

Become a Patron

Thank you for your interest in supporting Whispering Pines — a 147-acre, volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nature retreat. Patrons help advance our mission of benefiting veterans and youth and welcoming families into nature, and in return can book up to nine months ahead. Patrons and the public pay the same posted rates.

THE SIGN-UP PROCESS — six steps

1 • Choose your category

Pick a Patron tier on page 2. Every named adult must be 21 or older.

2 • Complete this packet

Fill out the application (p. 2), sign the Liability Waiver (p. 3) and the Code of Conduct (p. 4).

3 • Submit with payment

Return the packet with your annual dues and the \$30-per-named-adult background screening fee — by email to reservations@wpofcc.org, by mail (address below), or in person.

4 • Screening

We order a confidential background check for each named adult. The pass/fail results are only provided to the Committee, used solely for eligibility, securely stored and never shared.

5 • Monthly review

The Patron Program Committee — made up of WPofCC board members — meets remotely each month and reviews every pending application. Some applications (higher tiers, or anything flagged) go to the full Board.

6 • Decision & welcome

You'll receive a written decision within 10 business days of the vote. Approved Patrons get a welcome packet, Patron ID, orientation, and booking instructions. A 90-day provisional period applies.

WHAT TO INCLUDE

- | | |
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| ☐ Completed application (page 2) | ☐ Signed Liability Waiver (page 3) |
| ☐ Signed Code of Conduct (page 4) | ☐ Annual dues for your category |
| ☐ \$30 screening fee × each named adult | ☐ Proof of service (Veteran/Military tier only) |

Questions? Write to reservations@wpofcc.org. Denied applicants may request reconsideration in writing within 30 days.

MAIL YOUR PACKET TO

Whispering Pines of Clinton County
c/o Patron Program Committee
10700 Camp Joy Rd
Carlyle, IL 62231

PATRON TIER (check one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Individual — \$100 (one adult, 21+) | ☐ Family — \$175 (2 adults + dependents, up to 6) |
| ☐ Veteran / Military — \$131 (family level; proof of service) | ☐ Steward / Volunteer — \$50 (40+ hrs/yr) |
| ☐ Sustainer — \$500 (added recognition & benefits) | ☐ Benefactor — \$1,000 (added recognition & benefits) |
| ☐ Lifetime — \$5,000 one-time | |

PRIMARY APPLICANT

Full legal name Date of birth

Mailing address

City / State / ZIP Phone

Email

SECOND NAMED ADULT & DEPENDENTS (Family-level categories)

Second adult — full name Phone / email

Dependents in household (names & ages)

Additional named adults (max 2, \$40 each — name & relationship)

ELIGIBILITY AFFIRMATION

I affirm that I and each named adult are at least 21, are not required to register as a sex offender, have no conviction for a crime against a child or a violent felony, and consent to the confidential background check WPofCC runs on each named adult (a \$30 per-adult fee is due with this application).

Initials:

FEES ENCLOSED

Annual dues \$ Screening: \$30 × named adults = \$

Total enclosed \$

READ CAREFULLY — THIS AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS.

In consideration of being permitted to use the property and facilities of Whispering Pines of Clinton County ("WPofCC"), I, on behalf of myself, my household, my guests, and my minor children, agree:

1. Assumption of Risk.

Use of a 147-acre rustic outdoor property involves inherent risks — water, watercraft, ranges, fire, terrain, wildlife, weather, and the conduct of others — which I knowingly and voluntarily assume.

2. Release & Waiver.

To the fullest extent permitted by Illinois law, I release WPofCC and its owners, directors, officers, volunteers, agents, and members from claims for injury, illness, death, or property loss arising from my or my guests' presence or activities, except for WPofCC's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

3. Indemnification.

I will defend, indemnify, and hold WPofCC and those persons harmless from claims arising out of my, my household's, or my guests' acts or omissions.

4. Minors & Medical.

I accept these terms for my minor children, will supervise them at all times, and authorize emergency medical care if needed at my expense.

5. Rules.

I will follow all WPofCC rules, posted signs, the Safety Manual, and the directions of WPofCC representatives, including certified-supervision requirements for the ranges and waterfront.

I have read this document, understand it is a binding legal agreement, and sign it freely. Signature covers all named adults' acknowledgment where each also signs below. Parents/guardians sign on behalf of minor children. Valid for the Patron term.

Primary applicant — signature

Date

Second named adult — signature

Date

Printed name(s)

Minor children covered (names)

PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT

● Steward the land

Leave no trace, protect wildlife and habitat, keep the property beautiful.

● Put safety first

Follow all rules, supervise children, and never use the ranges or the waterfront without required supervision.

● Protect youth

Uphold WPofCC's youth-protection standards whenever minors are present. No alcohol at youth events — or anywhere on the property on a day a youth group is booked.

● Respect others

Check in with the rangers, honor quiet hours (10 p.m.–7 a.m.), and be responsible for my guests' conduct while present.

● Support the mission

Represent WPofCC's spirit of refreshing the soul through nature and conservation — benefiting veterans, youth, and families.

KEY RULES I ACKNOWLEDGE

- ✓ Being a Patron is a revocable privilege — approval, dues, and rule compliance are required; it grants no exclusive use of the property.
- ✓ An active Patron is required both when an event is booked and on the event date.
- ✓ Insurance (COI naming WPofCC) is required for any event over 50 people and any event with alcohol, including BYOB.
- ✓ High-risk areas (ranges, waterfront, bowhunting) require separate reservation and certified supervision.
- ✓ Cleaning fees are non-refundable; security deposits are refundable after inspection; damage beyond normal wear is my responsibility.
- ✓ At least one named adult Patron must be in attendance whenever a group visits the property under a Patron's name.

I have read and agree to this Code of Conduct and the full Patron Program (available from WPofCC on request).

Patron signature

Date

Printed name

THE REVIEW PROCESS — what to expect after you submit

Within 5 business days

We confirm receipt and flag anything missing (forms, fees, proof of service).

Days 1–3 weeks

Confidential background screening is ordered for each named adult and results are returned to the reviewing Committee only.

Monthly Committee meeting

The Patron Program Committee (WPofCC board members, meeting remotely each month) reviews every complete application. Routine Individual/Family applications are decided by the Committee; Sustainer and above, anything with conditions or flags, and all denials go to the full Board.

Within 10 business days of the vote

Written decision by email or mail. Approvals include your welcome packet, Patron ID, term dates, and Firefly booking instructions.

Your first 90 days

A provisional period with full privileges while you complete a brief orientation covering safety, gate/ranger check-in, conservation expectations, and booking.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Applications received after the monthly cut-off are held to the next month's meeting — submitting early in the month is fastest.
- Dues are collected with the application and refunded in full if the application is denied.
- If your application is denied you may request reconsideration in writing within 30 days; the Board's decision is final.
- Screening results are confidential: reviewed only by the Committee, used solely for eligibility, stored securely, never shared.
- Renewals: you'll get a notice ~45 days before expiration; a 30-day grace period follows the term.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received	Dues \$	Screening fee \$	Screening:	☐ N/A	☐ Pending	☐ Cleared
Committee action:	☐ Approve	☐ Approve w/ conditions	☐ Refer to Board	☐ Deny		
Approved by	Date	Patron ID	Expires			