

2022 UCM Camping Information

July 8-10 | [Registration Form](#)

[Kettle Pond Campground](#)

6993 State Forest Rd
Groton, VT 05046

UCM aims to create a fun and spiritually nourishing weekend that includes time and space for community-building as well as quiet contemplation and communion with nature. We want this event to be accessible and welcoming to all. We hope to offer parents some time for connection with other adults at the same time as everyone makes new friendships across the generations. Please let us know if you are new to camping or need equipment and we will do our best to find assistance. We also encourage day visitors to join the festivities if anyone doesn't wish to camp overnight.

Location

The [campground](#) is located on the shores of Kettle Pond, an undeveloped pond in Groton State Forest. There are 26 lean-tos arranged into five separate groups sites. We'll have two of these group sites with 11 total campsites. There is a campers' beach and miles of hiking trails in Groton State Forest. The campground is about 25 miles from downtown Montpelier, east of Plainfield.

Food

Please plan on bringing your own food and any cooking equipment you might want. We'll aim for a potluck lunch at Noon on Saturday, July 9. We'll provide a group space for folks to gather together at mealtimes if they wish, along with a communal cook fire lit during mealtimes.

Water

There is no running water at Kettle Pond. You will need to bring your own drinking water. Drinking water is available at the New Discovery center two miles away.

Shelter

There are 11 lean-to sites in two adjacent group pods. ([View the campground map.](#)) Lean-tos come with a picnic table and a fire pit. Because of mosquitos, people usually pitch tents within the lean-to. Each lean-to has space for one medium tent or two small (2 person) tents. There are often areas for tents near the lean-tos. Lean-tos will be available on a first come basis. If you are an individual or pair, we may ask you to share lean-to space.

Safety of Youth

We are excited to create a multigenerational experience. Youth 13 and younger must be within sight of parents/caregivers at all times. For some periods of time, there may be another designated adult that parents/caregivers have explicitly placed in charge of their child's supervision. We will follow UCM's policy of at least two adults present when leading activities with youth.

Firewood

Each lean-to has a fire pit. Per Vermont State Parks guidelines: "Firewood is not to be brought to parks from out of state UNLESS the wood is packaged, labeled as having been heat treated, and certified by USDA or the appropriate state department of agriculture." Firewood is available to purchase at the New Discovery center two miles away.

Restrooms & Showers

There are two composting toilets and two double pit toilets. Coin operated showers are available at New Discovery campground.

Dogs

We are committed to creating a safe and comfortable environment for everyone, while recognizing that for some people their dogs are their family and that camping with a dog is one of the joys of having a dog. Well behaved dogs who get along well with other dogs and people, including small children, are welcome. We will follow Vermont State Parks guidelines regarding dogs. These include that dogs be attended (not left alone) at all times. Dogs must be on a secure leash not greater than 10' or safely confined. We will ask that dogs not be present at the common eating area during meal times. The park charges \$1 per dog per night. If issues arise, we would reserve the right to ask you to take your dog home.

Fees

Weekend Pass: \$14/person (kids 3 and under are free). This is for both Friday and Saturday nights, or just Saturday night. Your spot is guaranteed when payment is received. Having this weekend be accessible to all individuals and families is important to us and we are happy to adjust these fees based on your specific needs. Indicate on the [registration form](#) if you need assistance. Make checks payable to UCM with “camping” written in the memo line. Checks can be left at one of the church offices, or sent to UCM, Attn: Camping Committee, 130 Main St., Montpelier, VT 05602.

Registration

Because space is limited, please complete the [online registration form](#) to reserve your spot. We will try to accommodate everyone but sites may fill up before the deadline. Registration is not complete until UCM receives payment. **The deadline to register and submit payment is June 19.**

You may also fill out the registration form if you only plan to come for the day in order to receive planning and reminder emails about the weekend. (Last minute day visit walk-ins are also welcome.) Please purchase your day pass and parking permit at New Discovery campground when you arrive (\$4/per person).

Schedule

You can arrive anytime after 4pm on Friday, or on Saturday morning. We'll have UCM Greeters at Kettle Pond to check you in and help get you oriented at 4pm-8pm Friday and starting at 9 am on Saturday. Campsites need to be cleared out by 11am on Sunday.

This is our third year coordinating a UCM camping trip (after a two-year hiatus because of Covid) and it will be what we all bring to it. We are hoping to offer a balance of some structured time for those interested in activities, some time for community-building, and plenty of free time as well. On the [registration form](#) there is a place to list what you might like to offer. Here is a tentative schedule for our time:

Here's an updated schedule of activities:

Friday, July 8	
4 - 8pm	Check-in
Saturday, July 9	
9am - Noon	Check-in (cont.) Walking meditation with Elaine Ukulele lessons with Esme
Noon	Community lunch (if you can, bring something to share)
1 - 5pm	Music jam with Kenric, Esme, Lucie, Meredith, Jeremy, others? Art making with natural materials
5pm	Group campfire lit at base camp for anyone who wants to cook over a campfire and share a meal together
7pm	Campfire (songs, stories, skits, etc) and marshmallows / s'mores
Sunday, July 10	
Morning	Pack-up (check out by 11am)
10am	Worship service led by Rev. Joan

COVID Safety

Please stay home if you experience any COVID symptoms 24 hours prior to attending, or if you are a recent close contact with a COVID positive person.

Questions?

Contact Jeremy Beaudry, jeremybeaudry@gmail.com, 802-922-4335, with any questions and ideas, or if you are interested in volunteering to help organize the UCM camping weekend.