



YMROP 2024
At Still Point in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia
Illuman East Coast Collaborative (ECC)

INFORMATION SHEET

Dear Initiate,

We are excited that you have been accepted to join us for the ECC Young Men's Rite of Passage occurring Wednesday, May 15 – Sunday, May 19, 2024. **Registration begins at Rolling Ridge on Wednesday, May 15 at 12:30 pm and will end Sunday at 2:00 pm. Don't be late!**

We trust that these instructions will be helpful as you prepare for this important event. It's important that you bring all of the necessary gear listed below with you to your rites of passage.

You will be joined by approximately 25 men (including leadership) who will be participating in this ECC Young Men's Rite of Passage.

Included in this help packet are:

- ❖ What to Bring – p. 2
- ❖ Answers to Questions (what we think you might ask) – p. 3 and 4
- ❖ Directions to Registration and Camp Site – p. 5
- ❖ Payments and Contact Information – p. 6

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to e-mail me (contact info at bottom of letter).

Peace & Fire !

Jim Taylor
Weaver of the Illuman ECC Young Men's Rite of Passage

CHECKLIST — YMROP 2024 EAST COAST COLLABORATIVE

What to Bring:

- Camping Gear (Tent, Ground Tarp, Sleeping pad, Bedding and Pillow)
- Toiletries
 - Towel
 - Soap
 - Toothbrush
 - Toilette paper (biodegradable only)
 - Any other personal items you will need
- Clothes for cool evenings and hot days – something you don't mind getting dirty/worn
- A journal/notebook with a pen and/or pencil.
- Rain Gear (as simple as a large trash bag that can be pulled over your head)
- Durable shoes appropriate for hiking
- A water bottle (used for all your hydration purposes and at meal times)
- A flashlight (extra batteries)
- A backpack or daypack (for solo time in the wilderness)
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellant (with Deet)
- A hat & sunglasses (important for sun protection)
- Walking Stick (optional, but can be helpful)
- Drums, rattles, etc. (any kind of percussion instrument is okay)
- Camp Chair (Regular size to be used at all gatherings).
- Bathing Suit for the river
- Coffee cup (to be used for all your coffee/tea throughout the week)
- Anything else you may need for a wilderness experience
- 2 Plain White T-Shirts (No graphics. May get ruined.)
- 1 Plain Black T-Shirt (No graphics. May get ruined.)
- Symbols for your YMROP experience

**Water will be provided. All meals will be provided. Plan on a rustic outdoor experience.
Tent Camping.**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING

Young Men's Rite of Passage (YMROP) – This rite of passage is specifically developed for young men ages 18 to 29. The first-half life initiation is taking the boy into his manhood. It is marking the beginning of his adulthood. All rituals and rites will target this “becoming” and “affirming” of his right to engage in an adult/adult conversation with the world.

PREPARATION

You are welcome to read from any of these sources (*Wild Man to Wise Man* - Richard Rohr, *Adam's Return* - Richard Rohr, *The Great Conversation* - Belden Lane, *Fire in the Belly* - Sam Keen, *Iron John* - Robert Bly); however, no prior reading is a necessary requirement. Real preparation for your rites of passage will be more from your heart and intention than anything from your head.

Please bring with you a symbol of any kind that represents something that you want to let go of at this stage of your life. Also, bring a symbol of any kind that represents what you hope to obtain in your rite of passage.

When does the YMROP officially begin?

Wednesday, May 15 at 2:45 PM – Procession & Opening Ritual for the YMROP.

You must arrive between 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. for registration.

You will need to arrive ***before*** 2:00 p.m. to get registered. The earlier you arrive during the registration window on Wednesday, the better. This will allow you to get situated before everything begins (registration is 12:30 pm - 2 pm). If you are flying and need to be picked up, it is important for us to get your flight information; so, we can coordinate pickup.

If flying, you must arrive at the Dulles International Airport no later than 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning. If you are flying in early, please make arrangements to stay overnight and ride with one of our local men. We will connect you to our travel coordinator after you apply and give us your travel information.

When does the YMROP officially end?

Sunday, 2:00 PM – YMROP concludes.

Please schedule domestic flights no earlier than 5:30 pm

Travel Information & Medical Forms

Each initiate will be required to fill out a travel form and a medical form before arrival to the YMROP. You can fill these out on-line both the [travel form](#) and the [medical form](#). Please submit both a travel form so we can plan effectively to get you to and from the airport, if flying. Also, there is a medical form that is necessary for your participation.

What is the weather like at the Still Point at this time of year?

Still Point Mountain Retreat is located in the panhandle of West Virginia. Early May weather typically averages mid-70s in the day and mid to mid-50s at night, but can get into the low-60s in the day and low-50s at night. Plan accordingly. You will need a jacket, long pants, and perhaps a sweatshirt or heavy sweater.

What are the accommodations like at Still Point?

There are cabins and pavilions on the property where the YMROP team will be staying. The house will also provide a location for any first aid or emergencies that may occur.

The area is rustic.

The YMROP is intended to stretch you. We are planning for each initiate to tent camp as a part of the overall experience. Plan to settle into a West Virginia wooded setting. It is beautiful and wild!

What will be asked of me physically?

You will be given a window of approximately 18 to 20 hours for a solo experience (Friday mid-afternoon to Saturday mid-morning). You will be invited to take your tarp with you to sit on in an area further out from base camp (silence will be expected through all of it).

We will set up a base camp (one that is accessible to you all night that will provide water, first aid supplies, and an identified area where initiates can lodge at, or near, if they would like to be in proximity to others). The base camp will also serve as a point of reference and safety for men who venture out further.

The area is large (2000 acres); however, it is also contained and so getting lost would be rare – maps will be provided in orientation. During your solo experience, you will be asked **to fast** during this period. ***Sack lunches can be prepared for men with diabetes or other health needs that prohibit fasting – let us know, if you have special needs.***

Please indicate by return e-mail if you are vegetarian or have any food allergies/needs that you would like for us to know. ***We will do our best to accommodate these requests.***

Will my cell phone work?

Certain networks do get limited reception. There is a land-line phone at the main house, if you bring a calling card or call collect – you can communicate back home that you have arrived safely or when things have concluded, if your cell phone does not work. After arrival, as part of the rites, you will be asked to turn your cell phone off for the duration of the rites.

What are the directions to Registration and Check-In?

[Rolling Ridge Retreat House](#)

[691 Christ Church Rd, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425](#)

Follow GPS until you reach Mission Road. Mission Road T's into Route 115.

1. Depending on the direction you are travelling, you will either turn left or turn right onto it. Follow Mission Road for 6.3 miles. Mission Road is a twisty, turny rollercoaster ride that begins with center and side lines and has one stop sign in the small community of Shannondale. It passes one store, a small grocery on the left. Drive continues to dip and wind in series of S curves. The center lines end at Rolling Ridge entrance on the left, as the road descends. There is a rustic wooden sign saying Rolling Ridge at the top in yellow letters. There are mailboxes on other side of road.
2. Turn left here onto the gravel/dirt road, opposite the mailboxes. This dirt/gravel road twists and turns and goes uphill. There is one crossroad—large dumpster and gate to Camp Opequon on left, sign for Staff Community straight ahead and Retreat House to right.
3. Turn right following Retreat House sign. Stay on this road a short distance to rough intersection with Christ Church Road. See the sign to the Retreat House pointing left.
4. Turn left. You are now on a long driveway that will end in front of the Retreat House. Stay more or less straight on this. Do not turn right onto Friends Way.
5. Arrived! You may temporarily park in front of the Retreat House to unload your things and then move your car to the parking area.

What is the Location of the Still Point Mountain Retreat?

[Still Point Mountain Retreat](#)

[1681 Patriots Way, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425](#)

After check in and registration, the initiates will hike about one mile to the Still Point Mountain Retreat. Initiates will be hiking a white blazed trail to the camp and staff will truck initiates' camping gear to the wilderness camp.

For those driving, follow the same directions to the registration site, EXCEPT at #3 where you are at the intersection with Christ Church Road turn RIGHT down Christ Church Road.

1. Turn right on Christ Church Road. This bumpy narrow road goes slightly downhill. The road widens slightly, then passes two houses, small A-frame to left and large cottage with detached brick garage to right, just before Road Ts at Patriot's Way. There is no street sign marking Patriot's Way. Christ Church Road is a narrow dirt road heading downhill toward the Shenandoah River.
2. Turn left on Patriot's Way. Road parallels the river, descends, ascends & shortly comes to a farm-type gate. Go through the gate.
3. Follow this road through the gate and continue straight until road appears to end in front of a small, light colored house. Turn left. Drive up a steep hill. Road will wind around to the right. Road then straightens and leads through a wooded area to Still Point house on right. Welcome.

Cost for the YMROP - \$350

We are working to keep this a low cost event for young men. We have subsidize the total cost. **\$350** is the cost for this ECC YMROP. Payment is due before or at registration. If you have not already paid online, you can [pay online](#). [Scholarships](#) are available upon request.

Please plan to pay by check, money order, or cash on Wednesday as you arrive (checks are made payable to Illuman of ECC). Any donations above the YMROP fee will be appreciated to help with this overall budget for the YMROP 2024 and our on-going men's work!

CONTACTS at the Wilderness Camp Site (cell phone)

Jim Taylor (Weaver)	taylor.mosaic@gmail.com	830-491-2620
Bob Sabath (YMROP Coordinator)	bob.sabath@gmail.com	202-531-7572
Dan Harris (YMROP Convener)	Daniel.harris@illumana.org	240-204-1758

If for some reason you are unable to reach us at the numbers listed above, please contact Scot DeGraf for assistance.

Emergency Contact: Scot DeGraf, 301-275-2009