

Questions	Answers
About the Retreat Center	
What is WildAcres?	<p>Wildacres Retreat is a well-known facility in Little Switzerland, NC on the McDowell/Mitchell County line around an hour's drive from Asheville, Charlotte, Johnson City, Boone or Lenoir, located at milemarker 334 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Wildacres' conference center facilities are used by more than 80 non-profit groups each year. Wildacres Retreat will provide meeting/recreational facilities, lodging, food service, housekeeping, and most equipment needs.</p> <p>Retreats traditionally begin with the evening meal on arrival day and then end after breakfast on the last day the programming ends. In addition to the two lodges, there is a 165-seat auditorium, a dining hall, a large outdoor patio, studio space with great acoustics, outdoor amphitheatre, and numerous indoor meeting spaces.</p>
Where is WildAcres?	Wildacres Retreat is a well-known facility in Little Switzerland, NC on the McDowell/Mitchell County line around an hour's drive from Asheville, Charlotte, Johnson City, Boone or Lenoir, located at milemarker 334 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.
What are accommodations like at WildAcres?	Guests stay in one of our two lodges which have a total of 56 dual occupancy bedrooms. Each room has a private bathroom and accommodates two guests. There are no televisions or telephones in the rooms.
What is the availability of WiFi?	There is WiFi; it may be easiest utilized in the lobby/common areas rather than guest rooms. WildAcres recommends an experience that steers away from electronics, and so does JAM.
Can I pay to have a private room?	No. Private rooms lessen the amount of participants for the conference.
Can I bring my spouse or partner?	We are reserving all spots for JAM teachers.
Can I stay somewhere else or commute to the conference?	Absolutely! But, you will have to pay for it on your own.
Is it possible to bring an RV, camper, tent, hammock?	No. You can't sleep in your car, either.
Can I bring my kids?	Children under 2 are okay if they don't interfere with the conference teaching for others. Children older than 2 will be counted as participants with a fee like everyone else that we have to cover. Decisions about childcare will be based on capacity and requests by the end of February.
Can I bring my dog?	No. This is not a brewery! Trained service dogs can be requested and submitted in advance.
Should I bring my instruments?	Yes! There will also be opportunities in the evenings to jam.
My question isn't listed here. Where can I find out more information about what to expect during my experience at WildAcres?	https://wildacres.org/getting-ready-for-your-visit/
Attendance Questions	
Can I come just part of the time?	Priority will be given to people who attend the entire time. We will have a registration deadline at the end of February to determine how much capacity is available.

I'm a program administrator, should I attend?	Priority will be given to administrators who are truly working in day to day operations overseeing implementation of the program; this conference is based on teaching methodologies and it might not make the most sense for those who are detached from the programming.
People who teach at summer camps only?	Priority will be given to people who are regular teachers first. If there is room leftover at the end of February, others can join.
Is transportation assistance available?	No. We are covering the costs of room and board (this includes all meals).
I am a teacher and unsure what affiliation means. Please explain.	JAM affiliates are required to uphold certain standards in order to use the trademarked Junior Appalachian Musicians name and program model. Affiliation benefits include, at no charge, licensure of the TM, instruments on loan, donations of strings/accessories as available, access to curricula and templates, access to major performance and learning opportunities for students, enrichment materials and special guest events, student recruitment events, assistance with marketing, fundraising, advisory board development, and program planning. Some affiliates are also eligible for other subgrants and funding opportunities.
How do I find out if my program is in good standing with affiliation?	Inquire with Brett at brett@jamkids.org
<i>More about the JAM Teacher Development program</i>	
How does the teacher raise work?	A subgrant based on the number of certified JAM teachers will be issued to affiliate programs each year starting July 1, 2024, with grant agreement that the issued funds will be applied directly to compensation of certified teachers.
Is our JAM program responsible for funding the increased pay for instructors?	Not at all. This was designed as a way to increase teacher pay without burdening affiliates with that responsibility.
Our affiliate/fiscal agent doesn't want to pay teachers more. Do we have to?	The funding is coming from JAM, Inc. and is not the responsibility of your affiliate program. If your program/fiscal agent is against receiving subgranted funding from JAM, Inc., we can provide teachers with the supplemental pay directly from JAM, Inc.
What is the amount of the supplemental raise?	\$10/hour additional. For example, if you are paid \$25/hour, this will increase your pay to \$35/hour.
Does standard teacher pay have to be below a certain amount to qualify for the supplemental pay raise through certification?	No.
How long will the supplemental pay for teachers last?	Forever, or until the economy collapses.
Do I have to continue to complete certification courses in the future to remain certified?	Certification earned at this retreat will never expire. However, we will continue to offer development opportunities which build upon this one. We aim to build a community of fellow JAM teachers who care deeply about JAM pedagogy and regularly have opportunities to build and grow together.
I can't come to this event. Will there be a way to get certified online or through future opportunities?	Lectures, panel discussions and learning activities will be filmed at this event and used to create a video training course online. However, we recommend in-person participation to achieve the highest level of participatory learning.
What is the conference schedule going to be like?	Full days of expected participation in lectures, panels and learning activities. Those participants with other responsibilities may have to plan on working in the evenings.

I have been teaching for a long time and know what I'm doing. Do I need to come?	Yes! JAM has always practiced a teacher-led stance on professional learning. We want all participants to share their knowledge with others. We are especially interested in learning from those with many years of experience.
Is this geared toward both Bluegrass and Old Time instructors?	Yes. Our guest presenters will speak to both kinds of music and the transmission of it.
Are ukulele instructors invited?	The conference is methodology-based, so it doesn't matter which string instrument you play in the realm of old time, bluegrass, or associated mountain music.
Can I obtain continuing education/professional development credit for another position I hold?	Yes, you will be issued a certificate with the number of hours completed, and we can complete any additional requests from your employer to validate.
For students - will you provide a "school excuse" as necessary?	Yes. We can issue any paperwork needed to validate absences.
Are there any age restrictions for teachers?	No. Anyone under 18 will need to have a teacher/administrator from their home program or a parent/guardian responsible for their supervision and care. Parent housing may be limited based on capacity.
I am not currently teaching in a JAM program. Am I eligible to attend?	Priority will be given to current JAM teachers. If there is still room at the end of February, you may be able to select to pay your way for the conference and attend if you are not currently a JAM teacher.