

# CREDO Marriage Enrichment Retreat Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. **What is the criteria for signing up to a MER?**

At least one of the participants must be Reservist, Active Duty or IRR and the couples must be legally married. Retreats are open to all service members from any branch.

## 2. **Is travel paid for?**

We do not pay for travel or airline tickets. We only reimburse for POV mileage up to a round trip total of 720 if your home address is within 100-720 miles from the retreat site. Mileage is only reimbursed to Reserve MARFORRES marines and sailors. IRR and Active Duty Marines are not reimbursed mileage. Example if your house (the address listed in DEERS) is 240 miles one way from the retreat site for a total of 480 miles round trip then you are eligible for mileage reimbursement. If you are one mile over or 721 total miles round trip, we do not provide reimbursement. We provide the travel reimbursement form to you before you come to the retreat which you fill out and return back to us at the retreat. We then give you access to DTS when you return back to your command (usually takes about 2-3 days) where you put in your mileage to get reimbursed for travel.

## 3. **What if my total mileage from the retreat site is 900 miles round trip can CREDO pay for the total mileage of 720 and I pay the rest out of pocket?**

Unfortunately, we do not have split reimbursement. Due to safety reasons per CREDO policy, the total round trip mileage has to be between 100-720 miles as DTS will not allow split reimbursement option for retreats. Mileage is only reimbursed to Reserve MARFORRES marines and sailors.

## 4. **Do I pay for the retreat?**

The retreat is not paid by the participant (meaning you). It is an all-inclusive retreat where CREDO pays for all lodging and food at no cost to the participants. However, you are responsible for any incidentals you incur in the room (i.e. mini bar or room service) or at the restaurant. You will be asked to supply a credit card at check in for incidentals. This will only be a hold and released once you check out on Sunday if you have not ordered any room service.

## 5. **Do I have to request leave days for the retreat?**

You can either have TAD or request leave if you are active duty or if you are a reservist you can just request leave from your civilian job. If the retreat

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dates fall on your drill dates please provide the registration form to your command for approval. Refer back to question 1 for travel reimbursement.

### 6. **What are my days for travel?**

The retreat starts on Friday where you would check-in at the Hotel at 4pm until Sunday 11:45AM.

### 7. **What do my spouse and I need?**

Neither you nor your spouse need anything but your presence. We provide all the materials for the retreat and a schedule of events. But this is a list of things that will be wise to bring with you.

1. Light coat or sweater – hotel meeting rooms tend to be cold
2. Clothes, toiletries, and personal items for the weekend
3. Sunblock/sunscreen
4. Insect repellent
5. Shades and/or hat
6. Swimming and outdoor clothing
7. Extra money for optional date activity
8. Extra shoes in case one set gets wet
9. Rain gear
10. Thermos or mug for coffee fill up
11. Money for Saturday night dinner and date night.
12. **Optional:** Boots/sneakers for the outdoor retreats

### 8. **Can I bring my children or is daycare provided at the retreat by the hotel or CREDO?**

Unfortunately, childcare is not covered by CREDO nor the hotels. The retreat is geared towards couples and we try to make it an enjoyable experience away from the everyday life so that they can concentrate on their relationship, how to become better listeners, better communicators, and overall better themselves for each other. Therefore, children accompanying the couples will not be wise to bring to the retreat as there is also a schedule of events for the couples to participate in. We do ask that you secure adequate childcare as this is one of the main reasons couples tend to cancel at the last minute. Cancelling days before the retreat causes an interested couple on the wait list to not attend as they also need adequate time to

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prepare, the CREDO program loses funding, and that location gets eliminated from the retreat program due to last minute cancellation.

### **9. Can I bring my pet to the retreat?**

Depends on the Hotel. Some hotels will accept pets free of charge and others will charge a clean-up fee. However, there may be participants that are afraid or allergic to pet dander and hotels will not permit your pet to stay alone in the room if the hotel allows pet. If you need any more information on this I will gladly call the hotel and find out on your behalf.

### **10. Where can I send my completed MER registration form?**

Please scan all pages of the registrations in a PDF file and email them to [mfr\\_retreats@usmc.mil](mailto:mfr_retreats@usmc.mil) or fax it 504-697-9772 and the RP coordinator will email you with a response of receipt confirmation for the retreat.

### **11. If the retreat is full what happens next?**

You can be placed on a wait list or you can sign up for the next available retreat as we have several throughout the fiscal year.

### **12. After I submit my registration form what do I do?**

Once you complete and submit the registration you will receive a confirmation email with your reserved place for the retreat. A Welcome letter will be emailed two weeks prior to the retreat with more information. All you have to do is save the date and commit to attending. If you have children secure childcare early.

### **13. Can I sign-up for more than one retreat?**

Although, you can register for more than one retreat at a time **but** not in the same calendar year.

### **14. What happens if there is an emergency and I cannot attend the retreat?**

If you cannot attend the retreat please email [mfr\\_retreats@usmc.mil](mailto:mfr_retreats@usmc.mil) or call 504-697-8092 or 504-756-4760 and advise the RP coordinator that you had signed up for a retreat and will not be able to attend. In order to give that available space to a couple on the wait list. We need at least 6 or more days in advance for any cancellations before the retreat date as the hotel and food accommodations has been paid for all participants by CREDO. Therefore, even though you do not attend there is an empty hotel room and food that will not be utilized by anyone but that has been reserved for you when you committed to attend.

**15. If my spouse and I live in the retreat area, Can I just stay home and drive to the retreat every day and go back home thereafter?**

Although, that might be ideal for couples with children. However, we are paying for your stay at the retreat. Also the retreats are supposed to be a getaway to get a better understanding of yourselves and together as a couple. In addition there is a list of scheduled events that all couples should be on time for and traveling to and from the retreat site each morning would take away from the relaxation setting we are striving to achieve. We also want to avoid any potential hazards on the road way from coming to and from the retreat every morning.

When contacting via email or voice mail please include your name, phone number, and retreat date.

If you have further questions or concerns please call the CREDO RP Coordinator at 504-697-8092 504- 756-4760 or email [mfr\\_retreats@usmc.mil](mailto:mfr_retreats@usmc.mil).

We look forward in answering any questions that is not listed above. Thank you for signing up to the CREDO MER. An enjoyable experience that you and your spouse will benefit from.