

## Southern Maryland Vacations for Vets

A program created to give our recovering service members, from local military hospitals and treatment centers, a chance to relax with their family in a quiet country setting. It is a chance for them to escape the hospital routine. The weekend retreat is completely free of charge for the guest and family members.

In addition to the recovering service members, we also host the Charlotte Hall Vets Residents and the Elizabeth Dole Caregivers Association.

We are renting the Camp Maria Retreat Center in Leonardtown MD. We provide the sheets and pillowcases, they provide the blankets and pillows. Camp Maria will be providing all 5 meals throughout the weekend. We have access to numerous cabins and buildings that will make our weekends more enjoyable for our Service Members. They have a fantastic yard area for the kids to play ball. There is a pool with a lift and an elevator that will take handicapped persons to the pier/dock.

A basket of toiletries is placed in each cabin in case our guests forget something.

We provide port-a-cribs, cots, diapers, wipes, toys, books, games, etc.... for the children.

*\*Golf carts* - are provided to transport our guests around the park.

*\*Face Painting* – provided by Ming Diaz

*\*Kayaks* – volunteers available to paddle for those that are not able to

*\*Boats* – rides/tubing/rafting

*\*Pier Fishing* – nice pier for casting a line

*\*Small Beach Area* – for sunbathing, swimming, playing in the sand and looking for shells

*\*Search and Rescue Dog Demo* – guests are given a demo and then a couple are asked to “hide” so the dogs can find them

*\*Basketball hoops* are available for our use. We will provide the balls.

*\*Fly Fishing Lessons* – provided to anyone that wishes to try their hand at it

*Pony Rides* – Crazy Critters 4H will be providing the ponies and volunteers. They will also have small farm animals for petting and do a riding demo.

*Some Transportation is provided*, to and from Ft Belvoir Hospital and Walter Reed Bethesda, handicapped bus or van.

*Volunteers* - will help the guest do anything that needs to be done, whether it is changing diapers, playing legos with the kids, helping the guest go to bed or take a shower.

*At Christmas time* we take them to Flat Iron Farms. The Hollywood VFD hosts a luncheon complete with Santa and firetruck rides. Open carriage rides with Clydesdales or Pony Rides, whichever is available.

*Corpsman* – on hand 24/7

Activities at the event depend on the weather and you, our community, for your donations of your time or resources. If you have a talent or activity you would like to share please let us know.

If you wish to donate items, please contact us at 301-904-0707 or [cdpennington@icloud.com](mailto:cdpennington@icloud.com) before you buy. If you wish to make a monetary donation, you can send a donation to the address on the front, made payable to Vacations for Vets, or use our PayPal option. If you wish to join our team, please contact us for our Volunteer Application or visit our website.

We have sponsored over 900 guests since we started. 2017 will be our 10<sup>th</sup> year of hosting these events.

A typical weekend would be:

Friday: Arrive around 2  
Unpack, get settled and tour park,  
Dinner at 5:30 pm,  
Relax and enjoy park

Saturday:  
7 am Coffee will be on  
8:30 Breakfast  
All day -boats, kayaks, fishing, swimming  
12:30 lunch  
2:00 fly fishing lessons  
4:30 Search and Rescue Dog Team Demo  
5:30 dinner  
7:00 Crazy Critters 4H Demo/petting zoo

Sunday:  
7 am Coffee is on  
8:30 breakfast  
Enjoy the park  
11:00, bus arrives to take guests  
Back to the hospital

**Upcoming events:**

April 29<sup>th</sup> Fundraisers  
Scrapbook Crop  
Belk Charity Days

Poker Run Fundraiser  
June 4<sup>th</sup>, Hollywood Fire House start,  
Finish at Ridge American Legion  
With Guests from Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

June 17<sup>th</sup>  
Blue Crabs Fundraiser  
Somdbluecrabs.com

Schwans Cares Fundraiser  
<https://www.Schwans-cares.com/c/32244>

In '08 - 48 guests, 3 events.  
In '09 - 89 guests, 4 events.  
In '10 - 99 guests, 4 events.  
In '11 - 58 guests, 3 events.  
In '12 - 101 guests, 5 events.  
In '13 - 98 guests, 5 events.  
In '14 - 123 guests, 5 events.  
In '15 - 133 guests, 4 events.  
In '16 - 167 guests, 5 events

2016 Expenses: \$33318.74  
\$5775.01 Event Costs  
\$20705.00 Guest Lodging/meals  
\$1592.89 Overhead  
\$1019.15 Administrative  
\$650.00 Insurance  
\$3576.69 Fundraising

*Event costs* – golf carts, Lifeguard, First Aid supplies, groceries, paper supplies, cleaning supplies and t-shirts for guests/volunteers, bedding, Christmas gifts for families that attend in December, Clydesdales, 2 window air conditioners, laundromat and totes.

*Lodging* – rental/meal fee for Camp Maria

*Overhead* - accountant, the website, and Cubesmart Storage Unit,  
*Admin* - office supplies, advertising, 2 business lunches, postage, fliers

*Fundraising* – misc items:, raffle tickets, tablecloths, food, t-shirts for poker run participants, decorations, ice, advertising

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Check us out on Facebook:  
Southern Maryland Vacations for Vets  
Or our website: Vac4vets.org

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A 501(c)3 organization

Recognized by the Hidden Heroes  
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