



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.**

GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY

# Retreat to Nature

Experience the Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi's beautiful coast.



*Book your retreat, conference or meeting at Gulf Coast Research Laboratory today!*

## Retreat and Conference Facilities

Customize your conference, retreat, meeting or special event.  
Call 228.872.4208 or email [gcrf.reservations@usm.edu](mailto:gcrf.reservations@usm.edu).  
Seasonal availability— *Spring, Fall and Winter*

- Conveniently located on the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast midway between New Orleans, La. and Mobile, Ala.
- Easily accessible via major highways
- Unique retreat and meeting opportunity located on the grounds of a marine research laboratory
- Scenic vistas
- Beautiful sunrises and sunsets over the Mississippi Sound and its salt marshes
- Public beach within walking distance
- Multiple excursion options



### ***Meeting Support Services***

GCRL's library staff is ever-ready to help! Basic meeting support services—copies, fax and computers—are available.

Audio visual and technology services are also available.



***Book an educational excursion or day-trip to one of Mississippi's barrier islands.***

## Dining Hall

Nestled among the trees, this 2540 sq. ft. window-walled facility may be partitioned into two separate areas based on seating needs:



### ***Food Service***

Customized catering and food service is available; call 228.872.4208.

Packages include: box lunches for field/boat trips, coffee service for meetings, light refreshments and snacks.

- Small “tree-house” area— 650 sq. ft.; seats 20
- Main dining— 1890 sq. ft.; seats 80-100 based on configuration. Large flat-screen television with VHS/DVD and smart podium is available in this area.
- Wrap-around porch on three sides, features picnic tables and spectacular view
- No alcoholic beverages allowed due to university policy

## Meeting Venues

### ***Retreat to Nature***

We can accommodate groups from 5 to 150—indoors and out. Some of the most powerful, productive meetings occur in our outdoor classrooms! Traditional meeting venues are available as well, all with multi-media connectivity and

internet access, including a 150-seat auditorium, computer lab with 23 individual stations and more than a dozen classrooms and multi-purpose areas. Call 228.872.4208 or email [gcrf.reservations@usm.edu](mailto:gcrf.reservations@usm.edu) for details.



## Accommodations

### *Dormitory (Two-story)*

- Nine suites with four rooms per suite (Each suite must be gender specific due to common bathroom)
- Each room has 1 bunk bed and 1 single bed (Exception: ADA/accessible room with 2 single beds)
- 2 desks with chairs and 2 closets
- Nominal wireless fee
- Prices are per double occupancy for adults and include linens and towels.
- Each suite shares a common bathroom/shower facility.

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**Check-in time:**  
3 – 5 p.m.

**Check-out time:**  
9 a.m.

**Maximum number  
of adults is 72.**

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### *Faculty House*

Small house with four bedrooms, common kitchen and living room; living room and bedrooms have TVs with basic cable channels.

- Room 2 has a private bath and 2 single beds
- Room 3 shares a common bathroom in the hallway and has 1 single bed
- Room 4 shares a common bathroom in the hallway and has 1 single bed
- The efficiency apartment has a private shower/toilet, 1 double bed, 1 single bed and a kitchen area



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## Recreational Activities



Explore the beach



Birding



Pier access and fishing



Nature trail



Kayaking and canoeing



Additional activities and amenities

## Vessels

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory boasts a fleet of research vessels, all available for charter. Call 228.818.8847 for pricing and availability.

*R/V Tom McIlwain* is a 55-foot fiberglass vessel that carries a crew of two and a maximum of 30 adult passengers. Great for an educational day-trip to Horn Island, fishing, trawling or all three! It is equipped with an air-conditioned cabin, bathroom, shower and four bunks.

*R/V Hermes* is a 38-foot steel trawler that is U.S. Coast Guard approved for 20 adult passengers. Spend a slow-paced day at sea trawling, fishing or exploring the islands and coastlines.



*R/V Sea Explorer* is a 20-person capacity pontoon boat and all-around floating classroom. It's perfect for quick or leisurely trips to Deer Island, bayou/salt marsh tours or just cruising the Mississippi Sound and its shoreline. For an extra-special and truly enlightening educational experience, book a guided tour with one of GCRL's marine educators!

