



FEAST *of Tabernacles*

2024 Housing Brochure

Welcome to the **Feast of Tabernacles** 2024 Festival Housing Guide

“You shall dwell in booths for seven days.” With those words in Leviticus 23, we are reminded of the temporary dwellings that we all will live in during the Feast of Tabernacles.

As families, we talk about and plan where we want to go for the Feast and where we want to stay. We look forward to this time of the year. In order to make it a positive and memorable experience, we do not leave details till the last minute. We save our second tithe, we plan our budget, and we look to the Festival housing brochure to see what is offered at the various sites.

As you and your family make your plans and prepare to select and reserve housing for 2024, we recommend you review all available housing at the site you will be attending.

To assist you in this endeavor, we have included websites for the housing establishments listed in this brochure. Please check out those websites, as they will allow you to preview the facilities secured by the Church and the amenities offered at each. This will greatly assist you in avoiding unpleasant surprises, such as extra charges and incidental costs.

We encourage you to consider the choices at several sites that serve as anchor facilities for our daily Festival services. In many, if not most, cases, the Church benefits greatly with reduced meeting space charges when members stay on-site at these facilities.

Of course, if you do not find the housing you desire, you may find what you are looking for via an online search. The housing options we have listed are properties that desire to work with the Church by providing a discounted rate for attendees.

As you make your housing arrangements, please remember these important reminders:

- In general, please do not attempt to make reservations prior to the opening day and time for reservations, which is **Sunday, June 17, at 10 a.m.** in the time zone of the site you are attending.

The establishments have been asked to not accept reservations prior to the agreed-upon time.

- Those with disabilities, health problems or other special needs that require specific types of facilities may make early housing reservations, beginning **Sunday, June 3.** (Check with your local Feast adviser for guidelines.) Some sites may require a password in order to make early reservations.
- When making your reservations, identify yourself as a member of the “Church of God, a Worldwide Association.” In some cases, the housing locations will use the acronym “COGWA.” Be sure to give your arrival and departure dates, be prepared to give a deposit, and be sure to ask for a confirmation number.
- Please take notice of the maximum number of occupants allowed in a room and do not exceed that number. Reserving a room for four people and then putting six to seven people in the room is not allowed. It causes extra work for the housekeeping staff and violates the agreements we have made.
- PLEASE make only one housing reservation at one Feast site. Making duplicate reservations blocks housing from others looking for housing. If your plans to attend a site change, be sure to cancel your housing reservations as soon as possible to free up housing.

Jon Pinelli
Festival Planning Team



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What if I have a large family and need a larger facility, such as a house, to have enough space. Can I rent “outside” our housing list?

A. If there is no satisfactory housing on our housing list, you are certainly free to rent something else. Most of the large, home-type facilities are “one of a kind,” and it would cause more potential problems than it would solve for us to list a large number of one-of-a-kind facilities. And once such a facility was reserved, it would be a waste of time for any other members who tried to reserve the facility.

Q. What if I’m torn between two different housing properties (maybe even at two different sites). What is wrong with reserving them both until I decide and then releasing the one I decide not to use?

A. This situation probably happens more often than most would think. It causes difficulties on more than one level. First, it removes a room from the available block that may eventually go unused if you cancel just before the Feast. Second, it may cause a facility to assume it is full and turn down possible bookings only to later have one or several cancellations by people who had double-booked rooms. This causes us problems when we go to book blocks of rooms for the following year.

Q. My extended family is all attending the same site, yet we find we are paying different tax rates on our rooms. Why is that? It seems confusing!

A. Some Feast sites have facilities in different communities, each with different lodging tax rates. Some facilities have a “county tax,” while others have a “county tax” and a “city lodging tax.” Generally, the difference isn’t that great, but it may be 4 to 5 percent different.

Q. What about “extra fees” that appear on my bill in addition to the basic room charge?

A. Some facilities have extra charges for things such as “resort fee,” or “fee for Internet service in sleeping rooms” (in some facilities, the Internet is free only in the public areas). Most of these should be listed in the housing brochure, but it is good to ask about any extra fees that the facility charges when making your room reservation. When in doubt, ask, so you aren’t surprised when you check out.

Q. I have found an establishment that I feel would be a great fit for our housing block. How do I go about giving this input to the right person?

A. At times, members may find a facility that we may have overlooked or that may be under new management. There are a couple of ways you can give input in this area. First, since we may already have our room blocks set for this year, you can write in your suggestion on your copy of the Housing Survey, which is passed out at each site. The Festival coordinator for that site will see it and can follow up on it. Second, you can email the suggestion to the Festival coordinator for that site or to a member of the Festival Planning Team. But either way, please do not try to negotiate with the establishment on behalf of the Church.

Q. I have several ideas on areas that I feel would make wonderful Feast sites. How do I go about giving input on possible locations?

A. We are always keeping our eyes open for possible Feast sites. Our main criteria for site selection is desirable locations within a reasonable distance of the majority of our people in a region. We will occasionally have a specialty site on a one-time or a

periodic basis, but due to manpower and expense, we mostly focus on regional sites across the United States and regional sites in the international areas as well.

The Festival Planning Team is always open to suggestions for possible future sites and welcomes input from interested members. If you know of a specific facility in a particular area, feel free to mention it in an email to a member of the Festival Planning Team. But please do not contact the facility directly or discuss possible terms with the facility, as if you are representing the Church. Doing so can cause confusion. Send in your ideas, and we will look at and consider them in light of current needs, contracts and other relative conditions.

Q. What do I do if I check into a facility selected from the housing guide and, after checking in, I find the conditions to be totally unacceptable?

A. While this situation seldom happens, it is a possibility. Before you actually occupy the room, go back to the management and tell them the conditions are totally unacceptable and ask for either another room that is acceptable or for a refund. Most facilities will work with you. In the event that you still have a situation, feel free to contact the Festival coordinator for the site or, if you know his name, the housing officer. Either of them will be able to help you with the situation.

Feast of Tabernacles 2024

KEY DATES

April 28, 2024

Registration for assigned sites begins

July 24, 2024

Activity information posted to website

June 3, 2024

Early housing reservations begin
(see local Festival adviser for guidelines)

Oct. 17-23, 2024

Feast of Tabernacles

June 17, 2024

General housing reservations begin

Oct. 24, 2024

Last Great Day

**General registration for
U.S. and international sites begins**

SUNDAY, MAY 12

feast.cogwa.org

Satellite Site

Fort Myers, Florida

Beautiful Fort Myers, Florida, will again be the host city for the Church's Florida satellite site.

As a satellite site, Fort Myers is intended first to be for Florida brethren who cannot afford to travel to sites outside of Florida. After the first two weeks of registration, Fort Myers will be open to anyone. The site can accommodate up to 200 people.

The beauty of the Gulf Coast and the excellent venue for accommodations and services make this a very good choice for 2024.

Services will be held at the beautifully renovated Crowne Plaza Fort Myers Gulf Coast (formerly Holiday Inn Airport at Gulf Coast Town Center). Brethren who stay at the Crowne Plaza will enjoy a free buffet breakfast.

There are over 30 top restaurants at the Gulf Coast Town Center, across the main boulevard from the Crowne Plaza.

This area of southwest Florida offers many attractions. The Edison and Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers is open daily. The causeway to Sanibel and Captiva Islands is 30 minutes away, as is Fort Myers Beach. All three have beautiful white-sand beaches, and there are plenty of seashells to gather on Sanibel and Captiva Islands. The popular Naples Zoo is 35 minutes away, and the western Everglades National Park's Ten Thousand Islands guided boat tour is just one hour away.

Fragrance-controlled room available: No.

Lodging tax rate: 11.5%.

Closest airport: Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW), 5 miles. (Hotel/airport shuttle is complimentary.)

Chuck Sinon

Crowne Plaza Fort Myers Gulf Coast

239-561-1550

ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/fort-myers/fmyar/hoteldetail

9931 Interstate Commerce Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33913

\$139 1 king bed, 1-2 people

\$139 2 queen beds, 2-4 people

Note: When making reservations, call 855-639-8440 and reference Church of God Feast of Tabernacles or the group code COG. To book online, visit tinyurl.com/fort-myers-2024. You will need to provide a credit card to

reserve the room. All rooms will be available to members unless otherwise booked. All reservations must be made on or before Sept. 16, 2024. Deposit refunded in full if reservation is canceled two days before check-in. These rates apply for three nights before and after the Feast.

Amenities: Restaurant on premises, shopping nearby, laundry facilities, equipped for handicapped, waterfront (lake), outdoor pool, king or queen beds, air-conditioning, elevator, free Wi-Fi, fridge, microwave, fitness center, full buffet breakfast included.

Distance from meeting hall: on-site