



Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Half Yearly Meeting

A Family Friendly Event

November 28 through December 1, 2019 - Registration opens October 10th

Wekiwa Springs State Park - 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka, Florida

Half Yearly Meeting is a family friendly serendipitous 4 days over Thanksgiving weekend when Friends come together for good food and good company in Wekiwa Springs State Park. We have exclusive use of the Youth Camp, a natural setting with rustic cabins, ADA lodging, dining hall, kitchen, and conference hall.

Group activities include Thanksgiving dinner, preparing meals together, workshops, worship sharing, canoeing, hiking, swimming, bonfires, a 'Talent' Show, art, music, games and more. Friends bring their ideas, crafts, music, and games to share. There's unprogrammed time for spontaneous activities, enjoying nature, and just relaxing.

Half of our activities focus on environmental education, a requirement for use of the Youth Camp. Wekiwa Springs State Park is an ideal setting encompassing 7800 acres of wild Florida at the headwaters of the Wekiva River with 19 distinct plant communities and an abundance of wildlife. [FUN FACT! "WekiWa" denotes the springs; "WekiVa" denotes the river.]

Field Secretary for EarthCare, Beverly Ward, will bring EarthCare resources, workshop and worship sharing topics, and activities to share. The troupe, Bohn Jeverly (*Not to be missed!*), will perform a play from the [Climate Change Theatre Action](#) 2019 Lighting the Way cycle. Interested in the plays? Contact Beverly Ward, fsearthcare@seymquakers.org.

Youth & Young Adult Coordinator Kody Hersh will be on hand to facilitate activities with kids, teens, and young adults, providing some "down time" for parents and sponsors.

Houston Cypress, Two-Spirit Poet, Artist, and Activist from the Otter Clan of the Miccosukee Tribe, and a Director of the [Love the Everglades Movement](#), will be our featured speaker Saturday night. The Love the Everglades Movement works for the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem with a holistic focus on issues such as the urgency of cleaning up the water and respect for Miccosukee Sovereignty. The Movement integrates a Spiritual approach in its mission to educate and connect with as many people, communities, and organizations as possible.

Thanksgiving Dinner Half-Yearly Meeting kicks off with Thanksgiving dinner at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

Here's how it works:

Some Friends arrive early (2 pm) to cook the main meal * Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, and a vegetable are provided * Everyone else brings cold sides, desserts, bread, salads, vegetables, etc. Bring prepared dishes only – there's no extra space in the kitchen * Community time in the dining hall is from 5-6 p.m. * Dinner is served at 6p.m.*

Meals We prepare all the meals ourselves – help out and get to know Friends from all over SEYM and have FUN!

Thanksgiving Dinner: \$8/Adult, \$4/Youth
Breakfast: \$3/Adult, \$2/Youth

Lunch: \$5/Adult, \$3/Youth
Dinner: \$6/Adult, \$3/Youth

Lodging The Wekiwa Youth Camp has group cabins. Unfortunately, we cannot use tents in this area. Families and friends are housed together as requested. Attenders 18-35 years old can opt to stay together in a "Young Adult" cabin. Gender-neutral housing and ADA compliant cabins are available. The Infirmary building has burned down, so there is limited availability of heated cabins with bathrooms.

Heated cabins (with private bath)	\$16.00 per night for Adults/\$10.00 for Youth
Rustic cabins (no heat; bathhouse nearby)	\$12.00 per night for Adults/\$8.00 for Youth
Day Use Only:	\$2.00 per day for Adults/Free for Youth

What to Bring

- Warm bedding, sheets, towels, pillows, toiletries –low temps at Thanksgiving averages 60°, but it can get cold!
- Appropriate shoes, outdoor clothes, sweater, jacket, coat
- Flashlight, water bottle, personal coffee mug or tea cup
- Games, craft supplies, toys, telescopes, binoculars
- Talents, story-telling, painting and other arts and crafts materials, musical instruments

Scholarships are available! PLEASE! *don't let money keep you from attending!* Call or email Clerk, Jerry Knutson, to learn how SEYM can help as soon as possible (*the earlier the better!*). At the same time contact your Meeting to see how they can help. On the online registration form, check "Applying for Scholarship" and under "Payment Options" select "Pay at Check-In," then submit your form.

Registration and details, go to: <http://seymquakers.org/news-events/half-yearly-meeting/>

HYM Clerk: Jerry Knutson • almostluddite@gmail.com • 407-595-4880

Registrar: Brian Olson • brianolson64@gmail.com • 305-582-3027

Food Coordinator: Caroline Kaufmann • kaufmanncl@msn.com • 412-496-2539

Youth HYM is an important time for SEYM youth to connect and have fun!

- Youth (under 18) registration fee is waived; pay only for food and lodging
- Must have a parent or adult sponsor if under 18
- Parents, Guardians, and Sponsors must supervise their own youth.
- Each Youth must bring a completed [Parent or Guardian Consent & Release form](#) to HYM.

Volunteer *HYM Works Because Everyone Pitches In!!!*

- Meal Preparation: to lead a meal team or help cook, email Caroline Kaufmann, Food Coordinator, kaufmanncl@msn.com. In the subject line put HYM Kitchen Volunteer
- Kitchen and Sunday Cleanup: everyone, please! Sign-up in the dining hall when you arrive.
- Discussion Sessions: lead a discussion about the environment, Quakerism, spirituality.
- Imagination Stations: bring anything that sparks creativity: crafts, games, outdoor games, science projects, etc.
- Talent Show: musical instruments, skits, or stories to share.
- Worship Sharing: set a time, bring some queries.
- Photographer: capture our memories then send your photos to the SEYM office, office@seym.org.

Swimming, Canoeing, Kayaking, Biking Friends can enjoy the Wekiwa Springs swimming area during daylight hours. **No swimming in the river! – there are alligators!** You may bring your own bikes, canoes, and kayaks, or they can be rented from the Park's concession.

Getting Here Wekiwa Springs State Park is just north of Orlando 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka, Florida

From I-4 near Longwood-Altamonte Springs: Exit 94. Go west on Hwy SR 434 for about 1 mile, then northwest on Wekiwa Springs Road for about 4 miles. Follow signs to park.

From Hwy 441 through Apopka: Turn east onto Hwy SR 436. Look for left turn onto Wekiwa Springs Road. Go several miles to park.

- Tell the ranger you are going to the Quaker gathering in the Youth Camp; the park entry fee is included in your registration.
- Gate locks at sunset. Call registrar's cell for entry code: 305-582-3027. Let us know that you're arriving late so we'll be looking for you.

State Park Rules

- Wear helmets while biking
- Camp must be cleaned for inspection by rangers
- 50% of program must be environmental
- No tents or RVs in the Youth Camp area
- No alcohol
- No pets
- No firewood collecting
- No removal of plants or natural objects