

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.



"Come as You Are"

Please join us over Labor Day weekend to spend a weekend among men who want to meet you as you are. *Just as you are.* Now.

The world stands over us with an agenda for what a man should be — what he should look like, the way he should express himself and how he should feel. At this summer's gathering, we invite you to come *just as you are*. We want to meet you with radical acceptance. We don't need you to be fixed or improved in order to contribute to our gathering together. Come with whatever it is that you are judging yourself about, whatever you fear is broken or needs to be kept in the shadows.

This Labor Day weekend, we will start with the tools you use to honor your Self and help you grow them. We will learn those tools from you and try them on for ourselves. We will loosen the web of lies that dictate who a man should be, and we will watch as we let it fall away. We will practice awakening to the now-ness of life with all of its phenomena – imagined good and imagined bad – in community, no longer alone. No longer in judgment. We will lay down the burden of "self-improvement" and reaching for our personal goals, if only just for a weekend.

A California Men's Gathering is a safe space where men can open up with each other, where we can bond without fear, and we can support and nurture each other through caring and honest presence.

Our theme is, "Come as You Are." Being true to yourself is the ultimate act of love that you can contribute to the healing of the planet. Celebrating what makes you different is your superpower. We would love to see you there with your current ritual for healing, no matter the state of its evolution. We will plant seeds of intention surrounded by the fertile soil of the Napa Valley, as we convene for an annual experience of connection. Some of us will work to create beautiful objects, others will entertain and amuse us, others will make sure that our bodies are well-fed and rested, and others will urge us to find the corners within that we have yet to send love to. Each man brings his unique remedy for the good of the community.

- 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 persons identifying as male 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 enjoying the assemblies and 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, August 30th to Monday, September 2nd, sixty miles north of San Francisco, in the beautiful hills of Napa.

- Check-in begins 2:00 p.m., Friday, Aug. 30th
- The Gathering ends 2:00 p.m., Monday, Sept 2nd

Basic Info to Attend

- Registration ranges from \$290 to \$460, on an income-based sliding scale. This covers lodging, meals, workshops and all events.
- If this is your first Gathering, you can take a \$40 discount off your event fees!
- Limited financial aid grants available while they last, \$150 for first-timers, \$100 for men returning. Fill in the form below to apply for Financial Aid.
- As part of creating a safe space for all, gatherings are drug- and alcohol-free events. This camp is also a peanut-free site.
- 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.

Event Fees

Event fees are sliding scale based on your annual income.

Annual Income	Fee
0 – \$30K.....	\$290
\$30K – \$60K.....	\$340
\$60K – \$90K.....	\$395
\$90K and up.....	\$460

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 \$40 off your event fees!

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 \$150 grants for first-timers and \$100 grants for men returning. Grants are available on a first come, first served basis.

[To request Financial Aid, please fill out the simple form located HERE.](#)

You will be notified by email. Please wait until your funding is approved BEFORE submitting your registration.

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 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 21, 2019, 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 21st will not be available, however, there are options provided in lieu of receiving a full refund.

Accommodations

NOTE: You are responsible for bringing your favorite camp-style bedding.

Tent Cabins - Included. Very basic, clean, newly built four-bunk-bed tent cabins are included with your event fees. These have no indoor bathrooms or showers and no electricity other than a battery-operated overhead light and no AC. Eight men max in each. Tent cabin and bed choice is on a first come, first served basis. Nearby port-a-potties and outdoor showers are available.

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. This camp has two air-conditioned ADA compliant cabins, five beds in each, located near the Dining Hall. **Should there be extra space in these dorms after registration is closed, we will offer them up for an extra \$100.** Contact the registrar@thecmq.org to indicate your interest.

Pitching a Tent/RVs

A limited number of tent camping and small-sized recreational vehicle spots are available with the standard Event fee. No water or electrical hook-ups are available. Please reserve when registering so we know which is your choice.

Room Upgrades - Prices are for the whole weekend.

Note: If you are receiving financial aid, unfortunately, you're not eligible to upgrade your room. Please enjoy the standard lodging or your tent or RV!

Lodge Twin - \$75. Located conveniently in the upper camp, the Lodge has seven rooms with two twin beds and two rooms that each sleep four. The Lodge has two indoor bathrooms with showers. No AC. Room number will be assigned. Bed choice is first come, first served.

Lakeside Cabin Twin - \$100. Also located in the upper camp are six Lakeside Cabins with four twin beds and two Lakeside Cabins that each sleep six. Each Lakeside Cabin has an indoor bathroom and shower. No AC. A nice upgrade. Enjoy Life! You're worth it!

Deluxe Lakeside Cabin (Honeymoon Cabin) - \$250 (per man). The Deluxe Lakeside Cabin is SWEET! Besides being extra-nice, it has a queen-sized bed, an indoor bathroom and shower, and air conditioning. Perfect for couples. (Bring Queen sheets).

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.

This year, we're swinging with a Come as You Are-themed 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!

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 later sign into your account at 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!

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.

Heart Circles

Facilitated Heart Circles are a CMG tradition. In a Heart Circle, we honor each other with our listening and honor ourselves by sharing from the heart.

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.



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.

Mustard-Tasting Weenie Roast

Join us for a late evening nosh of yummy weenies, sausages, and veggie dogs, with an array of culinary condiments to drizzle on them.

Puppy Piles

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

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! Contact auction@thecmg.org with questions.

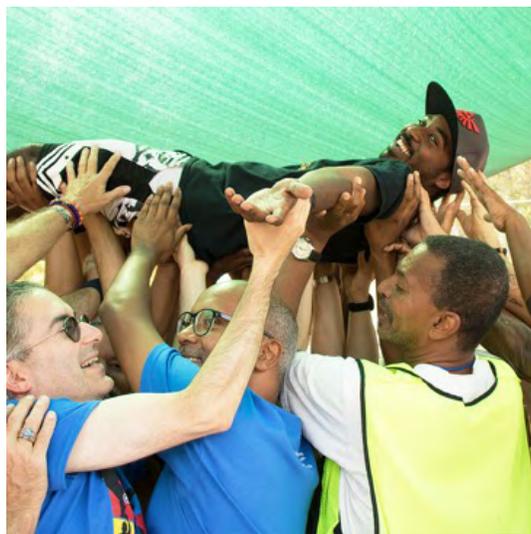
Make the Most of Your Weekend

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 Enchanted Hills Camp are wheelchair accessible, and all main events are held in accessible areas.
- Vegetarian & Vegan meals are an option. Indicate dietary needs when registering.
- **Enchanted Hills Camp is a peanut-free site.** No peanut butter, trail mix with peanuts, anywhere!
- Smoking (including medical marijuana) is only allowed in two camp locations.
- 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.

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

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 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](#)



2018 Summer Gathering