

Many of the new retreaters have been asking how retreat works, this is my version. All claims made herein are the personal opinion of me and not the official position of the Quilters Guild of Plano or its members.

Loading your car:

I load all my "room" stuff first. I have a rolling suitcase, my "blankie" (yes, it is a quilt) and my hugging pillow. Then I load all the sewing stuff. This works because when you arrive at Tanglewood you will want to take all the sewing stuff to the ballroom and get set up. I leave all my "room" stuff in the car until after I check in. Remember, check in is after 4 p.m. on the day you arrive, you can arrive as early as 8 a.m. on Thursday and earlier than that on Friday. After I check in I get my "room" stuff and put it in my room. I also put as much as I can into wheeled bags. One year I didn't even need a luggage cart.

Stuff you can bring if you want to:

Personal comfort items like your own pillow or your sewing chair are great to have. If you have the space you can bring it. Our group always brings an extra side table. This is a small folding table we place between two retreaters to create an "L" shaped workspace. Not everyone can do this but when you have seven at a table it gives a little extra room for the side with four people. I repeat, Not everyone can do this because it would create impassable spaces between the tables. Discuss it among your table mates and determine where it will give the greatest benefit.

Arrival:

You drive up with the shocks on your car begging for mercy (from the weight of all the sewing stuff and the speed humps on the Resort drive), and stop in front. Everyone is jockeying for space and for the precious TWO luggage carts. I offload sewing stuff in a pile and go put my car in the parking lot to free space for other arrivals. I wait patiently for a luggage cart. I load it fast, drive to the ballroom, and offload my stuff into a pile again. Then, immediately return the luggage cart to the lobby for the other patiently waiting quilters. Now I can leisurely set up my sewing space, greet friends (old and new), and commence the retreat experience.

Sewing room:

It is a big ballroom with lots of long tables. The chairs are a typical ballroom upholstered chair. Your name tags will be on the end of your table. Where you sit at the table and how you arrange your space is up to the members of the table. You may want to discuss this among your table mates in advance. We have a member who cannot seem to confine her stuff to her designated space so we have been forced to employ blue painters tape to demarcate her space. Blue painters tape has loads of uses, bring a roll...the purple tape is prettier but not sticky enough! We do need to attempt to keep the aisles clear for safe access and egress. Always by the end of the weekend stuff has crept out from under the tables and appears to be consuming the room but do your best. The sewing room is open from the first person to arrive in the morning to the last person to leave, usually also in the morning, the wee hours, after which it is locked.

Design space:

Bring portable design walls or flannel backed vinyl tablecloths (lots of choices at the dollar store or Big Lots). We are allowed to use straight pins in the walls. I have a new 8' x 8' portable design wall I built and can't wait to try. The flannel backed tablecloth is a great choice because you pin it up and then all your pieces cling to

the backing minimizing the holes in the wall. You can also tape the tablecloth up with your blue painters tape.

Meals:

Our meals are served in the dining room of the resort, we will be sharing this space with other guests. We are kind, genteel and sophisticated ladies, try to remember this...(giggle). Please look at the Retreat Info document under [Files] for additional information about meals.

Sewing:

You may sew from the moment you wake until you can no longer stay awake. Or, you can not sew at all and just visit with friends and have a great time. The sewing room is available from 8a.m. on Thursday until 3p.m. on Sunday. For Friday arrivals you can come anytime you would like but probably not before 5 a.m as there might not be anyone up yet to have had the room unlocked. The last person to leave a table should unplug the iron and drape the cord over the board. The last person to leave the room is charged with two tasks...you must check that each iron is unplugged, very easy if the cord is draped over the board, and you must lock each of the three sets of doors.

Your stuff can be left in the sewing room all the days of retreat. The resort has security that regularly patrols the grounds. We have never had a problem but in the spirit of not inviting trouble please secure valuable items like wallets, cameras and phones. I know sewing machines are valuable but they are quite hard to slip into a pocket.

Rooms:

Tanglewood is a resort and the rooms we occupy are very like a hotel room. You will have daily housekeeping. As we are all environmentally more aware, so too is Tanglewood. To assist in their continued efforts to save resources please take note of the sheet and towel information posted in the room. Amenities in your room include a television, blow dryer, iron and ironing board, and a phone. They also provide little hotel soap, shampoo and lotion. In my experience, I always need extra lotion while on retreat. Maybe all the fabric draws the moisture out of the air or as my hubby says I dehydrate because I never close my mouth...isn't he a card!

Smoking:

Tanglewood has adopted a smoke free policy and no longer has smoking rooms on any floor. Smoking is allowed only in designated outdoor areas. If you need help locating these areas please inquire at the front desk.

Drinks cups:

Each person needs to bring a lidded and insulated drink cup, unique or marked with your name is good too. Water, soda, ice, coffee and tea are available from mid-morning each day. Why lidded and insulated...lids prevent great gushing spills and insulated cups do not sweat. Liquid travels and is unwelcome in communal spaces sharing so many electrical cords.

Snacks:

We will have snack service mid-morning and mid-afternoon. These plans are not finalized but in past years the morning snack has been a fruit tray and the afternoon snack has been cookies. I expect much the same this year. I cannot predict if the cookies will be warm but last year we had a microwave available in the sewing room and a quick zap can remedy cold cookie syndrome - right!

A typical day at retreat:

sew, eat, sew, eat, sew, eat, sew, talk and laugh a lot amongst all the sewing and eating.

The last day:

You will need to pack and check out of your room by 10 a.m. The sewing room is available until 3 p.m. I check out and put all my "room" stuff back in my car. People trickle out on Sunday so the "cart races" are less intense. I always stay to the end as I can never believe it is over already. But, I will be packing by 2:30 to be sure I have cleared the room by 3.

Letdown:

Just as with any much anticipated activity there is an after retreat letdown. I am always in tears on the way home. Some people experience this more than others. I always desperately need to see my sewing girls on the Wednesday right after retreat. It helps normalize things and we start talking about what we are doing on our next retreat...always looking forward to the next retreat! Too much personal info, huh?

Next retreat:

I hope to post the dates of Retreat 2011 by the first of March and hope to repeat the payment plan. I will be seeking board approval for same. It is my plan to have the payments run from April 1 to November 1, 2010 thereby alleviating any end of year payments. This schedule will have the last payment for persons on a payment plan coincide with the payment from persons who elect single pay.

Your Retreat 2010 Coordinator,

Janet