



The Retreat at Artesian Lakes (formerly Chain-O-Lakes Resort & Conference Center) is a corporate retreat facility designed, built and operated to support learning. Whether working with a start-up company or a Fortune 500 conglomerate, it offers the complete combination of setting, amenities and programs to ensure the success of corporate meetings, seminars, workshops and planning retreats.

We are located approximately 60 miles northeast of downtown Houston off Highway 59, Cleveland Exit, and 18 miles to the edge of the Texas Big Thicket.

Quietly nestled in over 100 acres of East Texas pines and surrounded by inter-connected Artesian water lakes, the conference center provides the solitude and communion with nature key to opening the mind and heart to growth experiences and relationship building.

We have capacity for a maximum of:

- 42 guests on Exclusive Occupancy (log cabin or private home—per person)
- 69 guests on Single Occupancy (one bedroom and bathroom per guest)
- 52 guests on Double Occupancy (two guests sharing a bedroom and bathroom)
- 101 guests in Combined Occupancy (exclusive, single and double)

Overnight Group Packages (minimum 15 participants) may include:

- Lodging in authentic log cabins overlooking lakes or log suites set in a pine grove
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner at Hilltop Restaurant
- Meeting Room with basic A/V Package
- Morning & Afternoon Snack Breaks
- Continuous Beverage Service
- Evening Hospitality Suite

Day Meeting Packages (minimum 15 participants) may include:

- Meeting Room with AV Package
- Up to three meals per day at Hilltop Restaurant
- Morning & Afternoon Snack Breaks
- Continuous Beverage Service

Challenge (Ropes) Course Packages (minimum 15 participants) may include:

- Use of the course for four or eight hours
- Snack breaks delivered to course
- Boxed lunch delivered to course or Lunch at Hilltop Restaurant

Overnight Accommodations and Meeting Rooms are subject to a 6% Occupancy Tax; Hilltop Meals, Snack Breaks and Beverage Service are subject to 20% Service Charge.

Facilitation Services

Our founder, Dr. James D. (Jimmy) Smith, Jr., is a principal in our “faculty” of accredited facilitators, available to work with church, corporate, non-profit, and youth groups in areas such as team building, leadership development and selection, creating a purposeful culture (especially in merger/acquisition situations), business simulations, and strategic planning.

Accommodations

- Authentic log cabins overlooking lakes in six different floor plans providing a variety of options for Single or Double Occupancy. These units are furnished with antiques and feature king or queen-size beds, fireplaces, and decks with porch swings.
- Log Suites. These five units are located in a secluded pine grove within walking distance of the Swim Area and feature two bedrooms (one king and one queen bed); two full baths, work area, kitchen, and covered patio.



Dining

- Hilltop Restaurant is operated by Scott Neal, an independent concessionaire. Corporate meals are served buffet-style, observing participants' special dietary requirements. Groups may bring their own alcoholic beverages. Snack Breaks are served in the meeting rooms' break areas.



Meeting Space

- We offer several meeting rooms in a variety of sizes—ranging from a cozy conference room setting to a room with capacity for 80 guests.
- All meeting rooms are equipped with wireless, high-speed internet access, basic A/V equipment, “tack-friendly” walls and adjacent break areas.
- In addition, many groups turn our decks and gazebos into outdoor classrooms.
- Our ropes course includes a spacious gazebo for conducting debriefing sessions.



Experiential Learning

Rated among the best in Texas, our course provides a carefully sequenced series of outdoor problem-solving challenges and obstacles that use assorted props, trees, ropes, cable and height to provide physical metaphors for situations simulating the corporate environment.



Evening Hospitality Suite

The spacious lobby in our Hospitality House building offers a perfect gathering area for groups wanting to spend time indoors after dinner.

Outdoor options, depending on weather conditions, include the rooftop deck at the Swim Area's Bathhouse, and the decks outside Hilltop Restaurant and the Hospitality House.



FREE TIME ACTIVITIES

Boating

We rent canoes and kayaks to enjoy all our interconnected lakes.

Fishing

Acres of Artesian water-fed lakes are stocked with bass, catfish, crappie, and perch

Campfires with S'mores

When you bring your group to the country, you have to schedule this one evening. *Country-western performers are available w/advanced reservations.*

Hayrides to Campfires with S'mores

This signature service takes guests around the resort and drops them off at an authentic country campfire complete with S'mores!

Other Activities:

Swimming (saltwater pool and Artesian water lake with giant slides and sandy beach)

Hiking on mile-long trail through ancient Cypress forest or on several smaller trails

Bike Riding (must bring bicycles)

Volleyball, Basketball, and Soccer nets (equipment available from Front Desk)

Nine-station Frisbee Disc Course (sets available from Front Desk)

Fitness Center

Bird and Wildlife-Watching

Star Gazing

For a productive business retreat without external distractions, the natural choice is The Retreat at Artesian Lakes!

