Public Policies and Procedures for Campground Operations

- Properties shall rent to first-come, first-serve campers (also known as walk-up or local sale rentals, hereafter, referred to as local sales) if sites are available.
- Each group shall register at the control station, property office, with a department representative, or through self-registration (where provided) for each night’s camping. The nightly camping fee, to be paid in advance, shall entitle the group to occupy one campsite for one overnight period for each night they have paid the fee.
- An individual may register as many campsites as desired but must present, at registration, the names and addresses of individuals who will occupy each site. Renting only one night will not guarantee availability beyond the first night due to the Central Reservation System. Please remember, Internet reservations may be made 24 hours/7 days a week, and sites may be reserved the same day of arrival until noon.
- Campers registering by local sales may request a specific site if that site is available.
- One camping group shall be permitted to occupy one campsite in a campground. A camping group consists of as many as six persons, not necessarily related. One main camping unit per campsite with one additional tent and one dining fly are permitted per site and subject to the property manager’s discretion. Horse campgrounds permit additional trailers for horse transport, and some of those units provide family living space. In this situation, the horse trailer may serve as either the main or the secondary camping unit.
- Campsite reservations are available at camp.IN.gov or by calling 1-866-622-6746. Local sales may be processed in person at the property; however, reservations may only be made online or through the call center at the Internet address and/or telephone number listed above.
- An individual 18 years old is required to register personally for the group or family with the department’s representative at the site. Campers younger than 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older) or obtain permission from the department’s representative on the site in advance of the stay. The responsible party registering or reserving a campsite shall remain with the group on the site.
- It is unlawful to locate any camp, tent, trailer, or vehicle at any place, except as especially provided, designated or assigned. It is also unlawful to sleep in or occupy between the hours of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., any camper, tent trailer, or vehicle except where designated by the department or as authorized by a written permit.
- Individuals permitted to enter a property to camp after designated quiet hours and prior to 7 a.m. will be charged the normal camping fee for the previous night and may be directed to a temporary parking area. Those entering the property after 7 a.m. will be registered with the new day’s business.
- Horse Campground only: Horses will be allowed in the horsemanship’s campground only. Campers accompanying the horse campers and intending to participate in equestrian activities will be permitted to register for a campsite in the horsemanship’s campground. These campers must purchase at least one horse trail access tag per campsite per night and follow all other established campground rules and regulations. Persons with llamas, mules, and donkeys are restricted to horse campgrounds.
- Campground occupancy is limited to a period not to exceed 14 consecutive nights. At the end of any camping period the camping group must completely vacate the property, with all equipment, for a minimum of 48 hours. Failure to comply with result in impoundment and disposal of equipment, in accordance with department regulations.
- Leasing or subleasing campsites or equipment on a site is prohibited.
- The washing of dishes or pets at drinking fountains, lavatories or laundry tubs is prohibited. Dishwater must be disposed of through proper sanitary facilities; it must not be discharged on or into the ground. The washing of automobiles or boats in the camping area is prohibited.
- It shall be unlawful to possess fireworks.
- Quiet hours shall be observed from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Generators and similar items, which produce noise, may only be operated in campgrounds from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. local time.
- Dogs, cats or other pets must be caged or kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and must be attended at all times. Pet waste must be properly disposed of.
- All refuse and garbage is to be placed in receptacles provided for that purpose. If refuse is left at campsite, the occupant may be billed for cleaning and disposal fees. Pet waste is considered refuse.
- All firearms (except validly licensed handguns), BB guns, air guns, bow and arrows, CO₂ guns, or spear guns must be unloaded or unstrung and stored in a case or locked in a vehicle when using campgrounds on Department of Natural Resources properties.
- In controlled campgrounds, only one mode of motorized transportation shall be allowed per campsite. No more than two large motorcycles are allowed per campsite, except that, in addition, one per person of the following may be kept on the site: licensed mini bike, moped or other small licensed motorcycle under 100cc. Golf-cart type vehicles are not permitted unless in compliance with 312 IAC 8-2-8 (c).
- On some DNR properties two modes of transportation shall be allowed per campsite due to campground design or other factors.
- Property roads on DNR properties are considered state roads and all state motor vehicle laws are applicable. There are restrictions on the use of vehicles and motorized carts. See property manager.
- Check-in and checkout time is 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday; 5 p.m. on Sunday and holidays. Check-in times will be strictly enforced.
- It shall be unlawful to build a fire except in designated public-use areas, provided by the Department of Natural Resources for that purpose. Fires shall be entirely extinguished immediately after use. Lighted matches, cigarettes, cigars, or other articles alike shall be thoroughly extinguished before being discarded. DNR or its authorized representative may prohibit all fires in any area when deemed necessary for property protection.
- The camping hangtag or campground receipt must be retained by the camper for use as a pass through the main gate and campground gate. Only vehicles with valid receipts are permitted to enter the campground. All visitors to a campsite must park in a designated area outside the campground; however, a 20-minute entrance pass may be issued to permit loading and unloading.
- Valid campground hangtag or campground receipt will be honored at all DNR properties for waiver of entrance fees.
- Properties shall issue additional entrance passes for extra vehicles belonging to registered campers. This additional entrance pass will permit entry into the property without additional charges for the duration of the visit. An additional entrance pass may be issued for a vehicle only after an entrance fee has been collected on that vehicle.
- Property managers will use proper discretion in allowing mobility-impaired people to drive into the campground. Managers should also allow park visitors controlled access to the campground during slow periods for the purpose of marketing the campsites for future rental.
- On state park properties, the collection of firewood is prohibited.
- It shall be unlawful to injure, cut, destroy, remove, mutilate, or deface any building structure, sign, rock, tree, shrub, vine or property whatsoever, or pick any flower or take or rifle the nest of any bird or den, nest or abode of any wildlife animal or to climb or rappel on land subject to the regulations in 312 IAC 8-2-10.

This is not a complete list of DNR rules and regulations. For a complete list, inquire at property office.

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