

Frequently Asked Questions about Meg Swansen's Knitting Camp

Where is Knitting Camp?

Knitting Camp is held in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Marshfield is a town near the exact center of Wisconsin with about 20,000 residents. Minneapolis, MN and Madison, WI are within 2.5 to 3 hours drive. Milwaukee, WI is about a 4-hour drive away and Chicago, IL is about a 5-6 hour drive away.

What do I need to know about knitting before attending camp or a workshop?

First time campers should have read one of Elizabeth Zimmermann's books or viewed one of her DVDs prior to attending knitting camp. A basic knowledge of knitting is required--cast on, knit, purl, increase, decrease, and cast off are the basic techniques knitters must know. We will discuss EPS (Elizabeth's Percentage System) for sweater design, as well as additional cast ons/off, increases, decreases, knit and purl stitches, and many tips for circular knitting in detail.

Must I participate in Show and Tell?

Show and Tell is optional. Each knitter who chooses to participate is limited to a few minutes in which to show one or two items of which they are proud or a work in progress for which they need advice. Show and Tell is a great time for your fellow campers to get to know you a bit, so don't be too shy! Though you may only show one or two items during your show and tell time, we encourage you to bring and wear other garments you have knit as a way to show what you've worked on throughout the year.

What is the Contest at Camp 2.75 and 3?

The Retreat contest is a creative knitting contest based (loosely) on a subject chosen during the previous year's Retreat. The contest is one of the most memorable parts of the Retreats each year. You will show and describe your entry in front of the group and all knitters will vote for their favorites. Prizes are awarded to the most popular entries!

What amenities can I expect at The Holiday Inn?

The Holiday Inn is a small 3-floor hotel and conference center. For camp, we have a large classroom, market room, dining room, and a space outside the classroom that we call the "living room." All guest rooms are air-conditioned and have a TV, microwave, small refrigerator, coffee maker, iron, ironing board, and blow dryers. The hotel has an attached bar, an indoor swimming pool with slide, a whirlpool (**pool area will be under renovation during the 2023 events; see below for information about the community pool**), small fitness center, and computer access (in case you need to print boarding passes) as well as wireless internet. There is a restaurant attached to the hotel.

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/marshfield/mfiwi/hoteldetail>

What else is close by?

Just across the street you'll find a large grocery store for snacks, wine, beer, fruits, natural foods, and chocolate. Espresso drinks can be found downtown at The Daily Grind coffee shop or across town at the Starbucks.

What is the weather like in July?

In July, Wisconsin temperatures are typically in the seventies or eighties with cooler evenings. Wisconsin sees all kinds of weather in July (thunderstorms, high humidity, and sometimes cool and breezy evenings). We recommend checking the weather in the 54449 zip code before you pack. Also, keep in mind that the hotel is air conditioned. Layers based on your personal comfort zone are highly recommended.

What kinds of food are served at camp?

We typically serve buffet-style foods so that you may pick and choose as needed to accommodate your personal diet. There is a refrigerator and microwave in your room and a small natural foods section at the grocery store across the street from the hotel.

May I bring a Non-Knitting Companion? How does my non-knitting companion fit in; in what may he/she participate during camp?

Non-Knitting Companions are welcome to attend, but we must know in advance that they will be joining you; there is an additional cost for joining some meals. Non-Knitting Companions who pay for a meal package may attend the welcome dinner and the continental breakfasts. We prefer to keep the lunch space reserved for knitters only, as our lunch time is part of our class day.

Non-Knitting Companions may not participate in classroom activities or join the evening knitting sessions. Exceptions will be made for caregivers as needed.

Are there activities in the community for my Non-Knitting Companion or me?

Marshfield, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids are the closest towns in which you can find outdoor activity as well as cultural events. Below are links for the convention bureaus or chambers for each of the three communities. Additionally, the front desk at the hotel may be able to provide information. In Marshfield, there are some attractions, including a small zoo, golf courses, disc golf courses, parks, a bike trail, shops and restaurants within walking distance, plus a small, newly built waterpark (Vandehey Waters Aquatic Center) with pools and more.

<http://www.visitmarshfieldwi.com/>

<https://www.stevenspointarea.com/>

<http://www.visitwisrapids.com/>