Public Policies and Procedures for Youth Tent Campground Operations

- Groups of 10 or more with campers under 21 years old with their adult leaders. Available to public, semi-public and not for profit groups only. Tent camping only.
- Non-profit groups are those supported by membership dues and not operated for profit. Examples are: American Legion and service clubs, such as Rotary, Lion, Kiwanis, and the Izaak Walton League.
- Alcohol is strictly prohibited in Youth Tent Campgrounds.
- Campsites are available through reservations at www.camp.in.gov and 866-622-6746 and on a local sale basis.
- 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 available for that night. Due to the Internet reservation system, available sites rented for one night only may not be available the next day. Therefore, customers need to be aware that available sites may not be available the next day and if possible, they should rent them for additional nights to protect their ability to continue to camp beyond their first night rental. An unavailable site is either one that is occupied or one that will be occupied by a camper that day through a reservation.
- 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 for a maximum of four local sale sites. Names and addresses of the other individuals who will be occupying the sites must be provided when registering for multiple sites. Individuals renting only one night will not be guaranteed availability beyond the first night due to the Internet reservation system. Internet reservations are 24/7 and sites may be rented the same day up to 12 noon.
- Campers registering by walk up may request a specific site if that site is available.
- An individual 18 years old is required to register personally for the group or family with the department’s representative at the site. Campers under 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. 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 7:00 a.m. will be charged the normal camping fee for the previous night. Those entering the property after 7:00 a.m. will be registered with the new days’ business.
- Campground occupancy is limited to a period not to exceed fourteen (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 will 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) six feet and must be attended at all times. Pet waste must be properly disposed.
- All refuse and garbage is to be placed in receptacles provided for that purpose. Pet waste is considered refuse.
- All firearms, 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.
- 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 vehicles laws are applicable. There are restrictions on the use of vehicles and motorized carts. See property manager.
- Check in and out time is 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 5 p.m. on Sunday and holidays. Check out times 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 afire shall be thoroughly extinguished before being discarded. The Department or its authorized representative may prohibit all fires in any area when deemed necessary for the protection of the property.
- The camping hangtag or campground receipt must be retained by the camper as a pass through the main gate and campground gate. Only those 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 twenty minute entrance pass may be issued to permit loading and unloading.
- Valid campground receipts 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 only be issued for a vehicle after an entrance fee has been collected on that vehicle.
- Property managers will use proper discretion in allowing the mobility impaired 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 rock 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.