

## Guest FAQ for Beacon Hill Friends House ( bhfh.org )

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### **So you're thinking about staying here**

#### **What are the rooms like?**

We have two guest rooms. Both rooms share a bathroom with residents. The bathrooms have tubs. Neither room locks from the outside, but neither does any resident's room. We have a very safe, trusting community.

Occasionally, a resident may need to enter your room to clean it while you are staying here. We thoroughly clean our guest rooms once a week, and since residents often have busy lives, they cannot always clean when the rooms are vacant. The chore person will always contact you before cleaning the room to find a mutually convenient time to clean.

**The Mary Dyer Room:** Named after a tenacious Boston Quaker who refused to stop preaching even after the Puritans told her to leave the city, this room has a double bed. Winding stairs or a small elevator from the front door lead you to the Mary Dyer Room, on the

second floor, overlooking the street. It includes a desk, chair, bureau, closet and an extra, single mattress for the floor. A radiator and space heater keeps the room extra warm in the winter, and a fan cools it in the summer. The bathroom is just across the hall, and is shared with two regular resident users.

**The George Fox Room:** Named after a passionate founder of Quakerism, this room has two single-sized beds. You can take the stairs or elevator from the front door to the George Fox Room, tucked into the quiet back end of the house. Two windows look out onto the kitchen courtyard, lighting this modestly sized room. It includes a dresser, chair, and radio alarm clock. The bathroom is just around the corner and is lightly used by residents and visitors.

### **How much does it cost?**

The Mary Dyer Room costs \$100/night for one person or \$110/night for two. If you'd really like to squeeze in a third, able-bodied person, there is a mattress for the floor for \$10 extra per night.

The George Fox Room costs \$85/night for one person or \$95/night for two. We may sometimes be able to use a futon in the next room for guests to sleep on, which costs an extra \$10 per person per night. The room with the futon has limited privacy, as it is connected to the hallway to a public bathroom.

### **How many people can sleep in a room?**

Both rooms are private; guests never share a bedroom with a stranger.

The Mary Dyer Room can be booked for one or two people. Sometimes, it can accommodate 3 people, if the third person is able-bodied and doesn't mind sleeping on a mattress on the floor, and everyone doesn't mind the cramped quarters this creates.

The George Fox Room can be booked for one or two people. Usually, when requested, it can be booked for up to four people. The third and/or fourth person will sleep on the futon in the adjacent room, the playroom. This room is not entirely private, as people may walk into the adjoining hallway on their way to the bathroom. Guests must walk through the playroom to get to the George Fox Room.

### **Does the house provide linens and towels?**

Yes. We make and strip the beds and give guests a set of towels for their time here. If you are staying longer than a week, we can give you a fresh set of towels, if you like.

### **What is the house like?**

The Beacon Hill Friends House sits at the top of Chestnut Street on Beacon Hill, near the Massachusetts State House. It was built in 1804 as two single-family homes, which were joined together in the 1920s. In 1957, the house was donated to the Quakers to be a Meeting House of Worship and a place of residence. The Beacon Hill Friends Meeting rents the Meeting Room from the house for their Sunday worship. Guests share public space (kitchen, parlor, lounge, library, courtyards, and sometimes the bathroom) with residents.

### **Who are the people who live here?**

21 residents call the Beacon Hill Friends House home. Residents live here one to four years, aging in their 20s to 60s, typically. We are sometimes working people, students, single, partnered, and many other life stages, situations, and choices. Three of the residents are staff—the Director, Residency Manager and Kitchen Manager. The Residency Manager will usually handle all of the guest room booking, but other staff may greet guests. Sometimes, especially for guests arriving in the evening or on a weekend, a resident volunteer may greet you.

Residents come together at our house dinners Sun-Thur, two house meetings a month, committee work, chores, and formal and informal house events.

### **How long can I stay?**

Typically, guests stay one night to two weeks.

### **Before you come**

#### **How do I reserve a room?**

Contact the Residency Manager at 617-227-9118 or [directors@bhfh.org](mailto:directors@bhfh.org) . Do not just show up at the house—we only take guests by reservation.

After we confirm that you can come, please send a check for one night payable to “Beacon Hill Friends House” to

Beacon Hill Friends House  
6 Chestnut St  
Boston, MA 02108 .

No need to put it to anyone’s attention. Upon arrival, you will owe the balance.

If you are coming from overseas or cannot send a check for some other reason, please discuss this with the Residency Manager. Travelers checks often work well. If you absolutely cannot send money ahead of time, please call/email a week ahead of time to confirm your stay.

Send the check as soon as we confirm that you can come.

Please give the Residency Manager your cell phone and flight numbers if relevant, so that we can contact you if you’re late or check if your flight is late. Also, it is very important to give us a specific arrival time.

#### **How do I cancel my reservation?**

Please contact us at least two weeks in advance by phone (617-227-9118) or email ([directors@bhfh.org](mailto:directors@bhfh.org)) if you need to cancel. Your check will be refunded if you reach us at least a week in advance, or two weeks if it’s a holiday weekend.

Please let us know if your plans change and you won’t be coming, even if you’ve only made a tentative reservation.

### **When should I arrive?**

Please arrive between 11am and 7 pm. On Sundays, please arrive between 3:30pm and 7pm. Let us know what time you will arrive (please be as specific as possible). If you need to arrive later, we may be able to arrange for a resident to greet you. We do not greet guests later than 10pm.

### **What happens when I arrive?**

A staff person or a resident will expect you at the time you said you would come and let you in once you arrive. You will receive a brief orientation of the house, get your key to the front door, fill out a registration form with an emergency contact, and pay any balance due. Please have cash or check available, as we do not accept credit card payments.

### **How do I get there?**

Our website [www.bhfh.org](http://www.bhfh.org) section "directions" has more detailed directions.

Train:

Commuter Rail to North Station or South Station.

Amtrak to North or South Station, Boston: [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com)

Check out [mbta.com](http://mbta.com) for local trains, buses, and subway

Bus:

Greyhound bus to South Station

Peter Pan Bus to South Station

Bolt Bus to South Station

Mega Bus to Back Bay Station

Plane:

Logan International Airport

Subway: the "T" at [mbta.com](http://mbta.com)

Car: Please look up the directions ahead of time. Several guests have spent a long time circling the neighborhood, confused by the one-way streets. You may wish to drop passengers off before parking in the garage [www.mccahome.com/bcg.html](http://www.mccahome.com/bcg.html) - [the Boston Common Garage](#)

Driving Directions to garage from house: looking at a map is helpful. Google maps doesn't give you the most direct route.

Go down Chestnut St Turn Left on Charles St at the bottom of the hill

Turn Right on Beacon St. Get in left lane and hug the Public Gardens

Turn Left on Arlington St

Turn Left on Boylston St

Turn Left on Charles St.

Get in right lane. Turn right into garage.

Walking Directions from garage to house: Walk through park to Beacon St. Cross Beacon St at cross walk, and walk up Spruce St. Turn Right on Chestnut St. Walk up hill to BHFH.

To reverse the route see [www.bhfh.org](http://www.bhfh.org). 1-way streets are involved.)

### **Can I park on the street?**

Street parking is not available for guests, but if you need to drop off your bags, you can do so quickly in front of the house. Usually, there is space in front of the fire hydrant at the corner of Chestnut on the left as you turn right onto Chestnut from Walnut St. This can be a very temporary space (someone should remain in the car, ready to move it) while someone unloads bags.

We have discounted parking garage tickets for the Boston Common Garage, about a 15 minute walk (uphill) from there to the house. These discounted tickets only apply on weekend days and during weeknights, if your car is in after 4pm and out by 8am. They cost \$5.50 each. Without these discounted tickets, you would pay \$11 a weekend day or weeknight. The garage costs \$27 a day. See above for directions to and from the garage.

### **While you're here**

#### **How do I use the internet?**

There is no password or login to use the internet. We have a public computer in our library for guests to use. We also have wi-fi all over the house, though it may not work as well in some places as in others. **We do not have a printer.** There is a Kinkos nearby if you need to print anything.

#### **How do I make and receive phone calls?**

There is a cordless public phone in the kitchen. It has a short range. For privacy, you can take it into the TV lounge, dining room, or outside. Please consider those around you as you make your calls. For any number not starting with the area code 617 or 781, you must use a calling card. Please put \$0.25 into the box by the phone to pay for every local call. You can buy calling cards at a convenience store.

If you are expecting a call, please wait for it in the kitchen. If someone else picks up the phone, they may write a message for you and leave it in the message box in the kitchen labeled "guest" or tape it to your door. Ask the staff for the kitchen phone number once you arrive.

We do not take personal calls on the office phone, so please do not have people call you on our office number.

#### **Is there a curfew?**

No. Guests may come and go as they please while here, since you will get a key to the front door. There is no sign in or sign out.

#### **What is the quiet hours policy?**

Quiet hours are between 10:30pm and 8am on weekdays and 10:30pm and 9am on weekends. Please keep your voices to a whisper in hallways, stairwells and just outside of the house (sound travels up to bedroom windows), be careful not to slam doors, do not play the piano, and generally be conscious of noise during these hours.

#### **Can I drink alcohol?**

Open containers of alcohol are not permitted at any time in the kitchen. Alcohol is also not

allowed during our community dinnertime. All other times and places are acceptable, but please keep alcohol consumption to a level where it doesn't disrupt other residents or create a mess.

### **What public rooms can I use?**

Guests are welcome to use the parlor, library, grand staircase, dining room, tv lounge, bathrooms on the basement level, kitchen, laundry room, courtyards, and deck. Please respect the private areas of the house by not entering private bathrooms or rooms.

### **When is Meeting for Worship, and how will it affect guests?**

Meeting for Worship is the "congregation" of Quakers that rents space from the Beacon Hill Friends House. This Beacon Hill Friends Meeting has worship from 10:30-11:30 in the Meeting Room most Sundays.

Some public rooms may be used for Meeting meetings on Sundays before 10:30 and in the early afternoon.

The "first day school" (Sunday school) meets in the playroom just outside of the George Fox Room on Sunday mornings.

On the first Sunday of the month, there is a Meeting for Business from around 12 noon to 2pm. During Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business, residents and guests are asked to follow quiet hour rules and not use the wooden stairs or elevator.

People attending Meeting will use the guest bathroom by the George Fox Room.

Everyone, including guests, is always welcome to attend Beacon Hill Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business.

### **What about food?**

The nightly cost includes access to the resident kitchen for breakfast. When you arrive, your greeter will give you a tour of the kitchen. You are free to help yourself to breakfast whenever you like. We generally have cereal, bread, fruit, and yogurt available, and you are welcome to cook eggs or help yourself to other foods. We have a coffee maker and many kinds of tea (help yourself any time). When you are done eating, please wash your dishes by hand and then put them in the sterilizer rack (house residents will run the sterilizer when it gets full).

For other meals, we charge extra. If you'd like to make yourself a lunch or dinner from our kitchen, or have some leftovers, we charge \$5 per meal. If you'd like to join us for our house dinners, Sun-Thur at 6:30, it's \$7 per meal. You can pay the kitchen manager at dinner, or pay the Residency Manager before you leave, or put the money in an envelope in the "Friends House" mailbox (a little cubby) in the office.

Please let us know by 3pm the day of if you plan to join us for the formal meal at 6:30. We start promptly at 6:30, so please be on time.

If you would like to dine out, there are many nice places on Charles St at the bottom of the hill. Chinatown and the North End (Italian food) are each about a 30 minute walk away. You

may store leftovers in our resident fridge. Please label food with your name and the date.

**Where do I smoke?**

Please smoke out in front of the house, being mindful of any open windows. Please extinguish and then toss cigarettes etc into the trash in the kitchen.

**How safe is the house and the area?**

We pride ourselves in having a very trusting, safe community. Neither guest room locks from the outside, and we do not have a place to lock up your valuables. We have not had problems with burglary in the house.

The front door locks automatically. Beacon Hill has a statistically low crime rate, as does our immediate surrounding area. Many people feel safe walking through the park alone at night, but it's an individual decision. As in any city, no matter where you are or what time of day it is, it's always wise to keep your wits about you. To be more aware of your surroundings, avoid talking on the phone or listening to music while walking.

**Before you leave**

**How do I check out?**

Please leave your key on the dresser when you leave. Leave the sheets on the bed. Please do not refold towels. Take all of your belongings out of the room by 10am. No need to check out with staff.