

Overnight Events, Activities and Retreats

To ensure and maintain a safe environment for all children, youth, and adults, overnight retreats, and all other overnight events, specifically involving sleeping or camping on parish property, shall **not** be permitted. Day retreats and events are permitted upon approval by parish leadership. Planning of and participation in overnight events, retreats and activities must be approved by the Office of Safe Environment in advance of the event. Overnight retreats and events may only be held at an approved location or facility which promotes and meets all safety and safe environment requirements. Approved locations may include Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House or similar facilities.

Parishes with perpetual adoration are asked to contact the office of the Vicar General for review of safety procedures.

* Please note that all other overnight events planned by parish groups including overnight retreats and other overnight events will continue to be reviewed through the established approval process explained in the updated “Guidelines for Parish Gathering Outside of Mass” published May 20, 2021. For example, overnight youth activities for parish led retreats will continue to be reviewed and require approval from Jason Spoolstra, Interim Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, utilizing the overnight retreat request form available at <https://fwdioc.org/diocesan-forms>. The previous guidelines for the approval process have not changed. A helpful guide regarding frequently asked questions about the overnight retreats and events approval process can be found here: <https://fwdioc.org/guide-overnight-retreat.pdf>.

The Office of Safe Environment will work in conjunction with Jason Spoolstra, Interim Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, Nurse Nancy Eder, and the parishes to ensure that the locations of overnight events meet safe environment requirements to promote the safety and wellbeing of all participants.