



THE ECO-INSTITUTE AT PICKARDS MOUNTAIN

8519 Pickards Meadow Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Please review our rental rates and venue information. After reading this document, we will happily answer any questions you may have and/or meet with you when you are ready to reserve the Eco-Institute at Pickards Mountain for your wedding.

Contact us at venue@eco-institute.org.

2023 Wedding Venue Rates

Overnight accommodations available in the Yome Village. See details below.*

RENTAL LENGTH	January - March	April - December	Refundable Security Deposit
One Full Weekend (48 hours)	\$3,000	\$3,800	\$500
Additional Full Weekday (12 hours)	\$800	\$1,000	\$250
Week-Long Rate (6 full days)	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$1,000
One day weekend rental**	\$1,600.00	\$2,000.00	\$250

Full weekend and Week-Long rates include access to 3 barn stall rooms for overnight accommodation. Each room has a full-size futon. These are available at no additional charge.

***Overnight accommodations are available in the Yome Village, which can sleep up to 24-36 people in bunk beds.** These accommodations are available at an additional fee which can be added to a full weekend and/or week-long rates.

****20% of the rate is due upon signing of contract to hold your space and is non-refundable.**

The balance of the rate, along with the refundable security deposit, is due at least 30 days prior to your event, earlier if reserving for a whole week; to be determined at time of contract. If the facility is undamaged and clean up is complete within the rental time frame, the full security deposit will be returned to the renters within two weeks of their event.

** **One day weekend rentals are only available if reserved within 4 weeks of event***



THE ECO-INSTITUTE

AT PICKARDS MOUNTAIN

8519 Pickards Meadow Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

THE GROUNDS

The renovated barn, lakeside gazebo and gardens at The Eco-Institute provide a beautifully rustic setting for weddings and events. The rental space includes the renovated areas of the barn (including a large community kitchen, lounge area, two bathrooms, and renovated barn loft with dance floor and sound system), the picnic table area/ yard between the barn and the goat pasture, the community garden (as designated by the garden gates), the blueberry fields, the gazebo, and parking area (which is also a good place for an event tent!)

The community kitchen and barn loft provide lovely gathering spaces. The Barn Loft (with dance floor and sound system) can accommodate 75 people. The community kitchen includes a walk-in refrigerator, chest freezer, two induction stove tops, two ovens, a large 3-bay dishwashing sink, stone countertops, and a beautiful wooden buffet/serving space.

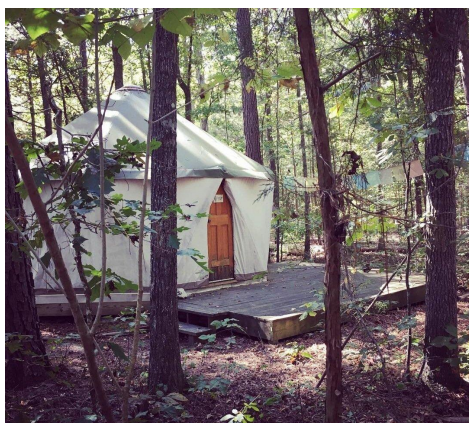
AMENITIES

Seating

The venue can accommodate up to 120 guests comfortably. Groups of more than 120 guests require prior approval. Included in the rental cost are the use of four round tables that seat 6-8 comfortably, and 11 rectangular tables which can seat 6-8 people or be used for gifts, drinks, etc. In addition there are 8 picnic tables, all of which can seat 8 people comfortably. You are also welcome to use our metal folding chairs.

Overnight Accommodations

Included in your rental rate are three climate controlled rooms containing a full size futon in each. These can be used as overnight accommodations and/or wedding party prep spaces. Also available are accommodations in the Yome village, which can sleep 24-36 in glamping style yurt/dome hybrids. These are available at an additional charge.



Bathrooms

There are two single occupancy bathrooms located in the barn, one of which is handicap accessible. We also have a well-appointed, secluded outhouse with a composting toilet.



THE ECO-INSTITUTE

AT PICKARDS MOUNTAIN

8519 Pickards Meadow Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Fire pit

The fire pit is a wonderful feature to utilize in the evenings. We supply fire wood for you, and ask that you make sure a fire is never left unattended. No other fire (no tiki torches or floating lanterns) are allowed besides a small number of candles on tables (unless approved prior to the event.)

Venue Coordinator

The Venue Coordinator can be available to help receive the delivery of rental items the day prior to the event and will be on site during the event to help maintain bathrooms, turn on outdoor lighting, answer questions and help coordinate with caterers, food truck operators, and bartenders. Questions pertaining to the rental contract, tours, etc can be directed to the venue coordinator at venue@eco-institute.org.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Decoration and Clean Up

Decoration and cleanup are the responsibility of the renters. Birdseed, flower petals and other no-waste eco-friendly celebratory products are encouraged (no rice, confetti, glitter, or anything else that can cause a hazard for wildlife!)

At the end of your event, we ask renters to follow a “leave no trace” philosophy: we will take care of your bagged trash, separate recycling bins, and food scraps you leave in the compost. Please return rental items to a designated pick-up location, and remove any personal belongings. If the setup and cleanup extends beyond the timeframe of the rental, the renters will forfeit the security deposit unless other arrangements are confirmed in writing at least 30 days prior to the event.

Catering & Kitchen Use

Renters or their chosen Caterers are fully responsible for clean-up of the kitchen area and any damage to the equipment, appliances, and tools will be deducted from the renters security deposit. The rental of plates, silverware, napkins, etc is encouraged, but if renters choose to serve guests with disposable materials, they must be fully compostable and separated from other waste. The rental of one (or more) local food trucks is also an option; the Triangle has a thriving food truck scene.

Alcohol

Renters may store beer and wine in the large, walk-in cooler in the community kitchen. If renters plan to serve hard liquor, an alcohol permit must be purchased, a professional bartender must be serving, and event insurance purchased. The caterer should be able to help with all of this. Please bring ice. Guests under the age of 21 are not permitted to drink alcohol on the property. If guests plan to drink and are not staying overnight, we encourage designated drivers or utilizing a ride service.

Music

The county legal ordinance requires music to be below 60 decibels at the property line. Renters must refrain from playing amplified music outdoors past 10pm. Any fines incurred for violating the ordinance will be deducted from the security deposit. Acoustic music is allowed past 10pm and renters may choose to enjoy songs around the fire as your event winds down. The lakeside gazebo does not have sufficient electrical for the music amplification needed for a band, but there are electrical hookups for a band or dj outside the barn and in the barn loft.



THE ECO-INSTITUTE

AT PICKARDS MOUNTAIN

8519 Pickards Meadow Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Parking

The main parking lot, directly west of the barn (which houses the kitchen and bathrooms) accommodates 30 cars when no other rental structures (tents) or trucks are present. Once the lot is full, guests may park along the sides of the road, but please keep the driveways of the two neighboring houses across the road open! For parties of 30 cars or more, it's recommended that renters designate 1-3 people as parking attendants. For guests with mobility challenges, it is possible for a vehicle to drive directly to the gazebo. There is also handicap accessible parking to the north of the barn. Please plan shuttle service if you expect more than 80 vehicles.

Novelties, Media, etc.

Biodegradable water balloons, sprinklers, and yard games are wonderful choices for shared fun. No bounce houses, mechanical bulls, blow-up castles or slides are permitted on the property, and no swimming in the lake.

Private filming and photography for use by the renters and Eco-Institute are allowed, but no outside media is permitted. Renters who chose to share images of their event with The Eco-Institute and a short testimony will receive the eternal gratitude of the Eco-Institute team.

Boundaries

The following spaces are not included in the rental and are off limits to renters and guests: The Historic Farm House, the Toben family's home and dock, the woods across the road from the parking area (unless the yomes are rented during the event), the two homes located across the gravel road, the solar panel field, and the offices and storage rooms within the barn.

Sound levels will be monitored at the property line near the honey-colored house. Please respect the privacy of all of our neighbors. Out of respect to the neighbors who live close to the Eco-Institute, guests must leave by midnight unless overnight accommodations have been reserved.

Larger groups

For parties exceeding 120 guests, the rental of additional portable bathrooms is recommended. We like working with Piedmont Portables, who have proved reliable and affordable over the years. We also recommend that you set up a carpool or shuttle service so that the number of cars does not exceed 80 and that you designate 2-3 parking attendants.

Due to the limited space available in the barn loft (max capacity 75), renters may also choose to rent an event tent for purposes of shade and in case of rain. We have had good experiences working with American Party Rentals in Durham.