

Wedding Venue FAQs

Facility

What does my wedding venue rental fee support?

Weddings and events directly benefit the Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy's conservation and education programs. Each event leaves a ripple of positive impact on local communities and the future of conserved lands across Western North Carolina and East Tennessee.

What is SAHC?

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) is a non-profit land trust that protects land across ten counties in the Southern Appalachians — from the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Highlands of Roan, including places along the Appalachian Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway. SAHC conserves unique plant and animal habitat, clean water, farmland, scenic beauty and places for people to enjoy outdoor recreation in the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina.

What is the Community Farm?

SAHC's Community Farm encompasses over 100 acres of historic farmland. Located just 9.5 miles/20 min from downtown Asheville, it is nestled into the foothills of the bucolic Alexander community. The properties models innovative projects combining environmental stewardship with productive agriculture. Here, we have restored 3,000 feet of a French Broad River tributary, created a Farmer Incubator Program, and established space for environmental education.

There are two springheads on the property; the water flows into the French Broad River less than a mile away. To make sure that the water is clean and creek ecosystems are healthy, we created a 100-foot buffer on either side of restored streams on the farm. This keeps livestock from eroding the riverbanks and protects a 25-acre habitat for wildlife to thrive!

What kind of event can I have at the farm?

The Community Farm is a versatile space available for weddings, community gatherings, company events, elopements, etc. We are happy to help customize an event to fit your needs.

What is included with the venue space rental?

The Community Farm offers a variety of spaces for your special event. We can work with you to find the perfect place for your occasion!

Our event space consists of a **large field ceremony site** nestled underneath a 200-year-old oak tree overlooking the mountains, a **30' x 60' hardscaped patio**, **10' x 30' deck** with mountain views, **industrial kitchen**, and a **20' x 30' indoor facility** with a restroom.

The patio overlooks views long-range mountain views with rolling pastoral fields in the foreground. This area can accommodate a 30' x 60' tent.

We also have a **2 bedroom, 2 bathroom** newly remodeled farmhouse which is included in wedding packages and is available for short-term rentals.

When can I visit the farm?

To visit the Community Farm, please schedule an appointment. [Click here](#) to schedule a phone consultation and then we can make arrangements for you to visit the venue!



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Can I bring my dog to the event?

We know that your dog is part of the family, and we welcome wedding couples to include their canine companion(s) in their special day. However, because of the sensitive nature of habitat and agriculture at the farm, we do request that **only** the wedding couple bring their dog(s). Service companions are always welcome. Dogs must be well behaved, leashed, and cleaned up after.

Is the facility wheelchair accessible?

The indoor facility and attached deck are accessible via ramp from the gravel parking area on one side of the building. The patio is accessible via gravel/grass pathway. You may be able to drive up to the patio and ceremony site; however, the ceremony location is an uneven grassy surface. Please let us know your needs — we are happy to work with you.

How is parking handled? Is the parking area lit?

The parking area can fit up to 35 cars, and it has a light activated by sensor. We encourage shuttles to be used for your event.

Can cars be left overnight?

No, unless you have reserved the farmhouse overnight.

Is smoking allowed?

Smoking is allowed outside only in designated areas (behind Education Center on the gravel driveway). Smoking in facilities is not allowed.

Is there AC or heat?

The education building, kitchen, and farmhouse have central heat and air conditioning.

Event Logistics

Do I need to purchase event insurance?

Yes, we do require couples to obtain a certificate of insurance with an endorsement provided to SAHC 30 days prior to the event. More specific information is provided in the Rental Agreement. You can purchase event insurance through your personal insurance agent or online at www.eventhelper.com. We do not require event insurance for an elopement.

What items cannot be used in the décor at the Community Farm?

Any send-off favors such as rice, confetti, birdseed, silly string, sky lanterns, fireworks, etc. are **NOT** allowed during events. No helium balloons are allowed outside the buildings. Tacking, nailing, gluing, and sticky items are not allowed on any area of the venue.

Am I required to have a tent? Is there a rain plan?

No, you are not required to have a tent. We highly recommend it, because the outdoor venue space is beautiful, but weather in the mountains can be unpredictable. We suggest a tent rental to ensure that your event is protected from rain and/or other inclement weather.



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Event Logistics Cont'd

Are we required to use the preferred vendors list?

No, you are not required to use only the vendors on our list. However, these vendors have been vetted and are thoroughly familiar with the facility, so they can provide an exceptional, smooth experience. We welcome you to find the perfect makeup artists, florists, musicians/DJ's to make your event unforgettable.

Our event rental company, Classic Event Rental, **is the only vendor that we do require be used for your event.**

We have selected catering vendors for their variety of options. Each caterer on our list has a commitment to the local food movement and may purchase seasonal produce from SAHC's Incubator Program Farmers, depending on your menu. Enjoying fresh produce straight from the farm is a special treat! We realize that Asheville has a vibrant culinary culture, welcome you to choose a caterer to create the perfect meal for your event. Because we provide additional time in acquainting caterers with our industrial kitchen and the nuances of our community farm facility, **there will be a \$150 charge if you choose a caterer that is not on our vendor list.**

What kind of entertainment is allowed?

Here in the Appalachian Mountains we welcome all music! DJs or bands must provide all the sound equipment and extension cords. No amplified music is allowed after 10:30 pm.

Am I required to have a "Day-of" coordinator?

Yes, to ensure a smooth, non-stressful day you are required to have a licensed and insured "Day-of" Planner. The planner must be present for the ceremony, reception, and walkthrough prior to wedding day. The planner must carry their own insurance and have a current website for their business. We do not require a "Day-of" coordinator for an elopement.

Food and Drink

Is there refrigeration for flowers or cake?

If you are renting the kitchen for caterers you will have access to two large refrigerators. Please make sure you plan with the caterer so there is adequate space for the flowers/cake.

Can I provide my own alcohol and liquor?

The Community Farm **does not** have an ABC liquor license, and, therefore, cannot provide your alcohol. You are welcome to provide the alcohol for your event(s). If you limit alcohol to beer and wine, there are no requirements to obtain a State Permit. A "Limited Special Occasion Permit" is required for fortified wine and spirituous (hard) liquor. We require a licensed and insured bartender to serve throughout the entirety of the event. If alcohol is to be served, alcohol liability must be added to your event insurance. SAHC requires a complete understanding of what alcohol you plan to provide so that we can staff for your event accordingly.

What is a Limited Special Occasion Permit?

A limited special occasion permit authorizes the permittee to bring fortified wine and spirituous liquor onto the premises of a business, with the permission of the owner of that property, and to serve those alcoholic beverages to the permittee's guests at a reception, wedding, party or other special occasion being held



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there. The permit may be issued to any individual other than the owner or possessor of the premises. An applicant for a limited special occasion permit shall have the written permission of the owner or possessor of the property on which the special occasion is to be held. You must complete an Application for Limited Special Occasion Permit through the **NC Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC)**.

How do I obtain a Limited Special Occasion Permit?

You can apply for a Limited Special Occasion Permit from the NC ABC Commission at <http://abc.nc.gov/application/menu.aspx?f=124>. **If you elect to obtain a Limited Special Occasion Permit, you must provide SAHC with a copy of the Permit as you are subject to audit by the State.** Please note that there is a section at the bottom of page 2 of the permit application that requires SAHC 's signature before the application can be submitted. Please bring the application with you to your planning meeting for us to sign if you intend to pursue a Limited Special Occasion Permit.

How much alcohol should I purchase?

We have found that wedding parties tend to purchase too much. To avoid over-purchasing, here is a suggested formula:

You can consider an average of three (3) drinks per guest over the course of a 4-hour reception. Estimate what percentage of your guests will be drinking beer vs. wine. For example, 50 guests drinking beer would consume about 150 cans or bottles. If you bring a keg, one full size keg should be enough to serve 150 drinks. You can expect to get about 4 glasses of wine from a bottle. 50 guests drinking wine at 3 drinks per guest would total 150 glasses; divided by 4 glasses per bottle, this equals about 38 bottles of wine. You can modify this formula according to your guest list and the anticipated length of your reception.

Accommodations

Can I stay overnight in the farmhouse after my wedding?

Yes, we welcome you and 6 guests to stay at the farmhouse. There is an additional charge associated with this stay. All wedding decorations, rentals and events remnants must be cleaned up and cleared off property by 11 pm on the day of the wedding. Check out is at 10 am the following day. There is an additional rental fee for this stay. See miscellaneous fees in our Pricing Package.

How many people can stay at the farm house?

The house sleeps 7 comfortably.

Is overnight camping allowed?

No, camping is not allowed at this time.

What are some nearby hotels where my guests can stay?

RomanticAsheville.com Travel Guide has wonderful hotel recommendations in Asheville and/or Weaverville; both are 20 minutes from the Community Farm.



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