



Overnight Guest Policy

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Panhandlers frequently use a line that sounds something like this: "Can you give me some money so I can stay at the mission?"

This causes a fair amount of misunderstanding, including the misperception that Memphis Union Mission doesn't provide free shelter.

To clarify, our policy for overnight guests is as follows:

- Guests who are staying on an overnight basis and who are not enrolled in our recovery program get four free nights every month.
- After guests use up their free nights, they pay a \$6 per day program service fee. This includes their dinner, overnight stay, breakfast the following morning and access to other mission services. (Lunch is always free and open to anyone.)
- There are several exceptions:
 - Guests who are willing to help with simple chores around the Mission can stay free.
 - Overnight guests always stay free on nights when it is 32 degrees or colder.
 - Even after using up their monthly free nights, guests can still use Mission coupons, as well as vouchers from various churches and other service providers.
- We provide work and day-labor referrals to guests who are willing and able to work.

In a year's time, approximately two thirds of all overnight stays at Memphis Union Mission end up being free.

And this doesn't even include Memphis Union Mission's residential recovery programs, which are provided free of charge to men and women wanting to overcome substance abuse and become self-sufficient members of the community.

We operate the way we do because our goal is to encourage responsibility and address our guests' needs without enabling them.