NORTH CASCADES ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

Wedding

NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE

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Imagine Your North Cascades Wedding

**NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE** welcomes couples to the **North Cascades Environmental Learning Center** for quintessential Pacific Northwest weddings and commitment gatherings. Located in North Cascades National Park and surrounded by dramatic mountain peaks, deep forests and pristine Diablo Lake, there is hardly a more spectacular place to celebrate. Here you can soak in the beauty, take a deep breath, and connect with loved ones in a relaxed, rustic natural environment.

Named among “Top 3 Spots in the North Cascades” by *The Seattle Times*, our ADA-accessible campus can accommodate your entire celebration. Lodging, meals and exclusive use of our indoor and outdoor facilities are all included in our **3-day/2-night Wedding Weekend package**. You can also add dimension and **fun** to the festivities with engaging naturalist-led activities like guided hikes, wildlife lessons, and canoe explorations.

**Tour Our Campus** ► We would love to show you around! To schedule a tour of the Environmental Learning Center, call **(206) 526-2568** or email **retreats@ncascades.org**.

By choosing the Learning Center for your event, you are helping foster environmental stewardship for a hopeful and sustainable future. Weddings and other gatherings support our programs that empower people of all ages to explore and learn about the wild wonders of our region—so all will care for and protect this special place.

**CONTACT**

(206) 526-2568, retreats@ncascades.org  
ncascades.org/weddings
Included in Your Wedding Weekend

Facilities & Lodging
Our Wedding Weekend package includes exclusive use of campus facilities for up to 92 guests including the lake-side dining hall and deck, library, recreation spaces, and several options for the ceremony site. This also includes our 3 guest lodges and the Maple House, the couple’s private residence with 2 bedrooms, kitchen and bath. Discounts available for children under 12.

Dining Services
We provide custom meals throughout your wedding weekend, with menus designed in collaboration with the couple and our kitchen staff: Rehearsal Dinner, Saturday Breakfast and Lunch, Appetizers, Reception Dinner and Sunday Brunch. Meals are served buffet-style in our lakeside dining hall. Additional services available for added cost include cake cutting, table cloths, linen napkins, and custom services. We do not provide wedding cakes or alcohol.

Staff & Support Services
As part of our Wedding Weekend package, staff will work with you to support your planning, share useful information and coordinate your event with the operations of the Environmental Learning Center. We also appoint staff with first aid training to be on-site for the duration of your wedding weekend. We do not provide a wedding planner, decorations, flowers, outdoor tents or DJs.

Activities
A guided nature hike with our staff naturalist is included in every wedding experience at the Environmental Learning Center. Any of the following services are also available for added cost:

- Big Canoe exploration of Diablo Lake
- Wildlife lessons and activities in our learning labs
- Field games
- Campfire and s’mores

Pricing
Our staff will help you create a custom cost sheet for your event. Here are approximate costs for general reference.

92 Guests (3 lodges)
$39,790 / $435 per person

75 Guests (3 lodges)
$37,100 / $495 per person

50 Guests (2 lodges)
$28,330 / $570 per person

Guest Registration
As a way to offset the cost of a destination wedding weekend, we offer our couples the opportunity to set up a registration page through our website by which a fee of your choosing can be collected from guests to help cover lodging and meal costs.

Find Vendors
For local rentals, florists, bartenders, photographers featured in this packet and others, see our Recommended Vendors.
Stay & Celebrate
Our three guest lodges each feature 7-8 rooms, so you and your loved ones can comfortably enjoy the weekend’s festivities. The guest rooms each contain four twin beds (in the form of two bunk beds), reading lamps, desks, two wardrobes with lockable compartments, and shared bathrooms down the hall. Two of our lodges have group lounges with gas fireplaces, couches and kitchenettes.

The newlywed couple has access to the Maple House, a private 2-bedroom apartment near the guest lodges, with a full kitchen, living area, and bathroom.

Dining Services & Lodging

Design Your Menu
Meals throughout your wedding weekend are all provided by our skilled kitchen staff who work with you to create personalized menus. We can design meals around your favorite foods, culturally-significant recipes, or traditional dishes. Our kitchen is also able to accommodate many dietary preferences or requirements for memorable meals your entire group can enjoy.

A typical wedding weekend includes these meals:

- Friday rehearsal dinner
- Saturday breakfast
- Saturday sack lunch
- Appetizers
- Saturday reception dinner
- Sunday brunch

See More ▶ Browse photos of the Environmental Learning Center campus in our Facilities Photo Gallery
Couples choosing our venue express their personal style against the breathtaking natural backdrop of the North Cascades. In addition to beautiful photo opportunities on our grounds, memories are captured with dramatic views at nearby Diablo Lake Overlook and Diablo Dam Road.

See photos from previous couples in our Weddings Photo Gallery to help you envision your own magical weekend.
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** Do we need to hire a professional wedding planner?

**A:** Many couples are able to effectively plan their wedding at the Learning Center with the help of friends and family. Others hire a professional to help with decorations, vendors, timing of events, etc. Institute staff is available to offer support related to the facility and meals. This includes assisting with lights, implementing your decorations in the dining hall, and coordinating the flow of the weekend. Our staff is responsible for managing the facilities, lodging, design and executions of the menu, learning opportunities, communication with staff and guests, and being the point of contact and support for the wedding couple.

**Q:** How long does it take to get there?

**A:** We are located approximately 75 miles east of Burlington, Wash. at milepost 127.5 on the North Cascades Highway (State Route 20). We suggest allowing three hours of travel time from Seattle, two hours from Bellingham and one-and-a-half hours from Winthrop.

**Q:** Do you recommend any vendors for services like music and bartending?

**A:** We have worked with many vendors for weddings at the Environmental Learning Center and confidently recommend a number of musicians, bands, DJs, florists, photographers, equipment rentals and bartenders. You may find their familiarity with our venue a plus when planning your wedding weekend—see our list of Recommended Vendors.

**Q:** What sorts of fun activities can we enjoy with our guests during our weekend?

**A:** As an environmental education non-profit, we can provide many engaging naturalist-led activities throughout your weekend. These could include guided hikes, canoe explorations of Diablo Lake, field games, wildlife lessons in our learning labs, campfires and more to add dimension to your festivities and help you create life-long memories with friends and family.

**Q:** Can we have our meals served outside?

**A:** Our campus lies inside the North Cascades National Park boundary and we abide by National Park Service regulations aimed at protecting the wilderness environment for future generations. One key piece of regulation requires we maintain a “wildlife wise” campus by only serving meals inside. Cooking and serving food outside attracts animals that may then become habituated to seeking human food.

**Q:** Can we take a tour of the Environmental Learning Center?

**A:** We would be delighted to show you around campus and hear more about your vision for your wedding! During most months of the year, our campus is bustling with educational programming so please make an appointment. Call us at (206) 526-2568 or email retreats@ncascades.org to plan your tour with our Conference & Retreat staff.

If you have any other questions not answered here, reach out to us at retreats@ncascades.org.
What Couples Say

“We were married at the Environmental Learning Center in 2017 and had such an amazing time! I can’t say enough amazing things about the staff—they were all so friendly, professional and helped make the planning so easy! The kitchen staff went above and beyond, the food was delicious! It was the first visit to the North Cascades for many of our guests and I’m sure everyone will be heading back in the future. Such an amazing Institute with a great mission and educational programs to match.”

—Rita

“When Tricia first talked about wanting a beautiful, natural place for her wedding, North Cascades Institute came immediately to mind. Having attended classes at the campus, I already had my own wish to assemble the family there for a reunion. What better plan than to combine two wonderful happenings at one beautiful site. The wedding/reunion could not have been better—over the course of 3 wonderful days we got acquainted with the groom’s family and enjoyed the food, trails, library and the hospitality of the Learning Center staff. Highlights were the food, the love, the campfire and certainly, the wedding itself. My daughter summed it up with ‘everything I wished for in my wedding!’”

—Sandy & Steve

“The North Cascades Institute was the perfect place to have our wedding. The views are stunning, the lodging is fantastic, the food is incredible, and the staff are lovely to work with! Emailing and meeting virtually with the staff to get the big picture and fine details sorted out was really easy. Because of all the pre-work and behind-the-scenes work on their end, the wedding weekend was such a breeze and there was not much that my spouse and I had to focus/worry about. The venue is absolutely fantastic. There are great trails that lead from the vicinity to explore, the lake is right there and stunning. Additionally, the venue offers things like big canoe rides, s’mores making, and games such as corn hole for people to play. Would recommend this venue for sure! Will cherish the memories forever.”

—Sarah

“The North Cascades Institute is a truly special place to get married. Not only is the area gorgeous, but the staff is lovely and the food is so good! The facilities are simple but clean and easy to decorate. We loved getting married here and our friends and family did too! Perfect for those who love the outdoors, national parks, and hiking.”

—Nicole

JTobiason Photography
Founded in 1986, North Cascades Institute is a nationally-recognized education nonprofit connecting people, nature and community through science, art, literature and hands-on exploration of Cascadia’s nature and cultural history.

**OUR MISSION** | *Inspiring environmental stewardship through transformative learning experiences in nature*

### Mountain School
Our 3-day, 2-night residential education program for 5th graders serves around 50 schools annually in partnership with North Cascades National Park. Students stay at the Learning Center to connect to the natural world through hands-on interdisciplinary activities in science, math, art, social studies and conservation.

### Family & Adult Programs
Family Getaways, Base Camp Learning & Lodging, art, photography and writing retreats, natural history seminars, community events and Skagit Tours bring new audiences to the public lands of the North Cascades to learn, recreate and be inspired.

### Youth Leadership
This program provides immersive wilderness experiences for local high schoolers who canoe-camp, backpack, learn about climate change and complete stewardship projects while discovering their leadership strengths and building inclusive communities.

### Conferences, Retreats & Weddings
Custom educational programs, lodging and meals at the Learning Center inspire reflection and connection to the natural world as well as to each other. We welcome conferences, events, retreats, workshops, trainings, reunions and other gatherings.

### Gift & Book Stores
We operate retail stores in and around North Cascades National Park and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest selling books, maps, apparel and gifts to help visitors appreciate the North Cascades. Proceeds support youth education in the North Cascades.

Visit [our blog](#) for stories from the North Cascades and [sign up for Field Notes](#), our monthly newsletter, to get the latest news on Institute programs, inspiring images, conservation news, nature facts and more.