



THE BULLETIN

Newsletter of The Prairie Club

Winter 2025/2026



We asked, you answered!

Thank you to those who completed the recent rental survey. As a result of those responses, the following changes have been made for the 2026 rental season.



NEW FOR 2026

- **Check-in time is 4 pm (ET).** To ensure the success of this earlier check-in, we need your cooperation. Please follow the check-out guidelines posted in each facility and check out by 11 am.
- **Two weeks during Peak Season have been set aside at Farmhouse for individual room rentals.** During the weeks of **June 19 - 26** and **August 14 - 21**, a maximum of three rooms may be rented by any one member. Rooms may be rented for any number of nights during the week. There is no cleaning service provided for room rentals. Please ensure that common areas are kept clean and follow the cleaning guidelines posted.

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2026 Peak Season runs from June 12th - September 7th

The office will begin accepting rental requests for 2026 beginning **February 16th**. Don't forget that requests for peak season must be sent by mail, postmarked no sooner than February 16th, and include a \$50 deposit.

Below you will find the 2026 rental procedures, followed by brief descriptions of each facility and links to the 2026 prices.

Please be sure to read over the procedures completely before making your request.

Important Things to Remember When Making PEAK Season Requests

- Be sure to mark "PEAK RENTAL REQUEST" clearly on your envelope.
- Envelopes must be postmarked no sooner than February 16th.
- The rental week runs seven nights, Friday to Friday.
- Check-in time of 4 pm and check-out time of 11 am are strictly enforced
- Rental deposits must not be combined with other payments to The Prairie Club. Please be sure to mail requests in an envelope separate from other Prairie Club mailings.
- There is a one-week rental limit during peak season.
- Keep in mind, late July and early August are the most requested weeks.
- Try to give at least three dates in order of preference to help us accommodate you.

The following is the timetable for rental facility reservations for the 2026 rental season.

January

In January, the Prairie Club office publishes the rental procedures in The Bulletin, our quarterly club newsletter.

February

No reservation requests will be considered before February 15th. Active members in good standing who want to rent Club-owned facilities must mail their written requests along with a deposit to the Club office with the dates requested and the preferred rental locations. Envelopes must be postmarked no sooner than **February 16th**. No faxes, e-mails, or telephone calls for peak season requests will be accepted.

Rental requests will be processed in order of receipt beginning on February 23rd. Listing three rental dates, in order of preference, usually assures a rental during the summer. For your request to be considered, a \$50.00 deposit check payable to The Prairie Club must be included for each rental you wish fulfilled. Your deposit for any unfilled request will be returned. If you do not include a deposit for each rental request, your request will not be considered.

March 1 - 15

Club office confirms rentals with members. Reservations are finalized.

May 1

Final payments for peak season rentals must be made by May 1st. Final payments for all other rentals must be made 30 days prior to the rental stay.

2026 Rental Procedures

COVID 19 Policy

The Prairie Club is concerned for the safety of its members and guests. Accordingly, the Prairie Club requires that at the time of your rental you have not, and any person known to you who will stay with you on the Property or enter Camp with you, or visit you (each a "Member of Your Party," collectively "Members of Your Party") has not, within the fourteen days prior to the first day of your rental been diagnosed with, demonstrated any symptoms of, or has in any way been exposed to any communicable diseases including but not limited to "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)", "COVID-19" or any mutation or variant thereof, (SARS-CoV-2, COVID -19 or any mutation or variation thereof being referred to herein collectively as "COVID-19").

The Prairie Club requires the Prairie Club renting member(s) to execute the "Prairie Club Rental Properties and Facilities Communicable Disease Related Hold Harmless, Release, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement" ("Agreement") and return a signed copy (or an email confirmation of the member's consent to the Agreement) to the Prairie Club office with the balance due on the rental. The renting member(s) must sign the Agreement even if it was signed in a prior year. **You will not obtain access to the rental facility if the Agreement is not received.** The Agreement is available for download on our website: ThePrairieClub.org.

Cancellation policy

Cancellations must be made by May 1st for peak season rentals or thirty (30) days prior to rental for all other rental seasons. If you must cancel after May 1st for peak season rentals or less than 30 days prior to the rental in other rental seasons, there will be no refund or credit given.

2026 Rental Procedures

Cleaning Policy

Each and every renter is expected to help keep our facilities clean and in good condition. Please consult the guidelines for clean-up procedures that are posted in each facility. All guests are required to leave the cottage clean and in good condition before departure. Sheets and pillowcases should be stripped from beds and placed in hampers in each closet. Trash and recycling should be taken out and placed in the proper receptacles. Dishes should be washed and put away before the arrival of the cleaning service. We recognize the earlier check-out time may make it difficult to wash and put away dishes prior to the 11:00 a.m. departure time. If time does not permit, dishes should be placed in the dishwasher and the dishwasher should be started.

If it is determined after the cleaning service inspection that the facility is in need of additional cleaning, dishwashing, or repair/replacement, the renting member will be charged a minimum of \$100 for these services. Additionally, failure to comply with the requirements to leave the facility by the 11 a.m. departure deadline will result in the assessment of a minimum of \$100 to the renting member.

Private Cottage Rentals

Siteholders may rent their private cottages to active Prairie Club members only.

The Prairie Club is not responsible for any aspect of private cottage rentals, including defaults on rental agreements. Siteholders must provide renters with the Hazelhurst Camp Rules and may be held responsible for any violations by their renters.

The Prairie Club office no longer keeps a list of private cottages available for rental.

2026 Rental Procedures

Other notes

- Any Prairie Club member in good standing can rent one facility at Hazelhurst Camp during peak season (June 12th – September 7th). The renting member is responsible for all guests and must be present in the camp for the duration of the rental. The member will be held responsible for any damage or charges incurred and will not be allowed to rent again until all charges are paid in full. All facilities will be inspected after check-out by the cleaning crew and the Caretaker, who will arrange for any emergency repairs. Our facility chair(s) will be notified immediately of any loss or damage. As indicated above, failure to comply with the requirements to leave the facility by the 11 a.m. departure deadline or in good condition will result in the assessment of a minimum of \$100 to the renting member.
- Details of The Prairie Club's rental facilities may be found on our website: ThePrairieClub.org.
- During the initial reservation fulfillment process, priority will be given to exclusives at Buena Vista and the Farmhouse (excluding the weeks of June 19 - 26 & August 14 - 21). The Family Cottage does not offer exclusives during the peak season.
- A waiting list will be established for rentals that cannot be immediately accommodated.
- Off-season rental requests may be made throughout the entire year.
- Please contact the Prairie Club office directly for information regarding renting for large groups.

Available Rental Facilities

Below and on the next page are brief descriptions & 2026 rates of The Prairie Club's rental facilities. All four facilities are available year round. Check-in is 4 pm and check-out is 11 am.

Buena Vista - Each side of this spacious two-story duplex has 3 bedrooms, a living room with a wood-burning fireplace, a fully equipped kitchen, and a shared screened porch. Casa Craig sleeps 8—10 and Sandine's Svensk Stuga sleeps 6—8. Each side can be rented individually or both sides as an exclusive. Linens, towels, and cleaning service are provided year-round.

Exclusive Rental

Sleeps 14 - 18 people

- \$ 2092.00 per week in our peak season: June 12th - September 7th
1-week limit!
- \$ 1034.00 per week in mid-season: April 24th - June 11th & September 8th – November 1st
- \$ 627.00 per week in off season: November 2nd – April 23rd
- \$ 262.00 per night in mid-season (2 night minimum)
- \$ 210.00 per night in off season (2 night minimum)

Per Side

- \$ 2092.00 per week in our peak season: June 12th - September 7th
1-week limit!
- \$ 1034.00 per week in mid-season: April 24th - June 11th & September 8th – November 1st
- \$ 627.00 per week in off season: November 2nd – April 23rd
- \$ 262.00 per night in mid-season (2 night minimum)
- \$ 210.00 per night in off season (2 night minimum)

Looking to make it to Hazelhurst with a small group this peak season. During the weeks of June 19 - 26 and August 14 - 21 Farmhouse will be available for single room rentals.

Farmhouse - 7 private bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large fully-equipped kitchen which includes 2 refrigerators, 2 gas stoves and ovens, 2 microwaves, a dishwasher, 2 dining rooms, and a large common area. Available for Exclusives and individual room rentals. Linens and towels are provided.

Farmhouse 2026 Rates

	Capacity	Peak Season	Mid-Season	Off Season	
		June 12 – Sep. 7	Apr. 24 – June 11; Sep. 8 – Nov. 1	Nov. 2 – Apr. 23	
<input type="checkbox"/> Exclusive	14 -18	\$4474	\$3695	\$2676	Week
		\$1432	\$1285	\$873	Weekend
		\$756	\$681	\$511	Night
First Floor					
<input type="checkbox"/> Farmhouse Suite	3	\$836	\$704	\$526	Week
(1 Queen/1 Twin)		\$273	\$250	\$224	Weekend
		\$148	\$136	\$122	Night
Second Floor					
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #1	4	\$684	\$528	\$374	Week
(1 Queen/2 Twin)		\$226	\$192	\$163	Weekend
		\$123	\$106	\$93	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #2	2	\$553	\$447	\$369	Week
(2 Twins)		\$188	\$163	\$161	Weekend
		\$103	\$93	\$91	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #3	2	\$635	\$521	\$369	Week
(1 Queen)		\$212	\$190	\$161	Weekend
		\$116	\$105	\$91	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #4	3	\$594	\$522	\$369	Week
(3 Twin)		\$201	\$188	\$161	Weekend
		\$111	\$103	\$91	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #5	2	\$594	\$522	\$369	Week
(1 Queen)		\$201	\$188	\$161	Weekend
		\$111	\$103	\$91	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #6	2	\$576	\$522	\$369	Week
(2 Twin)		\$194	\$188	\$161	Weekend
		\$107	\$103	\$91	Night

Family Cottage - Choose between Ravinia or Windsong. Each side of this duplex features a bedroom with a queen bed, a loft with beds to sleep 4, a living room, a gas fireplace, a private screened porch, and a fully equipped kitchen. Linens, towels, and cleaning service are provided year-round.

Per Side

- \$1,320.00 per week in our peak season: June 12th - September 7th 1-week limit!
- \$ 740.00 per week in mid-season: April 24th - June 11th & September 8th – November 1st
- \$ 461.00 per week in off season: November 2nd – April 23rd
- \$ 164.00 per night in mid-season (2 night minimum)
- \$ 133.00 per night in off season (2 night minimum)

Spring Grove - Just 60 miles north of Chicago, Spring Grove Lodge has seven bedrooms, each sleeping 4 - 5 people. Spring Grove lodge has a large fully equipped kitchen. Each of the common areas have a wood burning fireplace and beautiful views of the woods and pond. Perfect for a group get-a-way near home!

Exclusive Lodge Overnight Rates

Check in 12 pm

Check out

11am

- \$394 (1 night stay)
- \$558 (2 night stay)
- \$677 (3 night stay)

Offseason special November through March

- \$449 (2 night stay)

Exclusive Lodge Day Rates

Check in 9am Check out 5pm

- \$114 (Monday - Friday)
- \$230 (Saturday - Sunday)

Single Room Rates

- \$52 per night

The Prairie Club doesn't Hibernate!

Snowy landscapes, quiet beaches, and cozy nights by the fire make winter a special time to get away. As you plan your winter activities, remember that Prairie Club facilities are open year-round—so there's no reason not to embrace the season with family and friends.



Spring Grove's Nippersink Creek after a snowfall

Picture a brisk walk through peaceful winter woods, followed by warming up beside a crackling fire with a steaming cup of hot chocolate and the people you love. Both Prairie Club camps offer beautiful views of nature right outside your windows, creating the perfect winter retreat.



Hazelhurst beach after a long winter night

Each Prairie Club camp features comfortable, affordable winter rentals and access to great outdoor activities, including winter walks, cross-country skiing, sledding, ice skating, and bird watching. Located near unique and scenic natural areas, our camps are ideal for making the most of winter.

Whether you're planning a full week away or a quick escape, Prairie Club has the perfect winter rental waiting for you.

Contact the office today to make your reservation!
You may reach us by phone at (630) 620-9334 or by e-mail at prairieclub@sbcglobal.net

We're Looking for Volunteers!

Interested in getting more involved? Two committee chair positions at Hazelhurst are open, and we welcome volunteers to step forward.

Hazelhurst Beach -

If you would like more information about the role or are interested in volunteering, please email Dan Gapen at gapendc@gmail.com

Buena Vista -

Complete job description is available on our website: <https://www.theprairieclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Job-Description-Buena-Vista-Committee.pdf> If you would like more information about the role or are interested in volunteering, please email the office at prairieclub@sbcglobal.net

Join The Prairie Club on

hikes, kayaking, and other activities!

Be sure to follow the Prairie Club on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com)

Search for "Prairie Club of Chicagoland Activities Group"



New Applicants for Membership

The following candidates have applied for membership since our last Bulletin was published. If you know of any reason why an applicant should not be admitted to the Club, please write to the Membership Committee, via the Club office address: 12 E. Willow St., Unit A, Lombard, IL 60148

Margaret "Meg" Behnke

Chicago, IL 60641

Sponsors: Jack Clancy, Karen Rosenthal

Interviewed by: Jean Hendren

Donna DePaolo-Engelsman

Lakeside, MI 49116

Sponsors: Sharon Lemler, Wendy Lyford

Interviewed by: Jo Burda Smith

Jamey McPherson

Indianapolis, IN 46208

Sponsors: Sharon Lemler, Sarah Mansberger

Interviewed by: Jo Burda Smith

Reminder for Hazelhurst Siteholders

2025/2026 Winter Billing was sent out in December.
Payments are due February 5th

Reminder for Spring Grove Siteholders

Signed lease and down payment are due January 31st
Balances are due by April 30th

Please remember Prairie Club members who are not a siteholder, immediate family of a siteholder, siteholder's guest, season pass holder, renting a siteholder's cottage, or renting space in a Club-owned building may only use Hazelhurst grounds once a month in June, July, and August.

Donations

Thank you for the continued support of our Members.
Please remember that donations to the Prairie Club are not tax deductible.

In celebration of the marriage of Beth Miller & Rich Spurgin, **Sarah Witte** donated to the Hazelhurst Conservation fund.

Our Departed Members and Friends

We have received news of the passing of the following members since the last edition of our Bulletin. Please remember them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Marsha Foote

passed away on October 14, 2025

James Frank, Sr.

passed away on December 15, 2025

A Great Summer Job!

The Prairie Club seeks a Waterfront Director for 2026 for its beautiful Lake Michigan beach at Camp Hazelhurst, in Harbert, MI.

Compensation: \$22/hr

Hours: Negotiable–Up to 400 hours over 10 straight weeks from June to August, 2026. Starting & ending dates are negotiable.

Duties: Watch over swimmers and other beach users to promote safety and compliance with beach rules. Respond appropriately to emergency situations. Teach swimming to small groups. Manage equipment & supplies.

Requirements:

- High School graduate or equivalent
- Red Cross (or equivalent) Lifeguard Certificate, First Aid, CPR & AED
- Must be capable of working with a large group of people of all ages.

Additional information: <https://www.theprairieclub.org/hazelhurst/>

Experience preferred, especially on Lake Michigan beaches. Beachgoers are friendly, family-oriented club members and guests.

We provide additional orientation / training for Lake Michigan conditions.

Job description is at <https://www.theprairieclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Job-Description-Hazelhurst-Waterfront-Director-2024.pdf>

Send applications or inquiries to prairieclub@sbcglobal.net

Prairie Club Officers 2026

President	Mike Maloney
1st Vice President	Sarah Craig Pratt
2nd Vice President	Hope Little
Treasurer	Mark Sever
Recording Secretary	Wendy Lyford
Hazelhurst Camp Vice President	Dan Gapen
Spring Grove Camp Vice President	Erin Kiehlm

Standing Committees 2026

Audit	Charles Manthey
Elections	Terry Riban
Finance	Charles Manthey
Historical	OPEN
Membership	Jo Burda Smith
Nominating	Rebecca Johnson

Activity Committees 2026

Activities/Walkers	Terry Riban
Annual Meeting	Hope Little
Buena Vista	OPEN
Conservation	Randall Lutter
Family Cottage	Terri Breach, Barb White
Farm House	Deb McGrath, Barbara Wittersheim
Promotional	Barb Burton-Halfpenny
Publications	Natalie Brennan
Hazelhurst	Dan Gapen
Spring Grove	Erin Kiehlm, Brian Reed
Spring Grove Lodge	Mickey Hanson
Website	Natalie Brennan

Mission Statement:

The Prairie Club, founded in 1908, encourages the love of nature and participation in outdoor recreation by providing facilities and activities that allow members and guests the opportunity to experience the great outdoors. We foster a sense of community, the appreciation of the beauty of nature, and importance of environmental conservation through the maintenance and programs of our two permanent camps, Hazelhurst and Spring Grove.

The Prairie Club

12 E. Willow St., Unit A
Lombard, IL 60148

(630) 620-9334 Phone

(630) 620-9335 Fax

E-mail: office@theprairieclub.org

Website: www.theprairieclub.org

Return Service Requested

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