

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

SeekersGuidance Appalachian Retreat

Journey to Allah

"So rush to Allah..." (Qur'an, 51:50)



Coker Creek, Tennessee

www.SeekersGuidance.org

www.MuslimKnoxville.org

June 3 - June 8, 2011

Are you bored with being bombarded with billboard marketing and fed-up with finding nothing better to do than turn on the TV? Do you feel distanced from Allah and His signs, and from the way of the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace)?

SeekersGuidance is offering the opportunity for you to join them on a 5-day long spiritual retreat, where you can reconnect with Allah through learning, reflecting on His creation, engaging in remembrance of Allah, and through the inspiring company of scholars and other keen seekers.

“O you who believe! Be mindful of Allah and be with those true to commitment” (Qur’an, 9:119)

Join us and our lineup of international scholars, who will accompany you on this journey. Benefit from their knowledge, understanding and gentle guidance during a series of uplifting lectures and workshops, and experience the wonders of performing acts of worship the way that the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) did.

THE SITE



The SeekersGuidance retreat will be held at Coker Creek Village, located 75 miles southwest of Knoxville, Tennessee. This 300-acre park is nestled high in the southern Appalachian Mountains on the famed Ocoee River. Students will be surrounded by the creation of Allah and enveloped in some of the nation’s most pristine national forests. Visit the site’s website at www.cokercreekvillage.com for more information.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students will be housed in **bunkhouse log cabins**, with brothers and sisters accommodated in separate sections of the site. We recommend traveling lightly as storage space is very limited. The site is supervised by trained personnel and will be assisted by members of the organizing committee. Food will be cooked onsite by the camp personnel and all the meat served will be zabihah (meat provided by a local zabihah meat provider and chicken provided by CrescentHalal.com). Classes will be held in the Village’s new Retreat Center and other areas of the facility. Babysitting will be held in a room of the main hall where the adult sessions will generally take place.

Private cabins are available on a first-come first-serve basis for families of more than four people (up to 5). These private cabins will be an additional \$250 (\$50 per night). Private family cabins include one queen bed, one futon, full private bathroom, refrigerator, microwave and coffeemaker. Please contact retreat@seekersguidance.org if you are interested in reserving one of these private cabins.

BABYSITTING

Babysitting will be provided for all class sessions through the retreat (approximately 5-8 hours a day). There will be no babysitting during activities, meals, breaks & sleep. The cost will be an extra **\$15 per child per day** (Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday). You will not be charged for babysitting on Friday and Wednesday, which will be for approximately one to two hours each.

You are not obligated to keep your child in babysitting as long as the child is quiet during class sessions. Retreat staff volunteers will mandate babysitting on your child if they misbehave or are loud during class sessions.

The youngest age that we will accept at the retreat without their parent is 14 years old. Please keep in mind the following policies when sending children not accompanied with their parents:

- Parents will be responsible to drop-off and pick-up their child to/from Masjid Annoor, Knoxville, TN (www.muslimknoxville.org for address)
- Waiver must be signed (download application form/waiver from [Registration Form](#) - see last page for waiver)
- If the child cannot be contained by the youth directors (Irfan Shuttari and Sadaf Shaukat) or the retreat staff, we will call the parents/guardians to please pick-up their child from the retreat facility - no refund will be issued.

TEACHERS

(bios below)

Shaykh Faraz Rabbani *Confirmed*

Shaykh Yahya Rhodus *Confirmed*

Shaykh AbdalKarim Yahya *Confirmed*

Ustadha Zaynab Ansari *Confirmed*

Ustadha Shireen Ahmed *Confirmed*

Youth Directors – Irfan Shuttari & Sadaf Shukat-Shuttari *Confirmed*

A broader variety of courses will be specified in the orientation package after registration is complete

PARALELL YOUTH PROGRAM

A parallel program for youth between the ages of 14-18 will be held at the site. The program will be held separately from the adults and will consist of classes highlighting the main theme. Children under 14 years of age will not be allowed to attend the youth sessions. They will be more than welcome to attend the adult sessions with their parents or play in the field where parents are able to keep an eye on them during sessions. Students who are 19 years old will have the option of being a part of the youth program or the adult program, insha Allah.



The Youth Directors will be responsible for the youth at all times during the retreat and will ensure the youth are maintaining good *adab* (etiquette) at all time. Classes will be taught by various teachers. Some programs and activities, such as the group prayers, *dhikr* (supplication) sessions, and meals will be combined for the youth and adults. The daily schedule will be less rigorous and will include more recreational time.

ACTIVITIES

White Water Rafting on the famous Ocoee River
Special gathering on Buck Bald Summit
Campfire gatherings with halal s'mores
Horseback riding & Mountain bike trail ride
Miles of hiking trails
Gold Panning & Mining for rubies & emeralds
Climbing tower with zip line
Low ropes/Team building course
Swimming
Volleyball
Basketball
Ultimate frisbee
Frisbee golf



APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION FEES

ADULTS & YOUTH (14 years and older) | \$400 each (\$80 per day*)
ADULTS & YOUTH FAMILY/GROUP RATE | \$350 each (\$70 per day*)
AGES 8-13 | \$250 each (\$50 per day*)
AGES 4-7 | \$100 each (\$20 per day* plus babysitting charges)
AGES 0-4 | \$0 (babysitting charges only)

White Water Rafting | \$30 per person to be paid on-site (confirm via email by April 30th)

****The registration cost includes: travel to the facility from the airport & local Masjid and back, all meals, lodging, material/educational needs, all activities and most importantly: access to all lectures/scholars. The registration cost excludes travel expenses, babysitting and white water rafting.***

SCHOLARSHIPS & QUESTIONS

Please email retreat@seekersguidance.org for any questions related to the retreat and for scholarship opportunities. Payments can be made in monthly installments, please email retreat@seekersguidance.org to setup a payment plan.

TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL PLANS

- Students flying in from out of town should plan to arrive in Knoxville's McGhee Tyson Airport (airport code TYS) no earlier than Friday morning, June 3rd. Anyone who arrives on Thursday will be responsible for his or her own lodging and transportation to Annoor Masjid. For directions to Annoor Masjid, please visit www.MuslimKnoxville.org
- Transportation from the airport to Annoor Masjid will be provided on Friday morning until 1pm. After 1pm, you will be responsible for your own transportation to Annoor Masjid. You must arrive at Annoor Masjid by 3pm on Friday, June 3rd, otherwise you will have no transportation to get to the remotely located Coker Creek Village
- If you are driving from out of town, you may drive directly to Coker Creek Village (visit www.CokerCreekVillage.com for directions) and meet the group there on Friday, June 25th 4:30-5:00pm
- We will be departing from Annoor Masjid (www.MuslimKnoxville.org) to Coker Creek Village on Friday, June 3rd 3:00pm – this trip will be approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes (70 miles)
- We will be departing from Coker Creek Village to Annoor Masjid on Wednesday morning, June 8th at 10:00am
- Transportation from Annoor Masjid to the airport will be provided from 2:00 -8:00pm
- Please ensure your flight from Knoxville departs after 2:00pm on June 8th

ABOUT THE TEACHERS

Shaykh Faraz Rabbani is a researcher and teacher of the Islamic sciences, specializing in Islamic Law. He is the Educational Director of SeekersGuidance, and a partner and legal advisor with StraightWay Ethical Advisory. He is the author of *Absolute Essentials of Islam: Faith, Prayer, and the Path of Salvation According to the Hanafi School* (White Thread Press, 2004.)

Shaykh Faraz was raised in Canada and obtained a Bachelor's in Economics & Commerce from the University of Toronto in 1997. Subsequently, he spent ten years studying and teaching Islamic sciences in Damascus, Amman and Karachi under leading Islamic scholars including Shaykh Adib Kallas, Shaykh Hassan al-Hindi, Shaykh Muhammad Jumuah, Shaykh Akram Abd al-Wahhab, Shaykh Nuh Keller, and Mufti Mahmud Ashraf Usmani. He currently lives and teaches in Toronto, Canada, with his wife and three children.



Shaykh Yahya Rhodus was born in America's Midwest. He became Muslim at the age of 19 in the San Francisco Bay Area and began studying with Shaykh Hamza Yusuf and distinguished scholars visiting from Mauritania, Shaykh Khatry and Shaykh Abdullah Ould Ahmadna. In 1998, he left for Mauritania to further his studies of Islamic Sciences. There he spent over a year studying with some of Mauritania's great scholars, including Shaykh Murabit al-Hajj, one the great scholars of our age. In 2000, he moved to Tarim, Yemen to continue his studies at the prestigious Dar al-Mustafa. There he studied with renowned scholars including Habib `Ali al-Jifry, Habib `Umar bin Hafiz, and other local scholars. In 2005, he returned to the US from his studies overseas to serve as a full-time teacher at Zaytuna Institute until the summer of 2007. To further his studies he then moved back to Tarim, where he currently resides with his family.

Shaykh AbdalKarim Yahya was born and raised in Berkeley, California. By the Grace of Allah, embraced Islam in 1989 in his home city. In 1996, having been inspired to study religious knowledge by the books of Imam Ghazali (Allah be pleased with him) and the call for the revival of Islamic knowledge, he traveled with his family to Damascus, Syria where he embarked on a course of active pursuit of knowledge. During his two-year stay in Damascus he focused his attention on the acquisition of an elementary knowledge of the Arabic language and Quranic recitation, studying the latter under the tutelage of the highly respected Shaykh of Qur'an Abu Anas (Allah preserve him) at the Rawda Mosque in Damascus. Thereafter he moved on with his family to Tarim, Hadramaut where he currently resides.

As a student at Dar al-Mustafa he has primarily turned his efforts towards keeping the company of his Shaykhs' from the noble prophetic descendents of Ba Alawi and their lovers as well as attaining a knowledge of the Islamic Sciences. Specializing in jurisprudence according to the school of Muhammad Bin Idris al-Shafi'i (Allah be pleased with him), Shaykh AbdalKarim has studied the curriculum of jurisprudence at Dar al-Mustafa all the way to the Minhaj of Imam Nawawi (Allah be pleased him).



Since 1998, Shaykh AbdalKarim has been studying at the hands of Habib Umar and his older brother Habib Mashhour, the two sons of the late Habib Muhammad Bin Salim Bin Hafiz, as well as the other teachers of Dar al-Mustafa in Tarim, Hadramaut. Shaykh AbdalKarim has been given permission to answer questions according to the Shafi'i School as well as to teach jurisprudence, Arabic Grammar, and other disciplines by his Shaykh Habib Umar, Allah preserve him. He has also worked extensively as a translator For Habib Umar Bin Hafiz and Habib Ali al-Jifri (Allah preserve both of them).

Ustadha Shireen Ahmed (Umm Umar) was born and raised in Canada. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology. During her university studies, she was actively involved in MSA work at the local as well as the national level. After graduation, Umm Umar spent three years in Syria, studying Arabic at the University of Damascus and Islamic studies at Jamia Abi Nour and taking private classes in Tajweed, Hadith, Hanafi Fiqh and Seerah. Subsequently, she spent seven years in Jordan furthering her studies of Arabic and Hanafi Fiqh. During this time, she also worked at SunniPath developing online courses. Umm Umar is currently responsible for Course Development at SeekersGuidance. She resides in Toronto, Canada, with her husband and three children. Between continuing her studies of the sacred sciences and homeschooling her children, Ustadha Shireen is working on her first publication, *Thread of Pure Gold*, which is a translation and a commentary on the classical Islamic text on parenting, *Sintu al-'Uqyan*.

Zaynab Ansari (Umm Salah) comes from a Lebanese-American and African-American background. In 1996, Zaynab's parents relocated the family to Damascus, Syria, where Zaynab and her younger sister spent four years studying sacred knowledge. During that time, Zaynab obtained a Thanawiyya Shar'iyyah (equivalent to a secondary school diploma) with distinction from Abu Nour Islamic Foundation. There, she was acquainted with the major Islamic sciences, including Arabic, Qur'anic exegesis, Qur'anic recitation, Shafi'i fiqh, sirah, hadith, hadith classification, inheritance law, and theology. Her teachers included Ustadh Adnan al-Azmeh, Ustadha Sوسان Falah, Ustadha Sanaa, Ustadha Huda al-Habash, Ustadha Samar, and the master Qur'an reciter Shaykh Muhammad al-Sukkar. Zaynab also spent a year studying advanced Arabic at the University of Damascus.

Upon returning to the United States, Zaynab continued her Islamic studies with Sidi Khalil Abdur-Rashid, who studied with traditional scholars in Yemen and Turkey. She also earned a B.A. in History and a B.I.S. in Middle Eastern Studies at Georgia State University, graduating summa cum laude. She has received a number of scholarships, including the Faculty Scholarship Award, the Honors Alumni Scholarship, and the Phi Alpha Theta Award. Zaynab also worked extensively with the msa at her previous school, Georgia Perimeter College.

In her free time, Zaynab enjoys volunteering for the Islamic Speakers Bureau and writing for Azizah Magazine. She is one of the main teachers behind the SunniPath Answers service, and her answers are highly popular because of their knowledge, wisdom, and sensitivity. She has both taught and TA'd courses at SunniPath Academy. Zaynab is passionate about contributing to an enhanced understanding of Islam in America, with a particular emphasis on the achievements of Muslim women. She is married with one son and one daughter, and currently resides in Atlanta, GA.

INQUIRIES

All inquiries should be directed to retreat@seekersguidance.org. Registration fees and physical applications should be mailed to:

Noman Zaheer
2700 Dee Peppers Dr
Knoxville, TN 37931

LIMITED CAPACITY
150 Students

APPLY NOW
Deadline: April 30, 2011

www.seekersguidance.org



www.muslimknoxville.org

M U S L I M  C O M M U N I T Y
K N O X V I L L E

SEEKERSGUIDANCE RETREAT APPLICATION FORM

All information in this application form is confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside the retreat committee
The consent and waiver must be signed and submitted by a parent of the student under 18 years old

STUDENT

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

If under 18 years of age:

Parent First Name: _____ Parent Last Name: _____

PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL

*Home: (____) ____ - ____ Work: (____) ____ - ____ Cell: (____) ____ - ____

*E-mail Address: _____ - *you will be added to the SG Retreat announcement list*
(* required fields)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Please list any dietary restrictions you may have including allergies

Please list any relevant health concerns you may have including any illnesses (physical or mental) and medications you are currently taking

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency, please contact:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home: (____) ____ - ____ Work: (____) ____ - ____ Cell: (____) ____ - ____

Relationship to student: _____

FEES

Can I (you) meet the full cost before the beginning of the program?

YES NO

If not, how much scholarship/aid would you be requesting? \$_____

Method of payment:

- CHECK: Payable to "MCK – Ibn Masud School" (Include check with application form and mail or hand-deliver to organizers)
- MONEY ORDER (Include check with application form and mail or hand-deliver to organizers)
- PAYPAL (Register online through www.SeekersGuidance.org/retreat – PayPal account: ims@muslimknoxville.org)
- CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Full Name on CC: _____

Card Type:

Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

CC Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing zip code: _____ Three digit security code (CVS): _____

DONATIONS

Tax Exempt: You will receive a Tax Exempt Receipt from the Muslim Community of Knoxville
Donations will primarily be used in the area specified, if funds in the specific area mentioned have been met, we will use them in other areas where it is needed

- SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR STUDENT DONATION \$_____
- SPONSOR A TEACHER \$_____
- SPONSOR MARKETING CAMPAIGN \$_____
- GENERAL DONATION TOWARDS THE RETREAT \$_____

Method of Donation:

- CHECK: Payable to "MCK – Ibn Masud School" (Include check with application form and mail or hand-deliver to organizers) – specify donation area in memo
- MONEY ORDER (Include check with application form and mail or hand-deliver to organizers)
- CREDIT CARD (We will use the same CC info as above)
- PAYPAL (make donations to PayPal account: ims@muslimknoxville.org)

AGREEMENT

I confirm that the information listed in this application is current and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false information presented in this application may result in my dismissal from the program without any refund of tuition payments. All information in this application is confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside the SeekersGuidance Retreat committee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RELEASE

I have read and understood the information packet attached to this application. I understand that the student is expected to take this program seriously and abide by the given information and the rules of the SeekersGuidance retreat. I understand that any student who fails to abide by the rules, disrupts the retreat, and/or endangers the safety or wellbeing of others may be asked to leave the retreat without a refund of registration payment. I also understand and agree that SeekersGuidance, the Muslim Community of Knoxville (MCK), as well as the Teachers, Staff or Volunteers of the mentioned organizations and retreat will not be held liable for any accidents, injuries, damages, or other loss that may occur during the student's participation in the SeekersGuidance retreat, including during travel to or from the airport, to or from the retreat location, or to or from any other locations during the retreat. In the event of any medical emergency, I authorize SeekersGuidance, MCK, and/or retreat staff or volunteers to authorize medical assistance on site or at an appropriate medical facility.

(Any student who is under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign below to verify permission to attend the retreat and acknowledgement and agreement to the above.)

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature (if student is under 18): _____ Date: _____