



Dear Brother,

You have been selected to take part in the Men's Rite of Passage (MROP) at Evergreen Ranch in Oak Run, California, held April 10-14, 2024. During this experience you will be walking in the footsteps of thousands of men who have already shared this significant initiation, both nationally and internationally.

The Rites of Passage was created by Richard Rohr, OFM, in 1996. In 2012, Fr. Richard entrusted Illuman to continue his legacy of offering the MROP to men. Your MROP program will be conducted by a group of Elders who have been selected and trained by Illuman.

The MROP builds on the classic patterns of male initiation through symbols and rites that are both simple and moving. We ask that you come with the readiness of a young novice seeking wisdom, which we call "beginner's mind." Each day will include rituals, prayer, and teaching along with time to be alone in nature. There will be time for sharing within a small group (your "Council Circle") that is made up of men who will be new to one another so that none will have prior agendas. We all start from zero together.

Mostly, we ask that you come with an attitude of faith and prayer. Masculine spirituality can only be discovered if it is a true spiritual search for "the Holy Mystery." Come not as an observer, but as a participant from beginning to end. Initiation, like life itself, is not a spectator sport.

Please note Evergreen Ranch is a beautiful, expansive property, but also a rustic one. Portable toilets and primitive showers will be available.

Please contact us at [support@norcalmales.org](mailto:support@norcalmales.org) if you have questions or need clarification. We look forward to seeing you and wish you blessings during your preparation and travel.

Sincerely,

NorCal Illuman



### **Next Steps:**

Please fill out the Travel Information Form and Travel Medical Information questionnaires in the links provided in the email.

We are following the gift economy model for our expenses for this event. In this model, Illuman of NorCal trusts that we will receive the abundance necessary to cover our expenses for offering this event. The total budgeted expense for this event is \$600 per person. In addition to your \$25 application fee, we appreciate any additional payment you can make as your intent and means dictates. If you are able to pay an additional \$50 or \$100, that's great. If you are able to afford the full \$575, great! If you can afford \$1000 or more, please be assured of the good stewardship of your contribution. Complete your payment at <https://illumannorcal.org/donation/>

Check our website at <https://illumannorcal.org/> for more information and updates.

The MROP is...

- A personal discovery about masculine spirituality and 'the Holy Mystery.'
- A time to savor the healing and awesome power of nature.
- A process to address issues of loss, grief, and relationships with fathers and other men.
- An opportunity to examine life's priorities and ask courageous questions about your 'next step.'
- An invitation to listen to the 'quiet voice of God.'
- A chance to return to life with a renewed commitment to your gifts.

The MROP is not...

- A traditional lecture-based retreat
- An informational workshop about men's spirituality
- A sensitivity-training or deprivation experience
- A threatening process that requires participants to engage in anything strange or unsafe
- A test of physical stamina



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the dates for the Rites of Passage?

- On-site registration begins at 1:00 pm April 10, 2024.
- The Initiation begins at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 10, and concludes by 1:00 PM on Sunday, April 14. Plan any plane travel accordingly. Overnight accommodations on Sunday will be available if needed.
- It is absolutely necessary to attend the entire Initiation Rite, from the opening on April 10 through final Liturgy on April 14. You may not come late or leave early, except for absolute emergencies.

What will be asked of me physically?

- On your application, you should recall that it noted: “It is important to note that you must have a basic mobility and health that will allow you to crawl, hike, and fast.”

How and when do I handle my final payment and arrival information?

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Where is Evergreen Ranch in Oak Run, California?

The address for the ranch is:  
16992 Phillips Rd.  
Oak Run, CA 96069

From Sacramento Airport:

1. Take I-5 north from Fruitridge Rd
2. Follow I-5 North for 165 miles to CA-299 E/Lake Blvd E in Redding.
3. Take exit 680 for CA-299/Lake Blvd
4. Continue on CA-299 E. Drive for about 22 miles
5. Turn right onto Oak Run road and follow for 1.7 miles
6. Turn left onto Buzzard Roost Rd and follow for 1.7 miles



7. Turn right onto Phillips Rd and follow for 1.1 miles

From Reno Airport:

1. Get on I-580 N
2. Take US-395 N for 92 miles to CA-44 W in Lassen County
3. Turn right onto CA-44 W and follow for 46 miles
4. Turn right onto CA-89 N and follow for 21 miles
5. Turn left onto CA-299 W for about 22 miles to Buzzard Roost Rd
6. Turn left onto Buzzard Roost Rd for 3.8 miles
7. Turn right onto Phillips Rd in Oak Run and follow for 1.1 miles

From San Francisco Airport:

1. Get on US-101 N in South San Francisco, and follow for 9.5 miles
2. Keep right at the fork to continue on I-80 E, and follow signs for Bay Bridge. Stay on 80 East for about 55 miles
3. Take exit 56 for I-505 N toward Winters/Redding. Follow for 33 miles
4. Merge onto 5 North and follow for 127 miles
5. Take exit 680 for CA-299/Lake Blvd
6. Continue on CA-299 E. Drive for about 22 miles
7. Turn right onto Oak Run road and follow for 1.7 miles
8. Turn left onto Buzzard Roost Rd and follow for 1.7 miles
9. Turn right onto Phillips Rd and follow for 1.1 miles

If you have questions in transit, please reach out to:

David Hecht, (858) 348-7387

Melissa Granchi (916) 743-6556

What is the weather like there?

- Temperatures at Evergreen Ranch in April from an average high of 70, and average low of 47. However, the swings in temperature can vary greatly, with evening temperatures dipping in the mid-30s.
- There is a modest chance of rain in April, with total rainfall for the month averaging between 1-2 inches.
- Evergreen is located at approximately 3,000 feet above sea level, and is typically dry at this time of year. Days will be warmer, and nights can be cool.



## Checklist — Things to bring to the MROP

If you are driving, please bring a folding camp chair (preferably without arms). We appreciate it if anyone is able to bring extra chairs.

### Sleeping

- A Sleeping bag (sleeping cot in tent provided) or sheets and blankets
- A pillow

### Toiletries

- A towel
- Soap
- A toothbrush
- Other needed personal items

### Clothing

- Two plain white t-shirts to be used during the experience (no words or designs on them)
- One plain black t-shirt to be used during the experience (no words or designs on it)
- Older clothing that you don't mind getting stained
- A jacket
- **Warm clothing** in case of chilly temperatures at night
- Sleepwear
- Rain gear
- A Swimsuit, for creek swimming if desired
- Durable shoes appropriate for hiking and walking
- A hat (important for sun protection)

### Miscellaneous

- A day pack or waist pack
- A water bottle and coffee/tea mug (a backpack water pouch may be useful)
- A flashlight
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- A journal/notebook with a pen and/or pencil
- A photo of yourself when you were a boy (you will carry it with you throughout the week – it may get bent, consider bringing an expendable copy)
- A drum or percussion instrument. (If you have an extra drum or other rhythm instrument, please label it and bring it for someone else to use.)
- An old school digital or analog watch (if you want to know what time it is)
- A whistle
- Important personal items that symbolize:
  - What you need to let go of
  - What you might need to grieve over



- What you still want to become
- Personal faith

(Note: These symbols will not need to be exhibited, but many men find it helpful to have them at a MROP.)