

FRIENDS LAKE COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY

GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY AND COMMUNITY

We aspire to building and sharing a place where people live in harmony with the rest of nature; where there is neither violence nor threat of violence; where decision making is primarily by consensus; where mutual helpfulness is a norm; where there is peace and quiet for reflection and meditation and where the joy of life is celebrated.

Individual adults are responsible for the safety of themselves, their children and their guests--for integration into the community spirit and for sensitivity to others' values and aspirations.

These guidelines reflect many years of community process. Members are encouraged to contribute to this process at the monthly Community/Board meetings and to read the newsletter to keep abreast of changes in policy.

We are all responsible for co-creating our Community and enabling it to function the way we want it to.

Members should take special care to explain FLC customs to their children and their guests. Although one function of the Coordinators is to inform and remind users of customs and policies, we should not rely on them to the neglect of our own responsibility. If disagreements regarding Community policy cannot be resolved by the parties involved or with the assistance of the Coordinators, the matter should be brought to the next Community/Board meeting.

Patience and sensitivity will see us through.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

WILDLIFE. Friends Lake Community provides a wealth of unspoiled beauty. To preserve this heritage, we have designated our land as a wildlife preserve. This means we do not catch frogs, toads, salamanders, snakes, etc. They each have their place. We do allow natural foods to be gathered for personal consumption, i.e., fish and berries. However, fish hooks are a hazard in the swimming areas and should be used elsewhere. Fishing tackle should not be left unattended in public areas because of the risk to small children.

MOTOR VEHICLES. To preserve peace and quiet, mini-bikes and motorboats are not allowed at FLC. Other vehicles such as snowmobiles and motorcycles are used only for access and should remain on the beach road. Due to the fragile condition of the interior road, it is not used by motor vehicles except for necessary access by cabin site-holders, their guests and tenants of the guest cabin in good weather. Please drive slowly and watch for pedestrians.

RADIOS. Please do not bring your radio to the beach unless you will be using ear phones. The volume of radios elsewhere should be kept so low that the sound can be heard only by the user. Most members wish to escape such distractions.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO. We ask members and guests not to drink alcoholic beverages in community-used areas such as the picnic grounds or the beach house; and not to smoke in community buildings (including the Guest Cabin), on the beaches or the raft, in the picnic areas or near the log cabin. We prefer smoking to be restricted to the designated smoking area by the parking lot next to the boat house.

DOGS. Dogs at Friends Lake Community must be with their owners at all times and, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, dogs at the campground, wading beach and picnic area are to be on leashes whenever members or guests other than the owners are present. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs; a shovel is available in the boat house. We expect owners to take whatever steps are needed to prevent fights and minimize barking and other behavior that would interfere with our peace and quiet. **CURRENT DETAILS OF DOG POLICY ARE POSTED ON A SIGN AT PARKING AREA.**

GEESE. Please do not feed the wild geese because their droppings are a nuisance on the beach.

TRASH DISPOSAL. All garbage and other trash should be taken home by members and guests when they leave.

VOLUNTEER WORK. To help keep costs down and in the spirit of community, all members are expected to give three hours of work per year to the physical maintenance of the Community. Persons camping or renting at the lake are invited to work additionally during their visit (perhaps one hour per weekend). See the Coordinators for suggestions and equipment. We have a modest supply of tools in the boathouse, but you are encouraged to bring your own (if you can) when you come to work. Donations of tools are welcome. Persons unable to do their manual labor are expected to pay a work-fee in lieu of work each year to be used to employ others.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS. The neatness of the Community buildings depends on all of us. Never leave valuables unattended in the beach-house or on the beach. Lock them in your car. When leaving the beach, take your swim suit, towel, etc. with you. Periodically, abandoned articles are recycled.

LOG CABIN. The log cabin is the Coordinators' home, not a public building. Their phone is (313)475-7976. Please restrict incoming calls to informational requests and official business, not messages for others at the lake. Outgoing calls of an urgent nature are permissible; be sure to reimburse the coordinator for all calls, including local calls.

PARKING. Members and guests may park near the log cabin or in the meadow if needed. Visitors who come as part of an organized group are asked to park at the meadow. Campers must park at the meadow; however, sites #1 and 2, designated for persons with special physical needs, allow on-site parking.

SAUNA. Members and guests are welcome to use the sauna. Instructions for use are posted at the sauna and must be followed. No one should use the sauna alone. Although the sauna can be a pleasurable and healthful experience, there are potential dangers. Persons with high or low blood pressure, heart problems, or who are taking certain medications should use the sauna only with the consent of their health practitioner. A sauna is not recommended for young children or pregnant women. Metal and jewelry taken into the sauna may cause burns. Please sit on towels on the benches.

SKINNY DIPPING. Please refrain from obvious skinny-dipping.

OPEN FIRES. Fires in the campground are restricted to the designated stone fire rings, and sufficient area should be cleared around the ring to prevent grass fires. Fires must be out before being left unattended. Campers are encouraged not to build large fires because of the proximity of the spruce forest. Fires should never be built in the forest, even by persons who may be camping there. The Coordinators may decide when conditions are too dry for fires anywhere.

FIREWOOD. Campers should bring their own firewood. Wood stacked by the sauna and boathouse is for the sauna, beach-house, and main-fire circle by the beach only. Please do not use the caretakers' personal supply by the log cabin. Do not collect firewood from FLC woods, but spruce trimmings are ok.

GOOD NEIGHBORS. We share Long Lake with families on the opposite shore. To be good neighbors, we should respect their property and customs. Please do not use their rafts or walk on their property. Please refrain from late night noise as it travels easily over the lake. Neighbors and FLC members in general value the peace and quiet of the lake and surroundings.

ORGANIZED GROUPS. During the summer, group use of the waterfront or campground is ordinarily limited to one group at a time of up to 20 people. Ordinary use may be scheduled with the Coordinators but groups over 20 or repeated use requires approval of the Board after consultation with the membership convenor. Groups using the lake on weekends are encouraged to park in the meadow and to eat away from the beach so as not to interfere with use by our members. Group participants who do not belong to FLC are expected to pay non-member daily use fees (see Special Fees).

GUESTS. Members may bring guests (see Special Fees) with them for picnicking, swimming, camping, etc. Members are responsible for seeing that their guests understand these Guidelines (extra copies are available from the Coordinators). Members are responsible for the safety, welfare and conduct of their guests.

GUESTS UNACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER: Persons unaffiliated with, but interested in Friends Lake may visit as guests of the coordinator for one day (or in the case of a camp over, for one day and one night) and will be charged the non-member guest fee (see non-member fees). Trial visits are at the coordinators discretion and must be prearranged with the coordinator. Non-members who are renting a cabin or a home are not limited to one visit.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

BASIC MEMBERS. Basic members enjoy the many community facilities- the beaches, the boats, the lake and woods, the rentable guest cabin, and the campground. Members have free camping privileges without additional fees (see time limits). Members may invite guests at half the non-member daily use fee. Membership is open without discrimination to persons who share the values of this Community and wish to share in its benefits and responsibilities. As described in the brochure (An Invitation to Join Friends Lake Community), annual (Jan.-Dec.) basic membership fees reflect proximity to FLC and the number of adults in the household. Dependent children are included in parents' membership. Children are not members in their own right and must be accompanied at all times by their parents or another adult member. (Special Youth Membership privileges for 17-21 year old children of adult members can be arranged with the membership committee.)

SUSTAINING MEMBERS and PARTICIPATING MEMBERS. Those who wish to participate more fully in the community may become Sustaining Members or Participating Members by making a one-time contribution in addition to the regular annual membership fees. Active Sustaining and Participating Members have extensive free guest privileges and are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors and vote at annual meetings. To become a Sustaining or Participating Member, persons ordinarily must participate as Basic Members for at least a year, meet with a clearness committee and be approved by the Board of Directors. Sustaining Members may lease available cabin sites and home sites. Detailed information can be secured from the president of FLCC.

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS. Subscribing membership is intended for persons who do not expect to be at the lake during an entire calendar year but who would like to continue to receive the newsletter and to support the Community. Subscribing Sustaining Members passing through the area may stop for a brief daytime visit, but those wishing to use the lake for more than such a brief visit are expected to pay \$4/day use fees for a day or two of use, and to pay active annual dues if they use the lake more than two days during a given year. Subscribing Basic Members are expected to pay \$8/day use fees or active annual dues if they visit the lake at all.

SPECIAL FEES

NOTE: The following special fees are per adult (children free, except in children's groups) and payable to the Coordinators. Checks should be made out to Friends Lake Community. **HALF RATES** are charged for off-season use (Labor Day-Memorial Day weekend) and apply to all daily use fees, but **NOT** to building rentals. Brand new members (but not rejoining members) joining after August 1st pay only half the usual annual membership dues. Special fees are for non-member fees, long term user fees and rental fees. (See following)

NON-MEMBER FEES.

Guests of any member must be accompanied by the member at all times in order to be eligible for reduced daily use fees. The member is responsible for paying guest fees on arrival and is asked to bring correct change (or check).

- (a) A guest accompanied by an Active Basic Member: \$4 per daytime visit or overnight camp-out.
- (b) A guest accompanied by an Active Sustaining Member is free except for long-term residential visits (below).
- (c) A person not accompanied by an active member may be considered a one-time guest of the Coordinators: \$8 per daytime visit or overnight camp-out.

Non-Members in Organized Groups. These visits must be arranged in advance; contact the coordinator or membership convenor. These persons pay \$8 per daytime visit or overnight camp-out. For groups of children such as school classes or camps: \$2.50 per day/night per non-member child.

Non-Member Tenants of FLCC or Private Structures. Non-members who rent the Guest Cabin, Beach House or a private cabin or home at FLC: \$8 per night in addition to the rental fee.

LONG-TERM USERS

Long-term Guest of Sustaining Members. FLCC welcomes family reunions and other celebrations by members. The free guest privileges of Active Sustaining Members are intended primarily to cover short-term guests. When Active Sustaining Members have any given long-term guest living at the lake for more than three consecutive days (or, in the case of cabin owners, more than 7 days, or for home owners, more than 14 days) and making use of community facilities such as the waterfront or campground, those members are encouraged to make a contribution to

the Community treasury commensurate with that use. This applies to Active Sustaining Members whose long-term guests are their independent adult children or other relatives as well as to non-relatives. Long-term guests are also encouraged to participate in the Community's volunteer work program.

Long-term Visits by Distant Members. When persons living more than 50 miles from FLC choose to camp or otherwise live at the lake for more than 14 nights in a given year, their usage outstrips that of most local members, so they are expected to pay local dues per adult for that year.

RENTAL FEES

All rental fees remain the same, year round and apply to members, guests, or non-member tenants. Renters must be 21 and non-members must pay non-member tenant fees (see page 6) in addition to the standard rental fee.

(a) The Guest Cabin is a rustic, two-story winterized cabin with an electric stove and a wood stove for heat but no running water. It is available year-round for rent by members (non-members may rent if sponsored by a sustaining member) at \$15 Sunday-Thursday nights, \$30 Friday or Saturday night with a special weekend rate of \$50 for Friday & Saturday nights combined. A detailed description of the Guest Cabin may be secured from the Coordinators, and reservation inquiries may be made by calling them at (313)475-7976. A one-night reservation deposit should be mailed to the Coordinators c/o Friends Lake Community, 1000 Long Lake, Chelsea, MI 48118.

(b) The Beach House is a one-story-plus sleeping loft winterized cabin with a woodstove for heat and electric lights. It is adjacent to the sauna and has a broad view of the lake. It may be reserved, off-season only, by people wishing to use it for meetings or personal retreats. Rental fees : Check w/coordinator. When not reserved off-season and throughout the summer, the Beach House is available for non-exclusive use by members without charge.

(c) A special campsite (for an extra charge) is on the crest of a hill at the west end of FLCC with a beautiful view of the lake, a picnic table, campfire circle, and nearby well. The site may be used by only one party at a time.

CAMPING

STRUCTURES AND SITES

(a) Camping tents may be pitched in the lakeside campground and adjoining spruce forest, the special campsite overlooking the lake at the west end of FLCC, and (by arrangement with the owners) on any unoccupied cabin/tent-platform site in the hills.

(b) Soft-sided tent-trailers may be used on campsites #1 and #2 or on the RV sites.

(c) Vans, campers and other RVs may be used only in the meadow perimeter. There is no provision for servicing holding tanks and no electrical or water hook-up for RVs.

TIME LIMITS

The maximum time allowed for camping by any one party in any given year is three months, at least two of which must be in the summer season. Sustaining members may camp for three months at no extra charge. Basic members may have 30 nights of free camping per year, after which they will be charged \$5 per night per site (not per person) for additional camping. Camping equipment left unoccupied in the campground does not count toward the time limits specified above.

Camping equipment may be left unoccupied in the lakeside campground for two consecutive nights, after which the owner is expected to pay a storage charge of \$4 for each additional night left unoccupied. Non-members are required to pay their usual camping fee every night, regardless of whether their equipment is occupied or unoccupied.

On request from another member, a camper who will have occupied a given site for two consecutive weeks may be asked to move to another site with three days' notice. Such requests should be relayed through the coordinator.

Exceptions to the above can be made only with permission of the Board of Directors.

OPEN FIRES AND FIREWOOD: See general guidelines on firewood and open fires. (page 3).

SWIMMING

A "swimmer" (who may use the swimmers' beach) is one who can swim to the raft (without flotation aids), circle the raft 3 times and return. Parents may supervise this swimming test for their children. There is no lifeguard at Friends Lake Community. Non-swimmers are expected to use the swimmers' beach only if directly supervised by an adult swimmer.

Swimming under the raft is dangerous; please do not rock the raft or push others off the raft.

Parents are advised to watch their children carefully in the non-swimmers wading area.

LIFEJACKETS belonging to FLC are for boating safety use only. Please bring your own lifejackets for swimming.

As we share the lake with people who own and use motor boats, we expect LONG DISTANCE SWIMMERS to wear a brightly colored bathing cap or to take something with them that makes them easy to see. When a speedboat appears, especially when any neighbor is water-skiing, swimmers should return to within 100 feet of the raft or 100 feet of the shore unless they have made other arrangements with the driver of the boat. (We ask speedboats to make one slow, no wake, pass around the lake to locate swimmers and negotiate for shared safe-use of lake space.) Night swimmers are reminded that motorboats cannot see them. By law, swimmers SNORKELING more than 100 feet from the raft or shore should have and use a floating flag for safety from motorboats.

BOATING

CANOES AND ROWBOATS: You are called a "BOATER" and welcome to use the canoes and rowboats if 1) you are 16 or over and know how to handle the boats or 2) you are under 16 and have taken the distance swim test (swimming across the lake and back, accompanied by a row boat) and have learned how to handle the boats. Parents may supervise this test.

SAILBOATS: Use of sailboats is restricted to members of FLCC who are experienced sailors. Please check with the coordinator and be sure you know how to rig our boats before taking them out. Inexperienced sailors may learn from others -- ask around.

LIFEJACKETS: A life jacket for each person in a boat is required by Michigan law. Please do not sit on life jackets (they are fragile) or allow them to soak up water in the bottom of the boat. Non-swimmers and non-boaters in boats are expected to WEAR life jackets. Children under 12, regardless of their swimming or boating ability are also expected to wear life jackets. Sailors are encouraged to wear them when winds are gusty or strong.

PADDLES AND OARS: Paddles and oars are fragile; handle with care, refrain from jamming the blade ends into the ground, and please return them to proper storage.

BOATING RULES:

1. Non-boaters under 16 are expected to be accompanied by a boater 16 years or older.
2. A 30-minute time limit is suggested on Community boats when others are waiting to use them. Please check in occasionally to see if someone is waiting. Boats should be returned to the boating beach when not in use (not left at the campground or elsewhere) so they will be available for others to use.
3. Boats should stay out of areas where people are swimming, including the non-swimmers wading area and the area between the raft and the shore. Boats should neither land nor tie up at the raft when anyone is swimming there or when people are waiting for boats.
4. Boats should move to the side of the lake or the campground end of the lake whenever speedboats appear, especially when any neighbors are water-skiing - to be courteous to them and for our own safety.
5. Life jackets, paddles, oars, sails and daggerboards should be returned to storage after use, not left in the boat, unless another person is waiting to use them immediately.
6. Persons using boats are expected to reimburse the Community for any damage to life jackets, paddles, oars, rudders, etc. which they may incur through negligence or misuse.

STORM SAFETY

Because thunderstorms may come up quickly, boats should head for home well in advance of a storm's anticipated arrival. Remaining on the raft or in the water during an electrical storm is also dangerous. It is advisable to get children and pets off the beach and away from possible falling branches. The Beach House is our best refuge.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY-BOARD MEETINGS

We welcome members to attend any or all board meetings, which use the Quaker process of consensus in decision-making. These are held on the first Sunday of each month, followed by pot-luck supper, and are announced in the monthly newsletter you will receive as a member. We look forward to knowing you.

IS FRIENDS LAKE FOR YOU: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Our name is Friends Lake Cooperative Community. Emphasis is on all four words. Friends/friends: derived from the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) indicates a commitment to living and working together in a manner consistent with the awareness of the Divine in all things, that is, with loving respect. Lake: a place to plant and wildlife preserve on a lake, a space that we enjoy and cherish as it cherishes and nurtures us, in mutual support. Cooperative: a place to work together. Community: to join together and share; to do the work of communicating, of agreeing to listen, to be introspective about our own fears that block communication, to listen from the Divine in ourselves and to speak to the Divine in others.

We are an intentional community rather than a beach club. Recreation is important, but not the sole reason FLCC was founded. The Community was smaller 30 years ago, and with so few people, it was apparent to all that the sustaining of the Community depended on each person's willingness to participate. With more people, it is even more necessary to commit to the task of not only sustaining the property and environment, but to the task of building and sharing relationships. FLCC was formed with the idea that whatever needed to be done would be done with shared labor as much as possible. There was no "staff" nor intention that there be. Work parties built most of our facilities, laid sand for our beaches, and planted our spruces. Children and adults were empowered together, as essential parts of the community.

For years we had no resident to oversee beach and campground. Eventually there was a "resident-camper", a person who summered in a tent in the campground and was available to help in small ways; later, because of winter vandalism, the log cabin was converted from community space to a resident's home. The resident in the summer is now the "coordinator" (not a manager); thus we are still, as before, directed to care for the community ourselves.

The question of rules was raised early in our history. It was decided that we needed guidelines. Guidelines are a reminder to live from the mature and loving part of ourselves. We're each, and all, asked to be responsible. Our community is a place where we can put concepts of generosity, kindness, and sensitivity into practice. With freedom comes responsibility. If we enhance Community, with its responsibilities, we won't need to hire a "policing" person. Sometimes the Coordinator or a fellow community member has been moved to remind a person of the guidelines lest someone be injured or caused discomfort. Examples are: dogs that run loose in the beach or campground area, scaring children or stealing food; unattended children whose lack of supervision may get them into trouble; people without lifejackets in the boats (an absolute state law); people fishing from the raft or swim areas where fishhooks can cause injury; radios played loud. We ask that such reminders be greeted with gratitude in the spirit with which they are offered, that we are building a community together.

Please keep this book of guidelines and inquire about those that raise questions for you. Make sure that you take responsibility for helping your guests understand the guidelines, too. Know that you know you are welcome at board meetings (they are open), and that your labor, your ideas, and your sensitivity are all needed to help us more fully create that community to which we aspire.

To inquire about membership, write to FLCC, PO box 3596, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 or call 475-8690.

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