

Planning an Event at Bambi Lake

Bambi Lake Baptist Retreat and Conference Center is a 240 acre facility that provides you a place to come for group retreats. Although initially established as a place for Southern Baptist churches of Michigan to come, Bambi Lake is now open to other churches and organizations provided “Facilities will not be used to teach or promote beliefs or programs in opposition to Baptist State Convention of Michigan doctrines”. In the past Bambi has hosted Boy & Girl Scouts events, high school bands and football practices and college classes.



Current events and information about Bambi is available at www.bambi-lake.org.

This document helps you, the person organizing the event, plan for it. We are more than happy to help you in the planning phases.

Before the Event

1. Check Bambi’s schedule. While we can accommodate more than one group, there are plenty of free times where your group can have full use of the facilities. If you have 175 guests or more you will have exclusive use of the facilities (there is rarely more than one group here). Most retreats start Friday night and end Sunday around noon. Youth camps start Monday afternoon and end (generally) on Friday afternoon. But, you are free to choose your own days! Due to legal reasons and child safety, there are “blackout” dates when youth camps are here (in the summer) that Bambi is closed to everyone else.
2. Call Bambi at 989-275-5844 to schedule. If you have more than 25 people, we can open the kitchen and prepare meals for you. Otherwise, we have a few good restaurants in the neighborhood or you make your own meals. Although Bambi policy does not allow anyone except employees to use the Kitchen, we do have a microwave, sink and refrigerator available.
3. Unless your event is sponsored by the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, there is a booking fee needed to hold the date. For groups of 1-99, the fee is \$100, for groups of 100-199, the fee is \$200, and larger groups are \$300. The fee is refundable if cancelled 60 days or more from the event date.
4. Prices are listed on Bambi’s web site under the “Forms, Flyers and Information” section. Rates for Southern Baptist churches are lower than other groups because we are partially funded by the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. Nevertheless, you’ll find our rates lower or comparable to any other similar-size conference center. Rates are based on your choices for lodging, meals, number of people per room and nights staying with us. Also, children 3-8 pay half price, and those at or under 2 years old are free.
5. Since Bambi staff is here during normal business hours (plus some!), we can handle your registration process, including accepting money (credit cards / checks / cash) and reservations. You can assign rooms or we can.

6. Bambi Lake provides the facilities, and you provide the music groups, speakers and programming. However, we have had enough groups come through that we can recommend options to you. Just email or call and we can provide some contacts for you.
7. You may ask yourself how to fill the time during the day(s) you're here. If you're creating a program (flyer) to handout, consider the following common events:
 - a. Registration / check in
 - b. Meals
 - c. Welcome sessions
 - d. Worship ("concerts") sessions
 - e. Devotions
 - f. Preaching
 - g. Breaks and Free Time (gift shop / J.B.'s Place can open for you, and there are plenty of recreational activities)
 - h. Testimonies
 - i. Group sports (swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, Human Foosball, softball, football, scavenger hunts)
 - j. Talent shows
 - k. Silent auctions
 - l. Campfires (we have a pavilion overlooking the lake with a fire pit in the center)
 - m. Award sessions
 - n. Ice cream / cake socials
 - o. Bambi Lake tours – nature trail, lake, Prayer Chapel and other areas.
8. If you are making a program (flyer, brochure, etc.), email us a pdf (bambi@bscm.org) and we can post on our web site if your event is open to everyone. Check out our web site for ideas. Don't forget to include:
 - a. Dates
 - b. Contact information
 - c. People / bands
 - d. Directions to Bambi (available on our web site)

During the Event

9. If this will be your first time to Bambi, feel free to come anytime to check out the place. On the day of the event, arrive a couple hours early at least. Many times people get here early not knowing how long it takes to drive.
10. We will be here during your hours and can ensure everything is running properly. We can operate the sound systems, kitchen, fires, and provide all the bed linens and cleaning, so you just need to show up and have fun.
11. Please note that you will be responsible for guest behavior. Since you will be our contact person, we will come to you first if there are damages found. Fortunately this very rarely ever happens.

Guidelines: Policies at Bambi Lake

- Bambi Lake facilities will not be used to teach or promote beliefs or programs in opposition to BSCM doctrines.
- Groups using Bambi Lake will observe established policies and regulations as well as directions from the Bambi Staff.
- Quiet hours are from 12:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Guests may not bring pets into any Bambi Lake building (except for assistance animals.)
- All groups will allow the Bambi Lake management to welcome the group sometime at the beginning of each retreat, camp or conference and to go over additional guidelines, etc.
- Malicious destruction of Bambi Lake property, excessive littering (silly string, shaving cream, etc.) or theft of recreational or other equipment may result in additional charges to the group.
- Guests may not discharge firearms or fireworks anywhere on Bambi Lake property.
- Smoking is not allowed in any Bambi Lake building and is discouraged elsewhere on the property.
- Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are absolutely forbidden anywhere on Bambi Lake Property.
- Snowmobiles, four-wheelers and ORV's may not be operated on Bambi Lake property for recreational use without prior permission of the Manager. Such permission, if granted, will only allow the vehicle to enter/exit the property via the back entrance on established roadways.
- All guests will observe appropriate Christian dress.
- Meals [generally] will be served as follows:
 - Breakfast: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
 - Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - Dinner: 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- Any requests to serve meals outside the standard scheduled times must be made in advance with the manager.
- Cooking by guests is not allowed (except in the campground.)
- Groups will pay all fees before using the facilities.
- Groups may be sharing the facilities with other groups.
- Each group will designate a person in charge who will be responsible to ensure that everyone in their group understands and adheres to these guidelines.