Carey Run MOS Sanctuary
Overnight Stay Regulations
For Personal Visits by MOS Members

⇒ **MOS members** should use this form to request reservations for an **overnight stay of six nights or less** at the Carey Run Sanctuary House or for tent-camping on the lawn area.

⇒ **Overnight stays of more than six nights by MOS members, or use by large groups,** are permitted only if related to research or a special project. In that case, do not use this form; instead, please send an email explaining your request to the [Sanctuary Committee Chair](mailto:SanctuaryChair@MOS.org).

⇒ **At least one member of any group must be an adult MOS member** for personal overnight stays at Carey Run. By “personal,” we mean weekend getaways, family vacations, and everyday personal birding. See #3 below. [Join MOS](https://mossociety.org/join) to take advantage of this privilege.

⇒ **Overnight visits of any length of time by non-MOS members** are permitted only if related to research or a special project. In that case, do not use this form; instead, please send an email explaining your request to the [Sanctuary Committee Chair](mailto:SanctuaryChair@MOS.org).

Before submitting the reservation request form below, please note the following regulations:

1. **Day Visits.** Reservations or advance notification are not required for day visits to Carey Run. Anyone is welcome to hike the trails but access to the house and adjoining bathrooms will not be available and there are no other restroom facilities. There is no need to submit the reservation form for day visits.

2. **Reservations to stay overnight at** Carey Run must be made at least one week in advance.
   a. Reservation requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
   b. Reservation requests may be made up to one year in advance.
   c. Check-in time is 3 pm or later and check-out time is 3 pm or earlier. As long as you vacate the house by 3 pm, you are welcome to stay on the grounds until later in the day.
   d. The house at Carey Run is closed during the winter. It generally is available for overnight stays starting in April and ending in October, but the exact dates vary from year to year. Send an email to [Melissa Hensel, the Carey Run Reservations Coordinator](mailto:ReservationsCoordinator@MOS.org), for exact opening and closing dates.
   e. MOS reserves the right to cancel reservations in the event of circumstances beyond the control of MOS, such as repairs required at the house, power outages, flooding, pandemics, and other such circumstances. In such instances, any fees paid will be returned or can be used as a credit for a future visit on a different date.
   f. Reservations may be cancelled by the visitor up to two days before the intended stay. A full refund will be issued or the reservation fee can be used as a credit for a future visit on a different date. The visitor should contact [Melissa Hensel, the Carey Run Reservations Coordinator](mailto:ReservationsCoordinator@MOS.org), to cancel a reservation.
   g. No refunds will be issued if the cancellation occurs less than two days before the intended start date. The reason for this is that MOS will not be able to fill the vacancy and recoup the income on short notice.
3. **MOS Membership Requirement.** At least one person staying overnight at the Carey Run MOS Sanctuary must be an adult MOS member and that person must agree to be designated as the MOS member in charge. “Adult” means over 18 years old.
   a. The reservation request form must be completed by the MOS member who will be in charge.
   b. The MOS member in charge must agree to assume responsibility for the sanctuary rules being followed.
   c. The MOS member in charge must agree to assume financial responsibility for any damages to the house or premises that are caused by the group.
   d. Upon confirmation of the reservation, the MOS member who will be in charge will be sent a set of rules for opening the house upon arrival and closing it when you leave. Please follow all rules.

4. **Maximum Capacity:**
   a. There is a maximum capacity of ten (10) people staying overnight in the house during personal overnight stays. There is ample bed space in the three bedrooms on the second floor.
   b. The maximum number of people who may stay in tents on the lawn is also ten (10).
   c. However, the combined total of house guests and tent campers must not exceed ten (10) during any personal visit.
   d. Use by larger groups may be allowed in conjunction with a research project, nature camp, nature education training, or other special project. In that case, please send an email to the [Sanctuary Committee Chair](mailto:SanctuaryCommitteeChair@mos.org) to explain your project and request permission.

5. **Length of Stay.** The maximum length of time for any one MOS member personal visit is six (6) nights.
   a. During your stay, you and your group will have exclusive use of the sanctuary house and tent camping area; no other individuals or groups will be permitted to stay overnight.
   b. If a research or special project involving a prolonged stay by another party will be in progress during the time you wish to visit, it might be possible, if you are willing, for you to share the facilities with the research/special projects group. Such an arrangement might be acceptable but only upon mutual consent of the MOS Sanctuary Manager, the Sanctuary Reservations Coordinator, the researcher/special projects manager, and yourself. The Sanctuary Reservations Coordinator will facilitate a discussion to see if mutual consent can be achieved.

6. **What to Bring.**
   a. You must bring your own food and drink items. There is no food or drink stored at the house.
   b. At present, we recommend bringing bottled drinking water for your own use in drinking and cooking. There is sediment in the water coming from the well.
   c. You must bring your own toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc.) and personal items such as sunscreen and tick and/or chigger repellant. Biting flying insects such as mosquitoes are seldom a problem at Carey Run but there are usually ticks and chiggers are possible.
   d. You must bring your own bedding and linens. Bedding (blankets, sheets, pillows) and towels are not provided.
   e. Other items to bring for your own use include hand soap, dishwashing liquid, paper towels, toilet paper, and trash bags.
You may also wish to bring paper plates and cups; this is optional. The house is provided with basic dishware, silverware, and pots and pans.

d. Do NOT bring electric heaters, electric frying pans, or other electric appliances. Such appliances will overload the electrical circuits and cannot be used in the house.

eh. You must bring disinfectant wipes such as Chlorox, Lysol or alcohol wipes containing at least 70% alcohol. You will be responsible for wiping down all surfaces with disinfectant when you leave.

7. **Camping.** Tent camping is allowed only on the lawn in the immediate vicinity of the house. Campers will have access to use the bathrooms and shower. “Back country” camping in the fields or woods is not permitted, in order to protect vegetation.

8. **Fires and firewood.** If you plan to use the wood stove in the house or have an outdoor campfire in the stone campfire ring, you may gather downed wood from the surrounding woods.
   a. Cutting of standing trees, even dead ones, is forbidden. Dead trees provide valuable habitat for birds and other wildlife.
   b. In order to prevent the spread of insects such as Emerald Ash Borer, **do not bring firewood from elsewhere onto the sanctuary grounds.**
   c. The utmost care must be taken to manage any fire safely, whether outdoors or indoors.

9. **No smoking.** Smoking is not allowed in the house or on the porches or in the bathrooms. Smoking is discouraged on the grounds because of the fire hazard with our fields and woods. If you must smoke, please move far away from the house and other buildings and take extreme care when discarding the butts. The best practice would be to bring a flame-proof can with you for the butts and ashes and take it with you when you leave.

10. **Pets.**
   a. Pets are permitted inside the Sanctuary House only if kept in a crate. MOS understands that visitors love their pets and that dogs will likely be house-trained, but in consideration of possible damage to the house, the introduction of fleas or other parasites, and the exposure of other house-guests to pet allergens, the MOS Sanctuary Committee has decided to require crates.
      i. Exception: In accordance with ADA requirements, service animals assisting a person with a disability are allowed at large in the house.
      ii. “Emotional support animals” are not covered under ADA and are not allowed in the house except in a crate.
   b. Pets are allowed on the outside grounds and are welcome on day-visits.
   c. Any pets on sanctuary grounds must be kept on a leash at all times and you must clean up after your pet. Pet waste must be taken with you when you leave.

11. **Wheelchair accessibility.** The house at Carey Run and its bathrooms are not wheelchair-accessible, and there is no paved handicapped parking available. Parking is on a grass lawn that is uneven and may be muddy. The trails at Carey Run are also not wheelchair-accessible; they are natural surface, have rocks, roots and other obstacles, may be muddy, and go up and down steep inclines.

12. **Hazards.** Apart from trail-related hazards such as steep terrain and natural surfaces, visitors should be aware that Brown Bears, Coyotes, and two venomous snakes (Eastern Copperheads and Timber Rattlesnakes) are present at the Sanctuary and may be encountered anywhere, even near the house. Be aware and alert. There may also be Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes, which have mildly toxic saliva. Other snakes at Carey Run are harmless and include Common Watersnake, Common Gartersnake, Black Rat Snake, and
others. Water Moccasins do not occur anywhere in Maryland. Ticks and chiggers may also be present and visitors should take precautions.

13. **Leave No Trace.** Leave No Trace principles apply throughout the sanctuary. See the link for more details but in general it means that there should be no evidence that you were there.

14. **Collecting of biological specimens.** Certain collecting activities require permission, and you must send an email explaining your request for collecting permission to the Sanctuary Committee Chair. The activities that require permission include:
   a. Collection of specimens of any flora and/or fauna. In addition to permission from MOS, an applicable permit from MD DNR or USFWS may also be needed.
   b. Bird netting and/or banding. In addition to permission from MOS, an applicable permit from USFWS may be needed.
   c. Live-trapping of mammals on the outdoor grounds, even if released. In addition to permission from MOS, an applicable permit from MD DNR or USFWS may be needed.
   d. It is your responsibility to know what permits are required for your intended activity.
   e. The following activities DO NOT REQUIRE permission from MOS (no need to send an email requesting permission):
      i. Catch-and-release of insects, arachnids, amphibians, and reptiles (e.g., dragonflies, butterflies, moths, snakes, frogs, salamanders, etc.). Trapped animals should be held for only the shortest time necessary, for example to allow photography and/or identification, and must be released unharmed and in good condition.
      ii. Photography of plants in situ or of free-living animals does not require special permission.

15. **Sharing of photos and submission of species reports.**
   a. We would appreciate sharing of photos to the MOS Facebook page, with identification of the species, date, location, and name of photographer.
   b. Submission of reports to eBird, iNaturalist, eButterfly, Odonata Central, or other such citizen science public databases is highly encouraged. The Carey Run eBird hotspot is [https://ebird.org/hotspot/L473407](https://ebird.org/hotspot/L473407).
   c. If you have an especially interesting stay at Carey Run, please consider writing a short article (one or two paragraphs) for submission to the Maryland Yellowthroat. Draft articles can be sent by email to the Sanctuary Committee Chair. One or two of your photos to accompany the article would also be welcome.

16. **Recreational fishing** in the pond or streams is permitted. A freshwater fishing license is required for all those over the age of 16 and all applicable state fishing regulations must be followed. Commercial fishing is prohibited.

17. **Prohibitions.**
   a. Use of weapons, drugs, and ATVs or other off-road vehicles is not allowed.
   b. Campfires are allowed only in the existing stone campfire ring. No fires elsewhere.
   c. Hunting and trapping are prohibited, with the exception of specific management programs approved in advance by the MOS Board of Directors. Such programs generally require a separate legal agreement or contract.
   d. No littering or dumping.
   e. In accordance with Maryland state law, balloons may not be released.
   f. Pigeons, doves, and other living animals may not be released.
i. Exception: Release of birds and other animals by licensed wildlife rehabilitators or state or federal personnel may be permitted upon advance request. Address such inquiries to the MOS Sanctuary Committee Chairperson.

18. **Upon leaving:**
   a. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY FOOD BEHIND** when you leave.
   b. Take all your garbage, trash, and pet waste with you. Do not leave it in the wood stove or fireplaces or anywhere else in the house or outdoors.
   c. Do not remove any of the dishware, silverware, and pots and pans from the sanctuary house kitchen, or any other furnishings of the house including furniture, books, and decorative items.
   d. Please leave a note describing your stay in the sanctuary log book (found in the parlor).
   e. Each group is responsible for leaving the sanctuary house clean and orderly.
   f. Please vacuum throughout the house.
   g. Please clean countertops and kitchen table.
   h. Please close and lock all windows.
   i. As a last step before you vacate the house, you are required to wipe down all kitchen and bathroom surfaces with disinfectant wipes.
   j. Close and lock the house in accordance with the Check-out Procedures that will be provided with confirmation of your reservation.

19. **Penalties.** Those found to violate any of the rules and regulations provided herein may have their sanctuary visit privileges revoked, temporarily or permanently, depending on the infraction. Financial penalties may be assessed for physical damage to MOS property or equipment. In cases of severe infractions that violate county, state, or federal laws, law enforcement will be notified.

### Fees

- Overnight stays at Carey Run are a flat rate of **$25 per night**, regardless of the number of visitors.
- **Additional donations** are always appreciated and help to maintain the MOS Sanctuaries.

We encourage payment of sanctuary fees through our online payment form. Payment is not required at the time of requesting a reservation, but is required before you arrive; the Sanctuary Reservations Coordinator will provide a link to the payment form upon confirmation of your reservation. Please wait until your reservation has been confirmed before submitting payment. Please submit payment prior to your arrival.

If not able to pay online, you may send a check, made payable to the Maryland Ornithological Society, to the Carey Run Sanctuary Reservations Coordinator, Melissa Hensel. If you want to pay by check, please send Melissa an email to let her know, and she will provide her mailing address to you.