining hall, comfortable temperature-controlled dorms with bunk beds, and inside bathroom facilities, as well as a nature center, archery range, Alpine tower, ecology center, canoeing lake, swimming pool, and horse shelter.



3. **SLEEP**

Basic, somewhat rustic dormitory-style accommodations (twin and/or bunk beds) are included with your registration fee, with inside bathroom facilities in every dorm. Bunk rooms are multiple person, with bunk space for about 150 people, but this means using all upper and lower bunks at the camp. Except for those who sign up with special needs at registration, you choose your own bunks on a first-come, first-served basis. Please be willing to use a top bunk even if that's not your first preference, in order to allow those who simply cannot navigate the ladders to use the lower bunks. A number of accessible rooms are also available for men who require accommodations due to mobility issues. Indicate when registering if you need special accommodation. Tent camping and RV camping are also possible on a limited basis. Please mention this at registration.



Room Upgrades A limited number of semi-private rooms housing two each will be made available for an additional fee at registration. These rooms have their own doors, but no bathrooms.

ACTIVITIES, WORKSHOPS, AND EVENTS

While we are still planning the workshops and activities for this Spring 2017, we invite you look at some of the activities that we have offered in the past. Even though there will be a variety of activities to choose from, don't forget that you can also relax by the lake or pool, take a nature walk, or just sit around talking with old and new friends!

Arts & Crafts:

Body Painting - Calligraphy - Comedy Improv - Loincloths, Costumes and Masks - Making and Using Dream Catcher - Modeling Clay - Tie-Dye - Watercolor

Spiritual Workshops:

Body Image - Community Assemblies - Drumming Circle - Healing Through the Written Word - Heart Circles - Hypnosis - Meditation - Techniques for Dealing with Depression - Twelve-step Meetings

Social/Cultural:

Poetry Readings - Dating for Single Gay Men - The History of the CMG - Circle of Life

Sports & Recreation:

Alpine Tower/Climbing Wall - Archery - Canoeing - Foot Massage - Group Massage - Hiking - Horseback Riding - Massage Exchange - Morning Yoga - Pool Aerobics - Pool Party - Square Dancing - Stretching - Swimming

Evening Social Events:

"Assassins" - Cards - Board Games - Evening Dance - Moonlight Stargazing - Movie Nights - Puppy Piles - Rainbow Sound Bath - Talent/No-Talent Show// Cabaret

Workshops are presented by men attending the gathering. So, if you'd like to put on your own workshop, please indicate your interest at registration!



4. PLAY & RELAX

You are free to create the weekend you desire and need. You can participate in as many or as few of the activities as you choose!

5. NUDITY

Some of the workshops available are naked. In public areas and the swimming pool, clothing is required.

6. SEX

We are sex-positive at the CMG and we provide an intimacy area at the camp. To respect everyone’s boundaries, we ask that if it seems like sex is about to happen, please take it to the designated intimacy area or in private accommodations.

7. EXTRA CASH

All accommodations and meals from Friday dinner, May 26 through Monday breakfast, May 29, are included. All regular activities are also included: swimming, hiking, canoeing, Alpine tower, and archery. You might want to bring cash for horseback riding.

8. CELL PHONE & INTERNET SERVICE

Electronic devices are welcome. Please keep it private. Excuse yourself politely to make/ take calls, etc. Public usage may be appropriate (e.g., taking notes, setting up reminders). Workshop leaders and/or Planners will elaborate on boundary usage prior to the start of the session. Electronics usage may be challenged. Please use as a teachable moment for both.



9. DINE

The camp chef is excited to be working with us on the upgraded menu for the weekend. For example, some of the planned breakfast dishes include stuffed bell peppers, waffle bar; dinner dishes include rosemary-citrus roasted chicken, white fish *en papillote*. Definitely not the camp food from your childhood!

10. BE A BUDDY AND VOLUNTEERISM

Be a Buddy! A buddy is a man who has been to a CMG Gathering and is willing to share his thoughts and experiences with a first-timer, or anyone wanting an extra connection. If you would like a buddy, or to be a buddy, check the buddy option when you register. Buddy training will be available, so don’t think you have to know everything in advance to be a buddy! There will also be other ways to volunteer during the weekend. We’ll need



help to greet men at meals and events, as well as to set up and break down rooms. Everyone chips in, and that’s what makes it work!



11. **TO SPORT OR NOT TO SPORT**

Even if you're not all that into sports, you will DEFINITELY have fun at the Spring Gathering! We have a varied array of spiritual, cultural, and artistic workshops that you can participate in. Or you can simply spend an afternoon at the lake, take a walk with a new friend, or lounge at poolside as you watch the sun go down. It's up to you!

12. **ARRIVE**

The camp for the Spring Gathering is located in the beautiful San Jacinto Mountains near Palm Springs. Ridesharing is strongly encouraged, especially since parking is limited at the camp. Choose your Rideshare preference when registering. Driving directions will be provided to registered men prior to the Gathering. For those flying in, use Palm Springs International Airport (PSP).

13. **START & FINISH**

Check-in begins Friday, May 26, at 4pm. Unless you have been specifically assigned to early volunteer work, please do NOT arrive before 4pm Friday. Only designated set-up personnel will be allowed to arrive early. The Gathering will end on Memorial Day Monday, May 29 at 11am.



14. **PACK WELL**

Around three weeks before the Gathering, you will receive an email with detailed information about the Gathering including a program guide of activities, address of and directions to the camp, and a recommended list of what to bring (and not to bring).

“What’s great about CMG is that it allows for opportunities for people to grow as individuals and do things that they wouldn’t do elsewhere.”

“There’s a feeling of happy accidents...; it’s a safe space to explore and risk and try new things that I would never try in another space.”

“In the six years of Gatherings that I have attended, I have made lifelong friends, both young and old, and I cherish the kindness and wisdom of everyone that I now call family. Each time I attend a Gathering, I rediscover wonderful new things about myself and about the men in the CMG.”



15. **SMOKE**

Smoking permitted in designated areas only.

A soothing sunset in the San Jacinto Mountains

16. **ACCESSIBILITY / DIETARY NEEDS**

Most areas of the camp are wheelchair accessible, and all main events are held in accessible areas. Vegetarian & Vegan meals can be prepared by camp staff.

“I love being here.”



Meet the Spring 2017 Planning Committee!

Vic Fusilero, Larry Geller, Frank Hermann, Christopher Johnson, Michael Kramer, Joel “Blaidd” Peisinger, Shahbaz Syed, and Sean Wherley.