

Leave No Trace

Dispose of Waste Properly

Use the trash cans in the campground and day-use areas. In other areas, pack out all trash including aluminum foil, cigarette butts, toilet paper and food scraps. Use the restrooms provided at the SRMA campground and day-use area. In other areas, pack out all human waste.

Leave What You Find

Examine, but do not touch cultural and historic artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural items as you find them so others can enjoy them as well.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Use fire rings in campgrounds if possible. In areas where dispersed camping is allowed, use already-existing fire rings. Keep fires small. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, and then scatter cool ashes.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Travel in small groups.
- Don't race on recreational trails.
- Let nature's sounds prevail over your own.

ROADS & TRAILS

Motorized vehicles are allowed on designated roads only. All other trails are non-motorized. A sign at the beginning of each trail lists who can use the trail—hikers, mountain bikers, or horseback riders. Stay on designated roads and trails.

Durable Surfaces

Limit your riding and camping to durable surfaces (trails, dirt roads, pavement and campgrounds). Off-trail riding is never allowed.

- Adapt your braking power to varying terrain. Avoid skidding.
- Ride the mountain as it is – don't make the mountain rideable by altering obstacles to make them easier to ride.
- Don't create new trail markers.
- Please don't reconstruct trails – some types of terrain are more fragile than well-packed dirt. Try to avoid:

Mud: If you ride in mud, your bike will carry away soil, gouge the trail and speed the erosion process.

Water: Stop, shoulder your bike, and walk if the water is deeper than your hubs. Ride across water only if the crossing is established on a bare rocky or sandy surface, and the depth is no greater than your hubs or bottom bracket. If the water will reach your hubs or bottom bracket, your bike could release harmful lubricants and grease into the water.

CAMPING

The area has two group campsites and 15 individual campsites. The sites cannot be reserved in advance and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fees for group and single campsites are posted at the fee area. Please pay campsite fees as soon as you occupy a site. Checkout time for all campsites is noon.

Dispersed camping is allowed in some areas; please use existing sites. Exception: No camping in the Rock Garden.

Dispersed camping is not allowed in the campground or day-use area; use designated campsites only. No camping in parking lots.

No horses allowed in the campground.

Dogs should be on leashes in the campground and day-use area and under their owners' control everywhere in Penitente Canyon.

No firewood cutting or gathering.

No shooting, possessing firearms or fireworks in the campground or day-use area.

Use designated fire rings in the campground and pre-existing fire rings in dispersed campsites.

OTHER AMENITIES

Drinking water is available at the well house near the campground entrance, typically May through October.

A picnic shelter, an interpretive kiosk, toilets and a trash dumpster are located in the day-use area at the entrance to Penitente Canyon.

For more information, check out the entrance kiosk when you arrive.

SAFETY

Most cell phones do not work within the rocky area of Penitente Canyon. You may have to head toward La Garita for a signal.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

Penitente Canyon is home to many animals. Be aware of habitat and seasonal closures, both mandatory and voluntary, and follow them.

When you see wildlife, please:

- Don't follow or approach animals.
- Never feed animals.
- Control your pets.
- Avoid sensitive times for wildlife such as early mornings, evenings, and breeding seasons.

RATTLESNAKES

Prairie rattlesnakes are common in Penitente Canyon. Please be on the lookout for them. Always watch where you are stepping or reaching—don't reach where you can't see. If you encounter a snake, leave it alone and simply back away. Parents should always keep a close eye on their children in snake country.

