



Event Planning Guide

December 2011

Carolina Raptor Center

Venue Overview

Carolina Raptor Center is a non-profit organization, focused on environmental stewardship and the conservation of birds of prey. Our ¾ mile Raptor Trail has over 25 species of raptors and entertains over 40,000 visitors a year. The Jim Arthur Rehabilitation Hospital treats over 700 injured and orphaned raptors a year, approximately 70% of these are released back into the wild.

Carolina Raptor Center moved to its current location on 57 acres inside Latta Plantation Nature Preserve in 1984. Since that time, the organization has grown to include a Visitors Center, a 25-aviary “Raptor Trail,” 65-seat amphitheatre, event “festival” area, raptor rehabilitation hospital and recovery and flight cages. In addition to rustic event facilities, the park offers educational programming for groups of all ages. This includes live bird presentations, flight programming and guided tours of the facility.

Event Rental Information*

All facilities require a 2-hour minimum for group rentals. Rental does not include access to the raptor trail except for the full rental option. Please see individual items for additional costs. The below descriptions of our rental and program capabilities provide an overview of the costs for your event. For an event proposal specific to your event, please contact Michele Miller Houck at 704-875-6521 x 128.

Full Rental (Facility closed to the public – for up to 500 people).

Our ¾ mile Raptor Trail and Visitor Center includes a 65-seat amphitheatre and a festival area that seats over 200 at rustic picnic table seating. The festival area also features a stage and seating area for approximately 100 people. Choose the full rental if you would like Carolina Raptor Center to be closed to the public during your event. The full rental ensures that your company outing or large event will only include your guests with the run of the property.

Saturday -- \$750/hour

Friday-Sunday -- \$500/hour

Monday-Thursday -- \$400/hour

Includes a ticket to the Raptor Trail for all of your guests.

Amphitheatre Only (Seats up to 65)

“The Raptor” amphitheatre seats up to 65 participants and has audio visual capabilities for groups including sound, lavalier microphones and video and power point presentations via our outdoor 60 inch

television screen. The Raptor is the setting for our weekend flight program and may not be available at certain times during the high season. Participants enter through private entrance.

High Season: May-September --Not available Saturday (noon-4 pm)

\$150/hour

Add a ticket to the Raptor Trail for all of your guests for \$3/each

Festival Area Only (Accommodates up to 300)

The **festival area** can seat approximately 200 family style at picnic tables for meals. It also includes a stage and rustic seating for 100 for presentations. A sound system and power for AV equipment is available if needed in this area. Internet service is not currently available in this area of the park. This area serves as our primary summer camp venue throughout the summer, so during the summer months weekday events will be coordinated around the daily camp schedule. Participants enter through front entrance.

\$250/hour for up to 200 people.

Add a ticket to the Raptor trail for each of your guests for \$2/each

Flight Shows

During the summer months (May through September), Carolina Raptor Center offers a flighted bird program on weekends in the amphitheatre for an additional upcharge of \$5/person. This exciting program is available to private audiences during the weekdays and on weekends for a charge of \$325 a show. Our bird show staff and flight team is able to perform two shows a day. Evening shows are performed at the discretion of the bird show staff and may be altered to not include diurnal species.

Live Bird Presentations

On weekends year round, staff and docents present natural history presentations utilizing glove-trained birds on our education team. During the 30-40 minute presentation, 3-4 resident raptors are introduced along with additional species specific information. This programming is available for children and adults through our education department. Private presentations are available for groups starting at \$200 per program.

Additional program offerings:

Add an eagle to your presentation \$100

Physics of flight demonstration \$100

Birds of the world presentation \$100

Guided Tours

Self-guided tours are available for all groups during park hours (and extended hours) as part of the base event price. Add an expert guide for \$100/hour to guide your group through the park.

Tents

The use of tenting is allowed in the Festival area only. Carolina Raptor Center does not have a preferred vendor for this service.

Restroom Facilities

Access to bathrooms within the Visitors Center is available for all rental groups. Large groups may want to provide additional restroom facilities.

Parking

Parking is available for up to 50 cars at Carolina Raptor Center and additional arrangements may be made to accommodate larger groups. For more than 100 cars, CRC can coordinate with the Mecklenburg Park and Recreation Department to mow the Gar Creek Access Area at a cost of \$100. For an event expecting over 50 vehicles, CRC recommends the use of a licensed valet parking service to assist with parking.

Catering

Carolina Raptor Center does not currently have a list of preferred vendors for event rentals or catering; however, vendors should be licensed and must be approved by the facility. Picnic tables are available for seating at the facility for up to 200 diners at each time. CRC has a limited number of tables and folding chairs available for use.

Beverage Service

Groups planning to serve alcohol must hire a licensed caterer or include "Carolina Raptor Center" on their liability insurance policy for the evening.

* For events involving less than 50 people – including birthday parties, please ask for ***CRC's Small Event Planning Guide***.