

Retreat Report and Debrief

I read the reviews (thank you Bob!) and it seems like the retreat was a good experience for the 36 repeat-attendees, plus the 4 new men who attended. Some comments expressed an interest in it starting earlier, offering more choice activities or free time, maybe having more structure at the bonfire. The food was ranked well. And the lodge meetings were the highlight of the evening.

What would be helpful, but not easily attained, would be for us to listen to the regulars who opted not to come to the retreat this year. I can think of half-a-dozen who I was surprised not to see. I'm going to attempt to get some feedback from some of those who are in my own Men's Circle, and hopefully be able to share in January.

Even though I am ending my time on the Council, I would be happy to help next year by being on the Retreat Committee.

Discussion What could the retreat look like in 2024?

I liked that we have reviews from 3 of the 4 new younger men that attended (Darius, Tim, and Ben). I also hope that Casey Jackson stays on the Retreat Committee again next year. He is ambitious and could create an experience which draws from our younger population. I was told that there are 29 youth in the 8th-Grade OWL class—that is a lot of parents, parents the same age as many of us when we had our first retreat in 2000.

Circle Liaison Report

I contacted all the men who were interested in joining a circle. We currently have 2 circles requesting members. They are—

Jerry's Circle, which meets in-person. They have added Greg Smith, Vinny, and are talking with Ben Kassmen. They would be interested in one more person.

Circle #10, which is Zoom only.

The (other) men who checked they were interested in a circle are—

- Wren Hess — no response
- Dale Johnson — no response
- Richard Leighton — no response
- John Smart — holding off due to young children
- Bruce Gibb — “thinking about”

If any of you are in contact with Tim Scott, Darius Amjadi, or Eric Hildebrandt, please ask them if they are interested in joining a circle.