

California Men's Gatherings

The invitation to our 112th gathering – Oct 10-12, 2025



This gathering's theme: **“Come Together!”**
Real Men. Real Fun. Real Connection.

A sweet Friday-**SUNDAY** retreat with warm, wonderful men!
At Pathfinder Ranch In Mountain Center, CA near scenic Idyllwild

What is California Men's Gatherings and what is a “Gathering” all about?

California Men's Gatherings (CMG) is a non-profit, all-volunteer group that produces local events and extended weekend retreats called “Gatherings.” Held three times a year at summer camps in northern and southern California, each Gathering brings together men for fun activities and serious personal development work. They are ideal places to try new things, be a kid again, make new friends, reconnect with old friends, and grow as people. The Gatherings provide a safe, supportive, empowering environment for building community, healing past wounds, challenging old limitations, taking new risks, expanding consciousness, and exploring fresh new ways of looking at life.

The primary purpose of the CMG is to challenge men to rethink their role in society, to liberate men from oppressive misconceptions of what it means to be a man, to educate men in healthy, responsible, generative ways of embracing adult masculinity.

**Read this invitation for theme info and weekend details,
then *click the button at the very end* to register**

“COME TOGETHER!”

Real Men. Real Fun. Real Connection.

We live in a time when so much wants to pull us apart—generational divides, digital isolation, and waves of fear or apathy. “Come Together” is an invitation to reconnect. Not only with each other, but with the joy, sensuality, and magic of what it means to be part of a thriving gay male community.

Whether you're coming for heart-centered dialogue, flirtatious eye contact over dinner, sacred stillness in the woods, or a sweaty dance floor full of possibility—this weekend is designed to *re-member* who we are as individuals, and as a **collective**.

This Gathering asks:

- *What does it mean to show up fully—as yourself, with others?*
- *What are the invisible threads that create belonging?*
- *And how do we nurture a community that celebrates difference, invites freedom, and carries us forward together?*

Through workshops, play, and shared ritual, we'll co-create a space that's joyful, sexy, soul-fed, and deeply alive. Let's gather not just to **feel good**, but to **feel each other**—and remember the power of being together.

Our Assemblies



This Fall, our assemblies will be lead by John Beaudry of San Diego.

John only discovered CMG a couple of years ago and immediately threw himself into CMG-SD's local events, hosting a monthly event at his home with his husband, Luis. He is excited to be stepping up to be the assembly leader at CMG 112.

John is a garden artist who loves providing people with a personal connection to Nature.

What will I find at this gathering?

Although a day shorter than most past Fall Gatherings (so that we can enjoy October's light and warmth compared to Thanksgiving-time), we've put together a terrific line up you won't want to miss:



- ♂ Workshops hosted by anyone with an idea
- ♂ Ropes course for the first twenty interested
- ♂ 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, leisure, and more
- ♂ Late night games and movies with snacks
- ♂ Massage room to get/give relaxation
- ♂ Late afternoon "mocktail dance"
- ♂ Cuddling with warm men in the puppy pile
- ♂ A play space for the frisky boys
- ♂ A lovely wrap-up on Sunday to all come together

Where... and when...



Pathfinder Ranch in Mountain Center, CA is a serene and picturesque retreat 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 hot, freshly-cooked food.

The Gathering is Indigenous People's Weekend but not the actual day. Unfortunately, the camp isn't available on the 13th, but with our Friday night start, we're still in good shape!

**FRI, Oct 10 (arrive between 3 p.m. & 5 p.m. if you can)
through lunch on SUN, Oct 12, which ends at 2 p.m.**

All meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch are included.

If you can't arrive until late 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 can't make all of it.

RETURNEES: The next two pages (sections with purple headers) are more for first time attendees. However, it may be worthwhile for you to read these pages to remind yourself of what a Gathering is like, especially if it's been a while since you've joined us.

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 numerous 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 away 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 personal growth and self-exploration in our workshops and assemblies. Or maybe it's just a chance to get away from everyday life and enjoy nature. It's your Gathering!

In addition, we'll all come together three times through the weekend (besides meals) at our assemblies.

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 their hearts, and just have fun in an environment where the focus is not on alcohol and recreational drugs.

CMG strives to create a space for all men, regardless of sexual orientation, age, race, religion, physicality, or background. We know we can find better 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, unite, and support one another through our organization motto: "Connecting Men at the Heart."

The Buddy program



We know that it can be intimidating to come to CMG for the very first time.

The **buddy program** gives first timers someone they can reach out to if they have any questions, concerns, or just need to talk.

After you register, you will receive a **newcomer video** to help you prepare for the weekend. There will also be a Friday evening **first-timer orientation** 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 10 days before the Gathering, you will receive a "Glad You're Coming" letter email with necessary information about the Gathering, including a tentative schedule 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 Fall@theCMG.org.

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

Will I get a camp map?

Yes. The cabin names given by the camp are illogical and confusing, so we rename them simply as A through I, in the big circle that they are in. **If you haven't been to Pathfinder since we implemented this**, please click [here to watch a two-minute video](#) that should give you a great orientation to the camp layout.

Cell Phone & Internet Service

Cellphone 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. Electronic devices are certainly permitted, but please 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 a communal bathroom with individual showers. Housing upgrade options below.

Six meals are served from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch, 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 our snacks? We'd love that! Regardless, you will not go hungry! :-)

Housing Upgrade Options

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

Smoking Policy

Smoking 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 and more convenient ways to get nicotine or THC if you need those.

New Alcohol and Marijuana Policy (as of Feb 2025)

Our policies on alcohol and marijuana have changed since last year. Read more about the current plans related to these at www.TheCMG.org/alcohol-marijuana . This is still new to us as a committee and the Spring Gathering needed to adapt to it *at camp* during the gathering. We will say more about it in the "Glad You're Coming!" letter.

Present a workshop!

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



Workshops are led by you all - the men who come to the weekend on a volunteer basis. It could be a presentation. Or a group discussion. Or an activity you want to lead. This creates a wonderful sense of discovery throughout the weekend.

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, [create a neat, pre-printed workshop form by clicking here](#). Spending time now will allow for more thoughtful, accurate descriptions, make it more legible, and allow us to plan ahead.

You needn't feel that you must have a mastery of something to create a workshop; if you have 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, write Fall@theCMG.org .

You Must Be on our Actual Mailing List to Register

Strange as it sounds, registering for the *gathering* doesn't put you on our *mailing list* for anything in the future; that's a separate CMG database. By new policy (June of 2025), **you must be on our mailing list to attend a gathering**; it's just too hard to keep you aware of what we're up to if you're not. If you're not yet on our free mailing list, please go immediately to www.TheCMG.org/join and sign up BEFORE registering.

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, [create your Variety Show submission form here](#). Otherwise have a seat in the audience and enjoy the show! Questions? We'll ask our show coordinator if you write us at Fall@theCMG.org.

Ropes Challenge Course

The Ropes Course was a fixture of CMG for decades. But, things go out of season. However, Pathfinder Ranch has the staff to offer this and our "in house" facilitator Ben~Andy is game to BRING IT BACK.

You'll attend the ENTIRE 4 hours, "missing" the other things on the schedule. This is Adventure By Choice, but here the choice is to commit to the entire time. What you're missing is Workshop Session 1 and some free time. It runs from end of Breakfast at 9 am until the beginning of Lunch at 1 pm. We're not charging for this, but it does require a "ticket" as only 20 men can participate. Others may "watch". When we climb, we'll be doing "paired climbing" on the Alpine Tower. That will be the LAST thing we do. You must participate in the FIRST things we do to climb. You don't need a partner to sign up with you, but that can be VERY powerful.

The sign up for this is MINIMAL because we already have your other information [you will receive the link to that in your Registration Confirmation]. You will never forget the guys you do the Ropes Course with. Questions? Ask registration@theCMG.org.

The Play Room

Since we don't want guys getting it on in the public cabins, we have a special place to go for this. **The Play Room** will most likely be in the Infirmary. 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 anytime 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 Room, 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 Fall@theCMG.org. Coordinator or not, if you have ideas or items to bring; you can also add your touches at the last moment!

The Disco Mocktail Party

How do you fit the dance party and the themed mocktail party both in a short weekend? Combine them! Come dance to oldies and, if you're up for, dress the part! Get your Saturday Night Fever or other 70s looks going to add to the fun.

The Sing-Along Movie???

Can't legally say what it's gonna be, but it's always fun...

Merlin's Mad Hatter Tea Party

A festive get-together before dinner one night where we don't process anything or learn a darn thing...just fun together! The wilder your hat, the more the kudos, but it's not a requirement to come.

Registration

We register through an online process *prior* to the Gathering weekend; there will be no on-site registration or "day pass" option.

Registration will close on the dates/times shown below, unless we sell out the Gathering sooner.

What does it cost to attend?

Our all inclusive rate is \$295 indoors or \$275 for camping. Room upgrades priced as you see them at registration. Our rates will remain the same until we have to close registration.

If we have hit our camp minimum by **Sept 25, registration will close at 11:59pm**. If we have not reached our minimum by that date, then we'll allow registration beyond that. Of course, if we hit our maximum of 120 sooner, we'll close then.

Note that T-Shirts require two weeks notice to print so you must register by then to be guaranteed that you will receive one.

Cancellation policy

Until **Sept 25 at 11:59pm**, you can apply for a refund; all will be returned, minus a \$50 cancellation fee. For our policy beyond that date/time, see www.theCMG.org/cancel .



Financial Aid

RETURNEES: \$100 in Financial Aid is available for any returnee for whom the rates are a personal challenge; It is our intent that every man who wants to attend be able to. As such, limited financial aid is available. Note that **early and standard registrations fees apply to all**, so if you're applying for financial aid, we REALLY encourage you to jump on the lower early rate! Those requesting a "First-Timer Discount" or "Financial Aid" cannot *also* request housing upgrades. Click [here](#) to request.

FIRST TIMER ATTENDEES: We have an optional **\$150** discount, if that would help you make the decision that you could come to this gathering. This option is built into the registration form so **first timers shouldn't fill out the additional Financial Aid form above; this is instead.** Use the code **1STCMG** if you're a first timer wanting that. If you don't need the discount, we greatly appreciate your contributing the full fee!

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.

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.

Okay, on your mark, get set, click:

I'm clicking → HERE ← to register!!!

(You may have to tell your computer to "allow" the button above to access our registration site; please do...we promise it's safe!)

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



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