

Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center

39 Catholic Conference Center

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Wild Forage Gathering Permit

The Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center (BHPC) 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 collecting wild edibles as an act of stewardship, and are happy to work with people 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 you 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 BHPC staff immediately.

As a component of our stewardship, all individuals are required to do 10 hours of service for the BHPC. This is so that everyone 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 BHPC 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.

Wild Forage Gathering permission is given with the following conditions:

1. You may only collect wild edibles that are specified on this form, and only during the dates specified.
2. There is no gathering 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 gathering"
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 people 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 gather, however, if you are not able to confirm with someone that you are permitted to gather on a particular day, you are not allowed.
10. As verification of permission to gather, you will be given a BHPC button for this season in particular. The button is to be worn in a visible manner to assist others in easily identifying who has permission to gather 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, please inform the BHPC staff of any plants taken from the property. This is to be done by going to bishophodges.org/hunting and filling out the stewardship report form. Please include a picture of 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 gathering, please still email to inform us of this at the end of the season.

12. Please inform BHPC staff of any items that hunters may have left 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 without explicit written permission when you are not actively on property.

13. Vehicles are to be parked before you cross the bridge.

14. 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 BHPC.

In compliance with the above polices _____ has permission to gather _____ on woodland areas of the Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center (BHPC) 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 gatherer agrees to abide by all above policies.

Gatherer

Date

Permission granted by:

Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center

Date