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Weather-Proof, Year-Round Fun

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Wisp Resort in Garrett County, Maryland, specializes in recreational activities for people of all ages. The large hotel and conference center with yurt village is known for its ski slopes, but it is truly a four-season resort. Space can be rented year-round for various kinds of gatherings, including corporate conferences, workshops, and weddings.

Wisp offers rides on scenic chair lifts and the mountain coaster, canopy tour zip lines, Segway tours, disc golf, downhill mountain biking, whitewater rafting (on the County-owned course managed by Wisp Resort), and gem mining. Wisp also runs the concession at Deep Creek Lake State Park for canoe, kayak, and paddle board rentals. Reservations for many of these activities can be made online.

In September 2017, a new option was added. The staff had become aware of the many escape rooms popping up around the country, including nearby in Morgantown, West Virginia. In fact, some staff members were connoisseurs, traveling to participate in escape games offered elsewhere. The decision was made to incorporate an escape game into the array of activities at Wisp Resort, and the first game was developed.

Escape games challenge a group of people to work together to “escape” the room they’re in and to do it quickly. The first game at Wisp, Race to the Slopes, gives people a role to play; they must complete tasks for their work in the ski shop and find their lost lift ticket in time to get to the lift, which is opening in one hour.

This game proved popular enough that staff members have designed a second game: Detention Breakout. In this scenario, group members are students serving a Saturday morning detention, and the teacher/supervisor has given them one hour to prove they can work together to escape the detention room. If they do, their detention will be considered complete.

To play escape games, it is not necessary to have specialized knowledge or skills; instead, escape games require common sense, intuition, communication, and team work. They can be played successfully by young and old, though children under thirteen must be with an adult. Players work in groups of 6-10 players, and there is a Game Master watching via camera to nudge players when they are having difficulty figuring out clues. The Game Master, who appears on a screen in the room and can type messages to the players, might offer up to three free clues when necessary. Games are rated on their level of difficulty, and the greatest challenge lies in solving the puzzles on time.

Meanwhile, participants can leave the room during the game. There are keys to the doors, and people leave as necessary to use the restroom, take phone calls, etc. However, the clock starts ticking when the game begins, and players are committed to working together to make the great escape before the deadline.

Escape games are effective team-building exercises for employees and members of groups; they are also fun for groups of family and friends.

WisP will schedule escape games any day of the week if people reserve a spot during the prime summer and winter seasons. At other times, the games are usually held on weekends. The cost is \$24 per person. Best of all, this is an activity that can safely be planned no matter what the weather forecast may be.

If you love escape games or are curious to find out what they're like, book a spot online for a Race to the Slopes or a Detention Breakout at WisP Resort.



Win or lose, it's always fun to have a group photo at the end of your Escape Game.