

Lakes of Fire - 2009 - Metamorphosis

SURVIVAL GUIDE

If you enjoy surviving, please check out this important info *thoroughly*. **SKIM AT YOUR OWN RISK!!!**

The Basics: Welcome!!

Lakes of Fire is a private gathering on private land in beautiful Southwest Michigan, USA. The Great Lakes area's official Burning Man Regional Event, Lakes of Fire is sponsored by the Great Lakes Experimental Arts, Inc., and seeks to bring the artistry and energy of Black Rock City to the Upper Midwest and Ontario. Specific location details will be sent to those who purchase tickets.

GATE HOURS:

Thursday - June 25th, 2009

12:00 Noon - 12:00 Midnight - Gate closes.

Friday - June 26th, 2009

8:00 AM - 12:00 Midnight - Gate does not close!

Saturday - June 27th, 2009

12:00 Midnight - 6:00 PM - Gate closes.

Participants only! No spectators please. ***You must be on site by 6:00 PM to participate in Lakes of Fire. No admittance will be allowed after this time.***

Sunday - June 28th, 2009

All participants except for organizers, DPW, and Earth Guardians must be off the property by 2:00 P.M. No exceptions.

The Greeters' Station will be your first stop on your way into the event. We ask that you stop your car, stretch your legs, and come say hello to the Lakes of Fire Greeters. They will fill you in on what you need to know for the weekend of fun, family, friends and FIRE! You can check in your Art Car here! But please do not try to run the blockade at Greeters' Station. Pink Gorillas are on hand with stun guns to deal with such individuals. You've been warned.

TICKETING & ENTRY:

You'll need to purchase a ticket on-line to enter Lakes of Fire. No ticket? No Entry.

Minors 12 years old and under will be welcome to join Lakes of Fire free of charge. Participants 13+ must pay the full ticket price.

There will be absolutely no ticket sales at the gate. ***Do not show up to Lakes of Fire expecting to pay cash.*** Tickets must be purchased on-line, via our website, in advance.

You must have a valid ID to enter Lakes of Fire. Participants under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

You must be 21+ to drink alcohol at Lakes Of Fire. Every participant at Lakes of Fire will receive a wristband identifying them as either over or under 21. Your wristband proves that you're a participant of Lakes of Fire, so please keep your wristband on throughout the weekend. Failure to wear your wristband may result in your removal from Lakes of Fire.

We understand the need for some participants to leave Lakes of Fire for provisions, hotel access, and emergencies. We ask that everyone limit or eliminate the need to exit and re-enter by planning ahead. Carpooling is encouraged. Upon exiting, you must notify the gate staff and sign out. You must also keep your wristband on, and be sure to present it to the gate staff upon re-entry. Without strict adherence to this policy, we cannot guarantee your re-entry to Lakes of Fire. Please be nice to the gate staff. They work very hard to accommodate your needs.

Lakes of Fire's site is private property owned and operated by our friend and trusted partner. We insist that you comply with all state and local laws, and any reasonable request that our organizers, our host or his associates make of you.

Sorry puppies! There are no pets allowed at Lakes of Fire.

CAMPING:

Lakes of Fire has primitive camping. Aside from porta-potties, the only amenities you'll find on-site is the ground, to prevent you from falling into the Void. Aside from this, there are a limited number of fire rings for small camp fires, and several dozen picnic tables. The site also offers a small number of showers for public use. (Ask at the Greeters' station for details.) But there are no cabins, no ice sales, no food concessions, and no Starbucks. Rely on yourself for your survival.

Here are some of the very basics that you will need:

Tent	Rain gear	Water/drinks
Bedding (sleeping bag/pillow)	Matches/lighter	Ear plugs
Changes of clothes (both warm and cool weather)	Bug Spray	Eating utensils
First aid kit	Sun screen	Cookware
Sense of humor	Flashlight	Garbage bags
	Food	Bacon

You can find more information *here*: <http://www.lovetheoutdoors.com/camping/Checklists.htm>

Failure to bring these necessities will result in way less of a good time.

LEAVE AT HOME:

Fireworks - they are illegal in the state of Michigan

Guns or weapons of any kind

Pets - aside from ADA-qualified assistance dogs

Glass - a serious impediment to our Leave No Trace Principle, if it breaks. Cans are preferred.

Our venue already has some issues with this problem.

Firewood from outside the state of Michigan - this is also against the law due to bug infestations.

Don't worry, there is plenty of firewood on the site.

Illegal substances of any kind.

Principles: How we do it!

Our rules, regulations, and binding principles are simple, and can be found [here](#):

http://www.burningman.com/whatisburningman/about_burningman/principles.html

The distilled version is this:

- 1) Ask first
- 2) Protect the community
- 3) Leave no trace

There are to be no sales or concessions, of any kind, at Lakes of Fire. Do not attempt to hawk your wares, whatever they may be. Lakes of Fire is a commodity-free zone.

Safety: Watch it!

Lakes of Fire is a 74 hour outdoor event. You're expected to rely on yourself for all of your basic needs. Please refer to the Camping section in "Basics".



A patch of poison ivy on the ground at the edge of a wooded area. Notice that as the leaves grow and age that the shine lessens. Nearly all the leaves in this are poison ivy with the exception of honeysuckle vine in the lower right. Picture taken mid-April in USDA zone 7a-7b.

Please prepare for rain, wind and other extreme weather. Failure to do so may result in way less of a good time. Beware of toxicodendrons-radicans (Poison ivy). Leaves of three? Let it be! Poison ivy looks like this. Toxicodendrons-radicans are found mostly, but not exclusively, in the wooded areas of this property.

Unlike the playa, Southwest Michigan is home to a variety of wild animals. Participants *must* take measures to ensure their food and trash are properly secured and stored where unwanted raiders cannot find a meal, make a mess, or create a health hazard.

If you're severely allergic to bee stings, or bug bites, please make sure to take the appropriate precautions. A once-over check for ticks before you leave is a good idea as well.

We encourage self-reliance in all situations, but some medical precautions are in place, including a volunteer medical team, and an on-call ambulance if needed. More information on our medical staff and accommodations are found further along in this survival guide.

Placement: Where you land!

Art projects and theme camps must register in advance on-line, and must be placed by a placement team member. The placement team will contact all artists and theme camps to discuss space needs and general vibe so they can be placed to create a flow within the event. This process isn't random!! It's in your interest to work with the placement team if you have special needs such as sound equipment, adult material, or kid-specific activities.

Placement requests will be considered based on a first-come/first-served basis. Maps of the land will be published before the event. You're encouraged to print your own copy and bring it along, and plan your camp according to your placement. There will be a designated area for RV's, car camping, and quiet vs. loud (sound) camping. In most cases, you will be able to drive your car and dump your gear, but some areas are closed to car access and some areas are simply impossible to reach by car! Please bring a wagon or many hands to carry. If your art piece or theme camp requires electricity, make sure you bring it. Those requiring extra set-up time should discuss their needs with the placement team.

Theme camps wishing to have sound - even if it's just a boombox - must advise the placement team about the type of sound they plan to have. They will then be placed with consideration to other sound camps and campers. Camps above a certain wattage (tbd) will be subject to special placement and enforcement of the Event's sound policy.

Please detail your proposal for art or a theme camp [here](http://www.lakesoffire.org/theme-camps/art-theme-camp-placement-form/):
<http://www.lakesoffire.org/theme-camps/art-theme-camp-placement-form/>

Sound: Protocols.

Excessive sound is the single most likely reason that law enforcement officers will visit Lakes of Fire and, incidentally, your campsite. The rules are as follows.

- 1) You must report the sound equipment you have with you at the Greeters' Station, even if it's just a boombox.
- 2) The Sound Squad (Rangers, Organizers, and Sound Coordinators) may ask you to turn your volume down to safer levels, or completely off, in the wee hours. **You must respect these requests.**
- 3) You may not use sub-woofers of any kind after 11:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 25th, 12:00 midnight on Friday, June 26th, and 2:00 A.M. on the morning of Sunday, June 28th.
- 4) Total decibel output may not be more than 95 dB at 20 paces/40 feet after midnight, and may be no more than 90 dB at 20 paces/40 feet after 2:00 A.M.

The Sound Squad will be monitoring sound-levels with decibel-readers at all times. Failure to comply with their requests will be grounds for your removal from the event. If the police arrive with noise complaints, they may be directed toward camps which are suspected of violating our Sound Policies.

Unfortunately, Lakes of Fire 2009 is not blessed with five square miles of open playa. We have a relatively small location, local neighbors on whose good humor this event depends, and hilly terrain that propels sound to relatively distant locations in ways we can't predict. The Sound Squad asks that

all camps and participants respect the needs of our neighbors and keep sound output within reasonable levels. Please protect the safety and success of Lakes of Fire by complying with all sound restrictions when they are in effect. Should you choose otherwise, the Sound Squad, which is tasked with protecting this event, will start making the choices for you.

Volunteers: We need you!

Lakes Of Fire is a 100% volunteer run event. Whether it's building the mighty effigy, organizing the A-maze-ing parking lot, or even constructing this handy-dandy survival guide everything is done by volunteers exactly like you. So don't just participate, volunteer-irate! And become an integral part of Lakes of Fire. We've got a place for you no matter what your skill set.

If you think you'd like to join our motley crew of do-ers, moties and super(wo)mans, please sign up at <http://www/Lakesoffire.org/volunteer-irate/>. Or, you can contact Breedlove at breedlove@lakesoffire.org.

Leave No Trace: The prime directive.

Leave No Trace is arguably our most cherished principle. In simplest terms, this means that we must leave the site in better condition than we found it, leaving absolutely no evidence of our having been there. Each participant must remove all items they brought with them – including their trash – when they leave the site. We also ask that each participant helps clean the full site by picking up any Matter Out Of Place (MOOP) that they encounter during the event. If you smoke, bring a portable ash tray so that you don't have to drop your butts on the ground. Please bring trash bags and other waste receptacles to take your trash and recycling home with you at the end of the event. During and after the event, our team of awesome Earth Guardians will be staying late to make sure the site is left in better shape than we found it.

Volunteers for Earth Guardian Grounds Patrol Shifts and final Clean Sweep Crew are welcome. Volunteer in advance of the event through LakesofFire.org.

Effigy: Your big fire!

The Effigy is the large wooden sculpture in the open area near the stage area. The burning of the Effigy is the pinnacle of Lakes of Fire; the culminating part of this event. The Effigy team works very hard, long hours to build it for your enjoyment. Please respect it by not smoking, using open flame, intentionally damaging, burning or disrespecting the piece in any way. The Effigy will be burned on the final night of Lakes of Fire (Saturday). Until then, it is there for your enjoyment, reflection, pictures, and happiness. A method of sacrifice/offering/prayer/memory additions of your own to the Effigy will be detailed at the event.

Parking: Limited.

Please consider car-pooling with friends, family, camp-mates, or random strangers. Lakes of Fire's site has parking available, but it is limited.

There will be a designated car-camping area for those who choose to sleep in their cars. Unless you're in our designated car-camping area, you will not be able to park at your campsite. Upon arrival, you may drop off your gear at or near your location, and you will then be asked (politely, at first) to return your car to the parking area. This important protocol is in place to prevent a traffic

nightmare during Exodus, when everyone is leaving, all at once.

There are certain locations on Lakes of Fire's site that are inaccessible to vehicles.

Exodus: Get outta here!

Lakes of Fire ends at 2:00 PM, Sunday, June 28th. All participants must be packed up (including your trash!) and out of the gate by that time. No exceptions. This allows DPW and EG volunteers to do their job. If you'd like to volunteer, see the volunteers section.

Please adhere to Exodus directions from the Gate/Exodus staff. It is vital that the local community be respected as people leave the event. This means that everything you pack out ends up at your own home, NOT on the side of the road or in private dumpsters!

DPW: Workin it!

Lakes of Fire happens in part through the hard work of a few bold soldiers known as the Department of Public Works. The DPW reminds you that if it's not yours, don't mess with it. Things put in place by DPW, like safety barriers, are there for a reason. Please respect those things and avoid damaging or altering them, lest you wish to be damaged or altered.

Rangers: Your friends.

Rangers are participants just like you. They are the eyes and ears of the event, and their purpose as volunteers is to facilitate a positive and safe environment for their fellow participants. Rangers wear khaki clothing with a LOF Ranger logo. They will be walking around during the entirety of the event and are easily flagged down. You can also stop by the central Ranger station, which can be found on the map. Rangers prefer that you practice radical self reliance first and ask them for help second. However, all participants are encouraged to ask for assistance when they need it. Make sure to hug Rangers as they pass by your camp. That way you know they aren't just a robot army.

Medical: You need a hero!?!

A volunteer Medical Team will be on hand to assist and triage any medical problems or injuries. On-duty Medical Team members can be identified by their yellow t-shirts. Additionally, any Ranger will also be able to assist you in obtaining medical assistance. The Medical Tent will be clearly marked on the Lakes Of Fire map. You may seek assistance there directly. They will then be able to facilitate bringing you to the Medical Tent or the ambulance to you if necessary.

Self-reliance is one of the tenets of Burning Man. Please help us to help you by bringing a basic first-aid kit with each group, and knowing how to use the contents. If you have a pre-existing Medical condition that you feel may become a problem during the event, please make a campmate(s) aware of it so that they may be of assistance to the Medical Team. If you have any questions, feel free to approach

any on-duty medical personnel. In the event you need to be evacuated to a hospital or wish to travel to one yourself, the two facilities in the area are South Haven Community Hospital in South Haven or

Allegan General Hospital in Allegan. The Medical Team will have location information on these hospitals.

Kids: Bring 'em!

Lakes of Fire is a family event that welcomes participants of all ages. People under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a 21+ parent or guardian both at entry, as well as at all times during the event. You are responsible for the welfare of minors in your care. Please be aware that there may be adult-specific activities or theme camps, and that grown-ups may not wish to curtail their own free expression to accommodate your children, or minors in your care.

Minors 12 years old and under will be welcome to join Lakes of Fire free of charge. Participants 13+ must pay the full ticket price.

For the protection of kids at Lakes of Fire, all parents & guardians are required to register their kids (or minors in their care) at the greeter's station. Each minor will be issued an identifying bracelet linking them to their parents or guardians, and their camp. If you fail to adequately supervise minors in your care, you will be ejected from Lakes of Fire, immediately. No exceptions.

For more tips on how to negotiate bringing your children to a Burning Man event, please see [this informative page](#) on BM.com.

http://www.burningman.com/preparation/event_survival/kids_at_bm.html

Pets: Sorry!

With the specific exception of ADA Qualified assistance dogs, pets are NOT allowed at Lakes of Fire. The Event volunteers have chosen to adhere to this rule, and we have puppies too. Your pet will be turned away at the gate and you won't be admitted until you return without any pets.

Photography: Proceed with respect!

Lakes of Fire is a private event on private property, and we expect participants to approach photography with respect for others. You must ask permission before photographing someone, and avoid photography that could be intrusive of someone's privacy. Do not take or publish, in any manner, ANY unauthorized pictures of any human subject, or any pictures for a commercial purpose.

We reserve the right to act on any violation of these guidelines by requiring erasure of images, or by removing violators of these policies from Lakes of Fire.

Fire: You know you love it!

Fire is a spectacular part of our event. We are working with local fire authorities to safely enact the best fire effects possible.

PERSONAL CAMPFIRES- You can make small personal campfires or bring fire barrels, and there are several dozen rings throughout the site to facilitate small fires. Please use common sense. Clear an area around your fire, don't have it too near your tent, keep some water or dirt on hand to put it out if the

wind kicks up. ***Do not, ever, leave a fire unattended!***

FIRE CONCLAVE-- You'll have the opportunity to participate in our killer Fire Conclave procession and performance before the Effigy burns! If your fire group of at least 3 or more wants to participate, write to Russian Wulfgar of the Fire Safety & Performance Team at fireconclave@lakesoffire.org

before June 1 to apply. We will have a full rehearsal and safety training (non-fire) Friday night. Every group will need its own Fire Safeties with wet towels, etc. At the end of the training, all performers and safeties will get Conclave laminates which will let you enter the Fire Circle Saturday night.

You must be completely sober to participate in any fire performance.

We will be using a safety system for fire performers that follows the national fire codes. You may have already experienced this at the Burning Man fire conclave or other Regional events. The full procedure will be sent out to the accepted fire groups before the event.

FIRE CANNONS, FLAMETHROWERS, ETC. If you wish to bring larger-scale fire devices, you must contact Russian Wulfgar at fireconclave@lakesoffire.org. Failure to contact the Fire Safety team regarding these devices will be grounds for their disuse during the event. These devices can only be used in open areas, not among the tents. The Fire Chief has a right to inspect them for safety. They must be attended at all times and have a fire extinguisher nearby.

The Fire Safety & Performance Team is here for your safety! We reserve the right to shut down any use of fire that threatens other attendees, endangers the event, or breaks our agreement with the local fire authorities. Failure to abide with Fire Safety protocols may be grounds for your immediate removal from this event.

Thanks for taking the time to review all of this important info thoroughly! We look forward to seeing you at Lakes of Fire!