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, on the day of arrival only
- 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 or cabin for one overnight period for each night they have paid the fee.
- An individual may register as many campsites or cabins as desired but must be present. At registration, the names and addresses of individuals who will occupy each site also must be provided. Renting only one night will not guarantee availability beyond the first night due to other reservations being made via the Central Reservation System. Internet reservations may be made 24 hours/7 days a week. Campsites may be reserved six months in advance until the night before arrival. Cabins may be reserved one year in advance until two nights before arrival.
- 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. Equestrian 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.
- Campsites 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 or older is required to register personally for the group or family for the campsite. The responsible party registering or reserving a campsite shall remain with the group on the site.
- An individual 21 years or older is required to register personally for the group or family with the department’s representative for a cabin. The responsible party registering or reserving a cabin shall remain with the group in the cabin during the stay.
- It is unlawful to locate any camp, tent, trailer, or vehicle on any property, 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 that night and may be directed to a temporary parking area. Those entering the property after 7 a.m. will be registered with the new business day.
- Equestrian Campground only: Horses will be allowed in the equestrian campground only. Each registered camper must have at least one horse present to stay overnight at an equestrian campsite. Equestrian campers must purchase an annual or daily horse tag at the office. Persons with llama, mules, and donkeys are restricted to equestrian campgrounds.
- Camping or cabin stay is limited to a period not to exceed 14 consecutive nights. At the end of any camping or cabin period the 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, cabins or equipment is prohibited.
- Washing 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. Washing 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.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nicked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- 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 minibike, 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 vehicles laws are applicable. There are restrictions on the use of vehicles and motorized carts. See property manager.
- Check-in and checkout for camping is 2 p.m. local time, Monday through Saturday; 5 p.m. local time on Sunday and holidays. Checkout times will be strictly enforced.
- Check-in time for cabins is 4 p.m., and checkout time is 11 a.m. local time, seven days a week, including holidays. Checkout 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 afire must be thoroughly extinguished before being discarded. DNR or its authorized representative may prohibit all fires in any area when deemed necessary for property protection.
- All cabins and other indoor reservable facilities are non-smoking.
- 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, only for the dates listed on the receipt or hangtag.
- Properties shall issue additional entrance passes for extra vehicles belonging to registered campers. This additional entrance pass will permit entrance 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 in accordance with the American Disabilities Act. Managers will also use discretion to allow park visitors to have controlled access to the campground during slow periods for the purpose of marketing the campsite or future rental.
- The collection of firewood is prohibited on state park and reservoir properties.
- 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.