



Expand Your Horizons



Host your group retreat
at Silver Lake Conference
Center and find perspective,
discover your inspiration,
build community, and
experience a greater
connection to the
world around you.

223 Low Road • Sharon, Connecticut
www.silverlakect.org • 860-364-5526



About Silver Lake

Silver Lake is a camp and retreat facility located on more than sixty acres of wooded land along a lake in northwestern Connecticut. Silver Lake has offered a respite in the woods and immersion in nature, away from the pressures of everyday life, for youth and adults alike since its founding as a United Church of Christ summer camp in 1957.

Nestled among pines, cedars, and maples, five year-round retreat buildings and two seasonal cabin villages, all of varying sizes, make it possible to welcome groups as small as ten and as large as one hundred fifty. Each of our retreat facilities is designed to promote community building, with a large central meeting space surrounded by bedrooms.

In addition to comfortable lodging, Silver Lake offers indoor and outdoor meeting spaces, full food services, recreation (including high and low ropes challenge courses), and more.

We are equipped to host a wide variety of retreats including church groups of all denominations and faiths, seekers, nonprofit groups, school groups, hobbyists and crafters, day meetings, and people seeking teambuilding, community building, a greater connection to nature, and spiritual renewal.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST • SIMSBURY, CT

“Our high school youth group goes on retreat to Silver Lake every year, as does our women’s ministry. The setting of Silver Lake in the northwest corner of Connecticut always makes our groups feel as though they really got away. The accommodations are second to none and provide the perfect backdrop for meaningful conversation, reflection, and worship.”

Extravagant Welcome

Silver Lake offers an extravagant welcome to all our guests, rooted in our progressive Christian values of justice, inclusion, community, and love. We strive to honor the beloved and unique nature of each and every person who arrives here. Step away from everyday life and be a part of a community that cares for you and invites you to grow, learn, and connect. We are grateful that you have chosen Silver Lake, whether for a day or a lifetime.

Your Retreat Experience

Our staff is dedicated to ensuring your retreat experience is fulfilling. Our retreat coordinator is available to your group from your first inquiry and throughout your retreat and can help with planning and organizing.

Our Executive Director and Site Manager live on site and are on call for emergencies twenty-four hours a day. Our Food Services Manager prepares balanced meals that meet the unique needs of each member of your group. Facilitators are available to lead your group through a variety of organized activities.





ACCOMMODATIONS

the Retreat Center

With its updated furnishings, including hotel-style single beds and semi-private bathrooms, the Retreat Center is adult friendly and ideal for women's, men's, and crafting and hobby groups.

The Retreat Center accommodates up to twenty-eight people with twin and full-sized beds. There are two wings off the main core of the building with four bedrooms and three semi-private bathrooms. The main core of this building offers two private rooms and two restroom facilities. A full kitchen, with a stove and oven, refrigerator, microwave, and coffee maker, is stocked with pots, pans, dishes, and utensils.

The main room offers a beautiful, bright meeting space with a fireplace/woodstove and lends itself to casual conversation or special programming. The three alcoves and three porches are ideal for small breakout discussion groups, or just enjoying the wooded views. The large back porch has a picnic table and access to the grounds.

OTHER AMENITIES

- STEREO
- KEYBOARD
- PROJECTION SCREEN
- TELEVISION WITH A DVD PLAYER
- WIFI ACCESS



the Cedars

At the edge of the woods sits the Cedars, the largest of our five winterized retreat lodges. The design of this building aids in the creation and strengthening of communities.

Dormitory-style bunk rooms flank and overlook a large but cozy community room. The Cedars offers six bedrooms located on two floors and can accommodate up to fifty-four people. Upper level bunkrooms each include a half bath. Main floor bathrooms are configured with multiple sinks, toilets, and showers.

The main room of the Cedars is spacious and includes a large stone fireplace with a wood-burning stove. A kitchenette, including a full-sized refrigerator, microwave, and coffee machine, is the perfect size for snack preparation. Full food service is offered in Silver Lake's main dining room located in the lower level of the Cedars.

OTHER AMENITIES

- TUNED PIANO
- STEREO
- PROJECTION SCREEN
- TELEVISION WITH A DVD PLAYER
- WIFI ACCESS



Recreation

At Silver Lake, we believe an important part of the retreat experience is spending time in nature engaging in unstructured activities or facilitated programs. Outdoor basketball and volleyball courts are available in season. Try your hand at disc golf, with a nine-hole course that winds its way through the upper portion of camp. Several open fields lend themselves to a variety of games, including kickball. Swimming and boating are available seasonally. Bring your sleds and snow sculpting plans when the forecast calls for snow.

Challenge Courses

Whether you're looking for teambuilding activities on our low ropes course or boundary-pushing challenges on our high ropes course, consider adding a ropes package to your retreat.

Following the philosophy of "challenge by choice," our skilled facilitators will create a program to help your group achieve its goals. The low ropes course encourages teamwork and problem-solving. The high ropes course encourages participants to stretch out of their comfort zone in a safe environment, supported and encouraged by their community. Ropes programming is adaptable to all ages and a range of abilities.

Participants report coming away from their experience with a greater sense of courage, self-knowledge, teamwork, and interdependence.



CHURCH ON THE ROCK • NEW HAVEN, CT

"We just want to say thank you all for an amazing weekend! From the planning before the actual retreat to our departure, your team was attentive, friendly, and executed our wishes perfectly. Our youth felt at ease and safe at every location they were in at SLCC and that was all because of the amazing staff there!"

Retreats

Each retreat is a unique expression of a community's goals, personality, and connection. Retreat packages are customizable with mid-week, weekend, and week-long retreats available, allowing you to plan the best experience for your group.

Retreats typically begin with groups arriving, unpacking, and settling in before being welcomed by our host and introduced to Silver Lake.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch are served family-style in the Cedars dining room, encouraging conversation and fellowship. Our chef designs a menu around the needs of each group.

Morning and afternoon activities might include facilitated field games, a ropes course experience, unstructured outdoor play, rambling through the woods, quiet reflection lakeside or in one of our outdoor chapels, or even an off-site outing.

An evening campfire, with or without s'mores, is a traditional, beloved way to close out the day. Firepits accommodate groups of all sizes.

Whatever your goals for your time away, our skilled staff can help you plan the perfect retreat.



ACCOMMODATIONS

the Lodge

The Lodge is a breath-taking tribute to Silver Lake's commitment to responsible stewardship of the environment. The Lodge meets passive house building standards and is equipped with features that result in 90% less energy consumption for heating and cooling than traditional building designs.

Rich wood paneling and a fieldstone fireplace with a wood stove insert create a warm, comfortable gathering space for day meetings or retreat programming. Comfortable couches, a small kitchen table with chairs, and additional flexible seating allow varied uses for the room, accommodating up to thirty people.

The Lodge sleeps seventeen in four bedrooms. Bunks are equipped with memory foam mattresses. There are three full bathrooms, one of which is ADA accessible.

The kitchen has an oven and induction stove, full-sized refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, and is stocked with dishes, pots and pans, and utensils.

OTHER AMENITIES

- STEREO
- SMART TELEVISION WITH A DVD PLAYER
- PROJECTION SCREEN
- WIFI ACCESS



the Glen

Nestled beside a picturesque stream, among tall evergreens and rock outcroppings, the Glen captures the true spirit of a forest retreat. With three stories, this building offers flexible retreat space for diverse uses including lower-level dining, table tennis tournaments, breakout workshops, and general community building.

Dormitory-style bunk rooms sleep thirty-three people. Each floor has two bunk rooms and two bathrooms. A balcony overlooks the main room.

A large wrap-around porch offers a picnic table on the stream side. The main meeting space includes soft seating arranged around the fireplace.

The lower level includes a full kitchen with a full-sized refrigerator, coffee maker, microwave, an electric stove, oven, and griddle and is stocked with pots, pans, dishes, and utensils.

OTHER AMENITIES

- STEREO
- PROJECTION SCREEN
- TELEVISION WITH A DVD PLAYER





ACCOMMODATIONS

the Pines

The log cabin style of the Pines creates a cozy, rustic atmosphere. A stream runs through the backyard, providing soothing sounds of nature.

The main room of the Pines features comfortable seating and a large fieldstone fireplace with a wood stove, creating a cozy group gathering space.

The Pines accommodates thirty-six people in five dormitory-style rooms on two floors. Rooms on the first floor include bunk beds and rooms on the second floor have single bunks. There are four bathrooms; three are full single bathrooms with a toilet, sink, and shower. The fourth has two toilets, three showers, two sinks, and is ADA accessible.

A full kitchen, including a stove/oven, microwave, coffee maker, and full-sized refrigerator, is stocked with pots and pans, dishes, utensils, and cups.

OTHER AMENITIES

- STEREO
- TELEVISION WITH A DVD PLAYER
- PROJECTION SCREEN



the Cabins

Two villages of outdoor cabins offer a more rustic retreat experience in the late spring and early fall. Enjoy sleeping among the trees with the sounds of the forest. Large enclosed gathering spaces in each village are suitable for rainy day or evening programming, and a firepit in the center of Cabin Circle is convenient for campfires.

Cabin Circle features seven cabins while Hillside features five. There is one free-standing cabin between the villages. Each cabin has an enclosed porch, eight bunk beds, and one single bunk.

STEWARDSHIP

As part of its mission, Silver Lake is committed to responsible environmental stewardship. When you visit, you will notice multiple initiatives aimed at reducing our impact on God's creation. Each of our winterized buildings is equipped with a wood stove, which burns wood harvested sustainably from our site. Use of the wood stoves helps reduce our fossil fuel consumption. We also utilize both single-stream recycling and composting to reduce our waste.



the Region

Located one hundred miles north of New York City and one hundred fifty miles west of Boston, Silver Lake is uniquely situated near world-class theater and arts offerings and surrounded by mountains, forests, lakes, and rivers.

The surrounding small-town centers offer unique boutiques, along with many fine restaurants. The Appalachian Trail winds its way through this corner of Connecticut, and hikes varying in intensity offer incredible views. Multiple ski mountains are a short drive away and offer skiing and tubing.

Discover Silver Lake

Book your retreat today and discover why
so many people call Silver Lake home.

Call your retreat coordinator at
860-364-5526 or go to www.silverlakect.org.



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*Silver Lake Conference Center is the year-round, outdoor ministry site
of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.*

