

# Mary Help of Christians Pastoral Center

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## Bow Hunting Permit

The Mary Help of Christians Pastoral Center (MHC) is a retreat facility owned by the Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Its primary function is to help youth and adults fall in love with Jesus Christ and His Church, and we use this ~1400 acres toward that end. We allow bow hunting as an act of stewardship, and are happy to work with bow hunters who partner with us to ensure that safety is paramount and that our property is well cared for. Failure to comply with these policies will result in loss of permission/access and in certain situations, the calling of the authorities.

We rely on hunters to help police the property ensuring that everyone is following the rules as they exist to keep everyone safe and for the stewardship of the land/facilities/property. If you see anyone not abiding in these policies please discuss it with them as you are comfortable/able and also inform the MHC staff immediately.

As a component of our stewardship, all bow hunters are required to do 10 hours of service for the MHC. This is so that the bow hunters can do their part to continue improving the property and ensure that it is a place that can be enjoyed for decades to come. This service is to be done only after prior conversations, approval, and directions of MHC staff. It can be done at any agreed upon time during the following 12 months from the issuing of this permit. Examples of service would include trail maintenance, posting the property, clearing downed trees, or other things that individuals might suggest.

Bow hunting permission is given with the following conditions:

1. You may only bow hunt what is specified on this form, and only during the dates specified.
2. There is no bow hunting when a retreat group is on property.
3. A parent or guardian must physically accompany minors.
4. Communication is essential and is to be kept courteous and polite at all times.
5. All applicable laws are to be followed.
6. A current liability waiver/indemnity agreement is to be on file.
7. You may not bring guests with you unless they have also filled out all paperwork even if they are "not hunting"
8. All Terrain Vehicles (4 wheelers, side-by-sides, etc.) may only be ridden on this property with additional explicit written permission.
9. For safety we want to ensure that there is no group that has become scheduled for a given day since your permit was issued and that there are not too many bow hunters on site on at a time. Therefore, You MUST check in either by phone or in person to be on property. These permits can be given for a single day or for a longer period. Dates listed are all potential dates to bow hunt, however, if you are not able to confirm with someone that you are permitted to hunt on a particular day, you are not allowed.
10. As verification of permission to bow hunt, you will be given a MHC bow hunting button for this season in particular. The button is to be worn in a visible manner to assist hunters in easily

identifying who has permission to bow hunt on property and who does not. Buttons are only to be used by the person to whom it is issued; they may not be shared or transferred.

11. To help us be good stewards of our land, we ask that you inform the MHC staff of any animals taken from the property. This is to be done by going to [bishophodges.org/hunting](http://bishophodges.org/hunting) and filling the stewardship report form. Take a picture of your harvest and please include what you took, size, quantity, weight, and other pertinent information. Failure to report will result in discontinued permission. If you took nothing or never ended up hunting, please still email to inform us of this at the end of the season.
12. No hunting within 100 yards of any Mary Help of Christians Pastoral Center buildings including barns and sheds. **There is NO HUNTING in the following areas.** No bows may be shot into or out of these areas
  - ⑩ Within 100 yards of the main Hodges Lodge building or of the lower campus buildings and lake. *This includes the areas near the antenna, by the lake, stations trail, etc.*
  - ⑩ Within 100 yards of a barn. *This includes all space from 219 to the river, from the north side of the property to 100 yards south of the barns, and within 100 yards of the barns to the east of the river up to the woodline.*
  - ⑩ We have a neighbor's house that is on the east side of 219 in the woods off Bell Crouch Rd. Out of concern for them, their safety, and their property, there is no hunting within 100 yards of/and no firing towards that property.
13. Stands, blinds, etc. are allowed as long as the following conditions are met. Note that others are allowed to bow hunt on property as well and there are no reserved locations. Please inform MHC staff of any items on property that aren't within these policies.
  - ⑩ No equipment is to be used that will permanently alter the property.
  - ⑩ The health of the trees is important and they are not to be damaged
  - ⑩ No equipment is to be left on property.
  - ⑩ No cameras that can be accessed remotely.
14. A copy of your WV hunting license is to be on file before a permit can be given when what you are hunting requires a license.
15. No baiting is allowed. Parking is to be before the red bridge.
16. You will also be sent out via email or mail a survey that needs to be filled out and send back in in the Spring of the year requesting information from your time here at the MHC.

In compliance with the above polices \_\_\_\_\_ has permission to hunt \_\_\_\_\_ on woodland areas of the Mary Help of Christians Pastoral Center (MHC) owned by the diocese of Wheeling – Charleston on these dates: \_\_\_\_\_.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Color and Make of Vehicle: \_\_\_\_\_

License Plate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hunter agrees to abide by all above policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hunter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Permission granted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Help of Christians Pastoral Center

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date