

California Men's Gatherings



The 104th Gathering: "MANimals!"

Invitation for May 26-29, 2023

A sweet Friday-Monday getaway with warm, wonderful men!

AT PATHFINDER RANCH IN MOUNTAIN CENTER, CA - JUST OUTSIDE BEAUTIFUL IDYLLWILD

Read this invitation for details, then click the button at the very end to register

This gathering's theme:

Inside every man is a zoo-ful of animals!

Sweet or savage,
wild or industrial,
wise or playful,
timid or horned-up...

The bottom line is that, in many ways, we're all bunch of...

"MANimals!"

California Men's Gatherings – Spring 104th Gathering– May 26-29, 2023

What is/are your inner animal(s)? Will we see it in your outfit at the “Wear Anything” dance? Or during the Variety Show? Possibly at a workshop you’ll give? The way you decorate your bunk or cabin? Or possibly just in the way you connect with the other MANimals! (No one is expected to dress up, but it sure would be fun if some do!)

The event spans Memorial Day weekend (Friday – Monday), including lots of activities and events for all:



- ♂ Workshops hosted by anyone with an idea
- ♂ Socials to meet old and new friends
- ♂ Open time for a little peace and quiet
- ♂ Variety show to see/show our talents
- ♂ Outside time for hikes, pool, and more
- ♂ Late night games and movies with snacks
- ♂ Massage room to get/give relaxation
- ♂ Evening Pajama mocktail “happy hour”
- ♂ Cuddle with warm men in the puppy pile
- ♂ The evening “Wear Anything” dance
- ♂ A play space for horny MANimals

Saturday and Sunday Assemblies, led by special guest presenter Phillip Tanzilo!

How we communicate is very much influenced by our personality type. In addition, your message will be filtered by the personality type of the listener, which may very well not be the same as yours! What if, instead of leaving that to fate and struggle, we could take this into account before communicating and achieve better results in our friendships, work life, and all interactions?

Our guest presenter, Phillip Tanzilo, CPTD, MHRM, works with individuals and organizations to improve communication in this way. He uses an assessment tool (which we’ll all get to take) that shows us which of five “animal types” is our primary style. (See where we got our theme from now?) He’ll lead us through interactive exercises where we get to optimize what’s great about our style (one is not better than another!) and learn how to adapt to communicating with the others in our “zoo.” More details on his material and what he’ll do at our assemblies by clicking [here](#).

Our exploration with Phillip should prove fun and enlightening, leave us thinking in the months that follow, and make a difference in our relationships. Learn more about Phillip’s systems (for your own growth or to bring him into other organizations) at www.PhillipTanzilo.com.



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 Gathering this year is over Memorial Day Holiday weekend. **FRI, MAY 26 (arrive between 3 p.m. & 5 p.m. if you can) through MON, MAY 26 at 12 p.m.**

If you can't arrive until later Friday or even Saturday, that's okay. Likewise, some may need to leave Sunday...just 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 even if you miss some of it.

RETURNEES: The next few sections with purple headers are more for first time attendees. Returnees can skim down to where blue headers start again.

Who comes and who is welcome?

CMG'ers come from across California, other states, and even internationally. The men who attend CMG Gatherings (and our hundreds of local events state-wide) are a diverse group, varying in age, backgrounds, traditions, and spiritual practices. While CMG'ers are predominantly gay or bisexual men, ***all persons 18 years or older who self-identify as male are welcome***, including transgender and straight men. Most areas of Pathfinder Ranch are ADA accessible so we gratefully encourage and welcome all!



What happens at the Gathering?

The weekend features concurrent elective workshops on a variety of topics as well as social events (which include a variety show, a dance, heart circles, puppy piles, yoga/meditation, massage exchange, and much more.) The wide choice of activities allows each man to create his own personal experience. It's a weekend to try new things, make new friends and reconnect with old friends. For some, a Gathering is like the fun of going to Summer Camp, especially for those who may not have had a chance to go as a kid, or who would like to do it all over again in a safer, more supportive space. For others, it is more about the personal growth and self-exploration in our workshops and assemblies. It's your Gathering!

In addition, we all come together four times through the weekend (besides meals). Friday night's welcome, Saturday and Sunday assemblies, and closing ceremonies Monday morning.

The environment of a Gathering allows for deeper connections with other men. It is a special and safe place where men can let down their guard, open up their heart and just have fun in an alcohol and drug free environment.

CMG reaches out to and creates a space where all men, regardless of sexual orientation, age, race, religion, or background can find different ways to connect – more openly, more honestly,

with less fear – and with a lot more fun. We are committed to offering the opportunity for all men to learn, grow, connect and support one another in “Connecting Men at the Heart.”

The Buddy program



We know that it can be intimidating to come for the first time. The buddy program gives first timers someone they can reach out to if they feel confused, overwhelmed, or just need to talk.

There will be a **newcomer video** (sent after you register to help you prepare for the weekend) AND a **first-timer orientation** (following dinner on Friday) for you and, if you like, your buddy.

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, here’s a link to the Ranch’s website: PathfinderRanch.com.

Around two weeks before the Gathering, you will receive a “Welcome Letter” email with necessary information about the Gathering, 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, please e-mail Question@thecmg.org.

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

Cell Phone & Internet Service

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. Ultimately, electronic devices are welcome, but we hope you will be present to the weekend, and primarily leave the rest of life out in ‘that other world.’

Accommodations and meals



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

For details on how to upgrade to more private accommodations (hint, they go fast!), click to thecmg.org/lodging. NOTE: If you opt for the first timer discount or receive returnee financial aid, you may not also opt for upgraded housing.

Eight meals 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 CMG Variety Show!

This is your opportunity to step out on stage and show us your talent(s), which might be singing, dance, poetry or...? As with everything else at the Gathering, the audience is supportive, so think about fulfilling that stage dream. If you wish to perform, check the Variety Show box on the registration form. Otherwise have a seat in the audience and enjoy the show! If you have additional questions, contact our variety show coordinator at Talent@thecmg.org.

Present a workshop!



Do you have a passion, gifts, wisdom, experience or interest you'd like to share with other men?

Workshops are led by you all - the men who come to the weekend on a volunteer basis. It can be a presentation. Or a group discussion. Or an activity you want to lead. This creates variety for the event and a wonderful sense of community.

Workshops can be almost anything! Consider ideas like interests, exploring new subcultures, meditation, discussing lessons learned from a recent experience/book/class, dance, outdoor/active fun, art exploration, storytelling, fantasy, and more.

Submit a proposal at check-in or, even better, submit it now online at bit.ly/workitatCMG. Spending time now will allow for more thoughtful, accurate descriptions, make it more legible, and allow us to plan ahead more.

You needn't feel that you have to have a mastery of something to create a workshop; if you have an interest enough to give something a try, no matter how basic, CMG is a great place to give it a whirl! Some of the most requested repeat workshops came from people who initially didn't feel totally sure about leading it. If you have questions: question@theCMG.org

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!

Will I get a camp map?

Yes. The cabin names given by the camp are illogical and confusing, so we're bringing back something that worked well this past fall. We're renaming them! **A-B-C order names**, going around the mostly circular camp center, makes it way easy to figure out where you're going.

If you weren't with us this past Fall, please click the image below to watch a two-minute video that should give you a great orientation to the camp layout.



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 crave some **clothing-optional** events, remember that this party is fully indoors! So-o-o, while the *theme* does say to “Wear Anything,” that *could* mean just a bow-tie, cat paws, 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 Body Shop

Since we certainly don't want guys getting it on in the public cabins, our play zone is the place to go. The “Body Shop” cabin will most likely be in Cabin B again; we'll let you know, of course, if that changes. Late night is likely to be its prime time (rumor has it that 10:45pm is a good time to cruise in), but you can hang there any time to see who else is feeling the vibe.

Our coordination 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? As of now, we don't have someone stepping up to help coordinate turning a camp room into something more...unseemly. The room will exist, décor or not, but if you would enjoy that role, drop a note saying so to question@theCMG.org. Coordinator or not, if you have ideas or items to bring; you can also add your touches at the last moment!

Registration

Attendance is through an online registration process prior to the Gathering weekend; there will be no on-site registration or “day pass” option.

Registration will close on at 10:00 p.m. on **May 25**. Requests made after this date/time will be honored at the discretion of the CMG Registrar.

What does it cost to attend?

We've changed from the complicated sliding-scale structure some of you will remember to this simpler, flat-rate structure (click [here](#) if you'd like to know why):



- **Early-bird rate (\$320)** will apply **through April 23 at 11:59pm** to encourage you to commit early!
- **Standard rate (\$335)** will be available from **April 24 through May 11 at 11:59pm** for those who do not commit during early-bird.
- **Late registration rate (\$355)** will apply for those who wait until those **final 14 days, May 12-25**, to register.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid is available for those for whom the rates are still challenging; It is our intent that every man who wants to attend be able to. As such, limited financial aid is available. Note that **early/standard/late rates apply to all**, so if you're applying for financial aid, we REALLY encourage you to jump on the earliest possible rate!

First-timers: we offer you up to a **\$150** discount if that would help you make the choice to come to this gathering. This option is built into the registration form so **first timers needn't fill out an additional Financial Aid form**.

Returnees: Limited financial aid of **\$100** is available, while funds remain. Click [here](#) to request.

NOTE: Housing upgrades are not available to those requesting **either** of these options.

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 all.

Donations to Financial Aid

Please consider making an additional, tax-deductible contribution to the Financial Aid Fund. Your donation helps make the gathering available and affordable to men from all walks of life.

T-Shirts

T-Shirts are a strong possibility for the Gathering, so long as registration hits our goals, but we can't *guarantee them* until we see the numbers. Give us your size when you register and, if we have them at check-in, let it be a nice surprise. 😊

What about COVID?

CDC recommendations at this do not warrant our verifying vaccination or requiring testing prior to coming. However, the steering committee and board strongly encourage your taking a test (home or clinic) either Thursday or Friday just in case you find yourself surprised by a positive test. The more people who take this step of consideration, the more likely we are not to have people converting upon returning home.

Refund policy

Until 11:59pm on **April 30**, you can apply for a refund and all will be returned, minus a \$50 cancellation fee. After that, you may make a plea regarding your reason for cancelling and often, if possible, we work with you on that.

Ready to sign up???

Great! If you've already created a profile with us, click the green button below to sign in to register for the event (if you've forgotten your password, it's easy to reset there).

If you HAVEN'T yet created a profile with us, you'll still use this green button, but you'll need to do that one-time step first and *then* sign in.

On your mark, get set, click:

[I'm clicking here to register!!!](#)

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



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