

## **RALSTON WHITE RETREAT**

The Ralston L. White Retreat (RLW) is an **adult conference center** in Mill Valley. It is a grand three-story mansion originally built in 1913. The RLW estate is located on 43 acres, about 1/3 of the way up Mt. Tamalpais (430 feet elevation). The front of the house is covered with wisteria and other creepers. The sweeping staircase, large fireplaces, and soft colors of this historical mansion create a unique space for reflection and meeting. The large front porch, which overlooks a beautiful heart-shaped lawn, is a favorite spot for groups to relax and converse informally. A moment's walk from the house brings one to a tranquil pond and magnificent tree-lined paths winding up to the top of the mountain.

### **LODGING: Total of 45 adults (no children)**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Floor (Little Place) sleeps up to 4: 1 bathroom**

- 1 room with a queen bed
- 1 semi-private room with 2 beds

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Sleeps up to 22; 4 bathrooms**

- Four semi-private rooms: (2 beds in each)
- 1 room with a queen bed (1 queen)
- First dorm room: (6-8 beds)
- Second dorm room: (5 beds)

#### **4 Bathrooms:**

- #1: 2 sinks, three showers, one toilet
- #2: 2 sinks, 2 showers, one toilet
- #3: 1 unisex half-bath, no shower
- #4: 1 unisex half-bath, no shower

Fireplaces in bedrooms are not used. There is a lovely shaded veranda connected to the dorm rooms with comfortable chairs and a view of the lawn. The rooms are simply furnished and are clean and comfortable.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: Sleeps 23; 1 bathroom; "skylight room"**

There are minimal partitions on the third floor that divide the 23 beds into separate areas. In the center of the room is the raised "Skylight Room" with 4 chairs, 2 couches, and 3 tables. It is a nice meeting area for small groups but gets very warm in the summer. 1 semi-private room has 2 beds.

Bathroom: 3 sinks, 3 showers and 3 toilets.

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor ( Formerly “LITTLE PLACE”): Sleeps 2 (2 singles can be added);  
1 bathroom**

The apartment can be entered either from outside or from the foyer. Two large chairs, a sofa, a coffee table, and a fireplace make up the living room. There is a large built-in chest of drawers along one wall. The other side of the fireplace faces the kitchen/dining area. A table and chairs are immediately in front of the hearth. A doorway leads from there into the sunroom with a queen-sized bed, a large desk and a chair. **Linens are provided.** Guests do their **own cooking** in the all-electric kitchen. There is a microwave, toaster, coffee maker and stove is recent. There is a large bathroom with 2 sinks, a tub and shower, a large chest of drawers, and an enclosed toilet area. No smoking and no pets. The Little Place comfortably sleeps 2 people in the queen-sized bed; however, by special arrangement with the Site Director, staff will set up two additional single beds in the living room for a maximum of 4 persons.

**DINING:** The **main dining room** is across from the living room on the first floor. It is most comfortable for groups of 45 or less. Dimensions are approximately 27' x 19'.

The kitchen is used solely by UCCR staff, never by outside groups. There is also a **snack** served. Beverage service is available all day. Groups may bring own snacks, but must take meals if they are there during meal times.

**MEETING:** The **first floor** has a spacious, unique living room and solarium with a big picture window, fireplace (used by arrangement with the Site Director only), two reading nooks, chairs, couches, bookcases, a large table, and a piano. It is an excellent spot for larger meetings.

Living Room Dimensions - 21' x 30'  
Solarium Dimensions - 23' x 23'

The Dining Room can serve as a meeting area by special permission only. Groups can also meet on the large front porch.

The **Nelson Room** on the Second Floor has large chairs and can comfortably hold groups up to 15. It is a beautiful sunny room with newer carpeting and traditional furniture. The French Doors open out onto a small balcony.

The **Skylight Room** is a raised section on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Though hot in the summer, this well lit room has 4 chairs, 2 couches, and 3 tables.

The **Meditation Garden/Peace Garden** is an informal outdoor meeting area shaded by a canopy of redwoods. It has a small wooden table and wood round seats that can hold up to 12 people intimately.

There are also fold down tables available for groups who need them. There are: 6-2'x4', 6-30"x6', and 3-30"x8'. 4 six foot round tables are also available.

**RECREATION:**

Activities available at RLW include: hiking, croquet, horseshoes, and a fenced, grassy area with a volleyball net and a basketball backstop. Since the main dining room has a wooden floor, it can be used for folk dancing by special permission from the Site Director.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**NO WHEELCHAIR ACCESS.** Stairs: 3 sets of 7 steps (7-8" rise) and 2 landings and a chair on each landing.

**Audio/Visual Equipment:** Screen in Nelson room. There is an overhead projector, an additional screen, and a TV/VCR/DVD in the main meeting room. Flip charts and easels available. One piano.

Parking spaces for 30 cars, if carefully parked.

**Get directions from [Googlemaps.com](http://Googlemaps.com)**

Smoking on the first floor porch only.

No locks on bedroom doors.

UCCR provides bedding and linens (towels); beds are made prior to group arrival. Same linens will be used all weekend (no bed service), but groups staying longer may request bedding change (call Site Director to confirm). No fee for mid-week change, only for daily service.

Sign on Road says: ***White Retreat Next Right***

