



North Florida ManREACH (April 20-23, 2023) Application

Dogwood Acres, 3320 Harmony Rd., Chipley, FL 32428

4pm Thursday-12 noon Sunday



Last Name

First Name

Have you attended ManREACH before?

Yes

No

Street

City

State

ZIP

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-

E-mail

Phone with area code

Date of Arrival : _____

ALL GUESTS WILL SHARE A CABIN. CABINS/BUNKS ARE NOT ASSIGNED, FIRST TO ARRIVE WILL HAVE BEST CHOICE.

Each cabin has it's own shower, sink, and toilet, as well as heating and air conditioning.

PLEASE BRING: TWIN SHEETS, BLANKET, PILLOW, TOWEL, TOLIETRIES, FLASH LIGHT, BUG SPRAY, ALARM CLOCK, SNACKS, WARM CLOTHING/JACKET FOR COOLER NIGHTS AND ANY ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY DURING FREE TIME (GAMES, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, ETC)

Special Needs: Handicap Room Limited Mobility Visually Impaired Other _____

Vegetarian No Beef No Pork Other _____

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Name of Emergency Contact

Phone of Emergency Contact

Application will not be processed without an emergency contact (must be available for contact during gathering)

Registration Fee \$65: (check one)

Credit Card JMC VISA

_____-_____-_____-

Card Number

Check payable to OASIS

Expiration Date _____

Money Order payable to OASIS

3 Digit Security Code _____ Billing Zip Code of Card _____

APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED UNTIL FULL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED.

A CONFIRMATION E-MAIL WILL BE SENT ONCE YOU ARE ACCEPTED.

[] check that you understand the above AND have read, understand, and will abide by the Code of Conduct that is found on the following page.

**Return both completed pages to OASISflorida / ManREACH,
P.O. Box 35, Fort Walton Beach FL, 32549 or FAX to (850) 314-0952,
direct any questions to (850) 314-0950**

Sign that you understand and agree to all

PLEASE READ CODE OF CONDUCT ON FOLLOWING PAGE

signature

date

OFFICAL USE ONLY

Received

Entered

Amount Charged

Check#

Money Oder#

Card Ran

ManREACH Gathering Code of Conduct

Please read fully, and initial each item to verify your full understanding and promise to comply.

Please return this when you submit your application.

Mission

The mission of North Florida ManREACH is to build heart-centered connections and community among gay/bi/queer/trans men in rural North Florida.

Core Values

- We are a grass roots and peer-based community.
- We are inter-generational and cross-cultural.
- We support integrating healthy transformations in ourselves, and our community.
- We are open, respectful and honoring in a safe environment.
- We model stewardship and mentorship.
- We promote health, responsibility and ownership in a gay-affirming community.
- We believe in sexuality as a healthy expression of intimacy.
- We support deeper connections among men, unaltered by drugs and alcohol.

_____ 1. We often receive more applications that we can accommodate. If you are granted a spot to attend ManREACH you are expected to attend the workshops that are presented. Not doing so limits what you will gain from this rare opportunity.

_____ 2. Registration fees cover cabin, meals (Thursday: Dinner, Friday : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Saturday : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Sunday : Breakfast, (Lunch for the Road), and gathering materials.

_____ 4. Transportation is not included in registration fees.

_____ 5. ManREACH is drug and alcohol free. Use of any drugs or alcohol will result in having to leave the gathering and will bar you from attending future gatherings.

_____ 6. Cabins and bunks are not reserved. First to arrive will have best choice. Any cabin mate issues or concerns that arise are to be brought to the attention of conference staff NOT campground staff.

_____ 7. Smoking in cabins, unwanted sexual advances, or any disruptive or offensive conduct directed at either fellow gathering attendees, gathering staff or volunteers, campground guests or staff will result in expulsion from the gathering without refund. **IF YOU ARE FOUND TO HAVE ENGAGED IN SUCH BEHAVIOR, YOU WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FUTURE GATHERINGS.**

_____ 8. You will be responsible for any damage done to campground property or equipment.

_____ 9. If I can not attend ManREACH, I will notify OASIS Florida as soon as possible. No refunds will be made later than 48 hours without a doctors medical excuse.

_____ 10. If OASIS Florida deems it necessary to call medical or police assistance, any costs involved will be the responsibility of the parties involved and not OASIS Florida.

_____ 11. As part of this gathering everyone is expected to “pitch in” and assist with meal preparations, campsite upkeep, and cleaning of your cabin before leaving.

_____ 12. OASIS Florida / ManREACH is not responsible for photos taken by participants of other participants.



OASIS Florida is please to invite you to attend our next North Florida ManREACH Gathering, to be held April 20-23, 2023. Please take a moment to read about this unique opportunity and make plans to attend. (Application and code of conduct follows this overview.)



Mission

The mission of North Florida ManREACH is to build heart-centered connections and community among gay/bi/queer/trans men in North Florida.
REACH is an acronym for Rural Education in Action for Community Health.

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“Heart-centered”

The term "heart-centered" refers to a presence of mind that allows each of us to honor our feelings and the feelings of others. Such emotional authenticity creates a safe, nurturing environment where men can share their truths. Within this space, each man can speak openly and honestly, be heard without judgment and enjoy the support of his community. Within this space, each man has the power to offer and receive unconditional love, wisdom, acceptance, compassion and healing.

The heart-circle has roots in many cultures. It offers a sacred space where men can speak from the heart rather than the intellect. After an opening ceremony, which is used to help focus the group's intention, a talisman is passed around. The person holding the talisman may speak, sit silently or pass it on in a clockwise rotation. While holding the talisman, the speaker is witnessed by a community of listeners. There are no responses, interruptions or side conversations. The heart circle is a place of emotional authenticity, non-judgmental listening, respect and compassion, and it profoundly affected the men who participated in it.

Building Community

The excitement that North Florida ManREACH is generating among gay/bi/queer/trans men throughout north Florida underscores the need for such a gathering. Gay/bi/queer/trans men have an underlying desire to connect in deeper, longer-lasting ways with other gay/bi/queer men, but there may be barriers that interfere with this, including: unresolved issues resulting from internalized and external homophobias, mistreatment and abuse by previous friends, sex partners, and the community-at-large; the isolating and damaging effects of alcohol and other drugs, often as a form of self-medication and/or a reflection of community norms; awkwardness due to lack of experience, low self-esteem and poor body image; and cynicism, born out of defensiveness, doubting that such connections are possible.

North Florida ManREACH offers gay/bi/queer men a support network that has not been available to them before and is helping them build a community where none existed before. ManREACH embraces the notion that a community-building project can encourage deeper, longer-lasting relationships among rural gay/bi/queer/trans men, with ensuing health benefits, by a

combination of strategies, including: immersing men in an environment where such relationships are modeled and expected; providing a supportive environment for men to reveal their difficulties and successes with emotional, spiritual, physical and addictive issues; connecting men with support, treatment and care resources as needed; and supporting men in their recovery and journey toward wellness. It is these principles that will guide North Florida ManREACH's planning, decision making and growth in the years to come.

What guys have said about ManREACH: ***Why did you attend a ManREACH gathering?***

- "ManREACH has helped me find honest, supportive connections I didn't think were possible with other men."
- "To catch up with old friends and make new ones."
- "Because this is about my community, and community is important to me."
- "I'm addicted to love."
- "To experience the love and beauty I see in each individual and the sense of power I experience when we get together."
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What did you enjoy most about this gathering?

- "Relaxing and interacting with other men in an environment that encourages us to be all we can be while acknowledging who we currently are."
- "The love and support that comes from being in a group of men who want to free themselves from the stereotypes and judgments of the outside world."
- "The love, compassion and honesty."
- "Discovering that my experiences as a gay man are far more common than I realized and just knowing that others have gone through it, too, makes things easier."
- "The heart circles and the massage workshop."
- "The fabulous food!"
- "What's not to like?"

What did you take home from this gathering?

- "Greater self-acceptance."
- "Increased knowledge to protect my health."
- "A support network for personal change and growth."
- "Hope."
- "Unconditional love."
- "A sense of belonging and acceptance."

What does North Florida ManREACH do well?

- “Welcomes people with open arms.”
- “Brings together men of various ages and backgrounds.”
- “Shows me that there really are gay men out there with hearts and souls.”
- “Creates community.”
- “Provides a safe environment.”
- “Reassures me.”
- “Adjusts itself for each person’s needs.”
- “Food!”
- “Everything from beginning to end.”

North Florida ManREACH has helped me...

- “...discover my inner strengths.”
- “...meet new friends.”
- “...relate to men in non-sexual ways.”
- “...identify patterns in my life that have prevented me from living life to the fullest.”
- “...renew lost hope.”
- “...celebrate my plumage!”
- “...realize how lucky I am.”