

Camping in Campgrounds

Facilities and Amenities

Most developed campgrounds provide designated campsites, toilets, picnic tables, and fire rings. Some campgrounds also provide water and RV hook ups. Please use dumpsters or other trash receptacles when they are available, otherwise, be prepared to follow the “pack it in/pack it out” rule with your waste.

Accessibility

Accessible facilities, such as picnic tables, fire rings, and restrooms are available at some campsites in some campgrounds. For more information refer to the campground table or descriptions or contact the local public lands office.

Campground hosts

Campground hosts are stationed at many of the campgrounds listed in the guide. They are there to help and will be more than happy to provide directions, answer your questions, and listen to your comments. fees

Fees apply at most developed campgrounds. Fee information is posted at the entrance to each campground and payment is required to camp. Fees are payable to the campground host on site or the self-serve registration and fee-payment stations. Fees range from \$5 – \$20 per campsite and additional fees may apply to extra vehicles, picnicking, or day use.

Federal Recreation Passes

At many sites operated by the Forest Service, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation holders of the America the Beautiful Senior Pass (for US residents over 62) or the America the Beautiful Access Pass (for those with a permanent disability) receive discounts on Expanded Amenity Fees (such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and guided tours).

Advance Reservations

Some campgrounds have campsites that can be reserved in advance through the National Recreation Reservation System. Reservations can be made up to 240 days in advance for individual sites and up to 360 days in advance for group sites. You may pay by credit card over the phone or on-line. In addition to a camping fee, a non-refundable reservation fee is charged. Changes, no-shows and cancellations are subject to service fees. To book reservations, call toll-free 877-444-6777; TDD 877-833-6777, or go to www.recreation.gov.

Stay Limits

National Forest. Generally, throughout the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests occupying one campsite is allowed for a maximum of 14 days. However, within specific designated campgrounds, the allowed lengths of stay may vary from 7 to 30 days. Please note that leaving unattended property within a campsite is also considered to be occupancy. For more information refer to the campground description and contact the local public lands office for more information.

Bureau of Land Management. Generally, camping in one location is allowed for 14 consecutive days, including any developed campground. After 14 days, campers must move a minimum of 30 air miles away and not return for 30 days. However, within specific designated campgrounds or camping areas, the allowed lengths of stay may vary from 3 to 7 days. Unattended property (campsites that are being established for the purpose of securing campsite locations for later use) may be left on public land for no more than 48 hours. For more information refer to the campground description and contact the local public lands office for more information.

Pets and Livestock

Pets are welcome in all campgrounds. Dogs must be leashed and under control at all times. Do not allow pets to harass other visitors, dogs, or wildlife. Do not leave pets unattended at any campground. Campgrounds do not allow pack stock unless specifically designated. For designated campgrounds and more information refer to the campground descriptions and contact the local public lands office for more information.



Campground Rules

Upon entering a campground take a moment to read the posted regulations and information. Please remember that many campgrounds and camping areas are patrolled and it is your responsibility to know and follow the current regulations.

The following are general regulations for all campgrounds.

Quiet Time

Please be a good neighbor in campgrounds. Don't make loud noise or play loud music, especially at night. Posted quiet hours are typically from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. At other hours of the day, be respectful of others and limit the use of generators to no more than one hour at a time.

Vehicles

Drive slowly through campground loops and watch carefully for children and pedestrians.

Off-highway vehicles, such as motorcycles, ATVs, and UTVs, are generally, but not always, permitted to travel on campground roads to and from campsites and other locations; look for posted signs for regulations. Recreational driving of OHVs within campgrounds is not permitted anywhere.

Campfires

Before you light a fire, make sure that there are no fire restrictions in effect; it is your responsibility to know and follow the current regulations. For more information contact the local agency office and look for posted signs. Buying firewood from a local source, such as campground hosts, is the best practice. Cutting of standing trees, shrubs, and other vegetation is prohibited. Campfires must be kept inside fire rings and put out when no one is physically attending the fire. Pour water on the fire and stir the ashes until there is no heat.

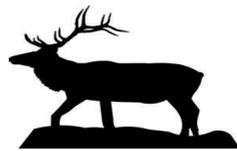


Trash

Use the trash receptacles and dumpsters provided in campgrounds. In some campgrounds you may be required to pack out your own trash. Never burn or bury trash. Keep and leave your campsite clean.

Protect Vegetation

Do not break off limbs, drive nails into, or carve into bark of trees. Such damage allows insects and disease to enter and can weaken or kill trees. When possible walk on dirt or gravel paths to keep grass and plants alive. Leave wildflowers for others to enjoy and to seed next year's beauty.



Campgrounds During Hunting Season

Colorado's wildlife is managed by the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, which has jurisdiction over all hunting seasons on federal lands. For recorded information on hunting season dates and licenses call 303-291-7529.

Shooting is not allowed within 150 feet of developed recreation areas, trails or roads. During hunting seasons, backcountry visitors should wear orange or brightly colored clothing and stay on well used trails.

In the fall, some campgrounds may stay open with limited services at discounted prices, while others remain open with full services at full price. Generally, if the gate to a campground is open, the campground is open to use at some level. Read and obey campground entry signs.

For information on which campgrounds may be open during hunting seasons contact the managing agency. This situation is weather dependent and hard to predict.

Dispersed Camping

Finding a site to camp and enjoy remote areas in relative solitude has become increasingly popular. Dispersed camping outside of campgrounds is usually allowed, but some areas may be posted as closed. Due to intermingling of private and public lands, be sure to use a current land status map showing public and private land ownership.

How You Care for Your Favorite Camping Spot

Developed campgrounds are designed and maintained to protect vegetation, soils and natural settings. When camping in undeveloped areas, campers are responsible for taking care to protect vegetation, soils, water sources, and natural settings with thoughtful placement of vehicles and tents.

- To avoid damaging vegetation, camp in areas previously used.
- Select a level site with good drainage. Do not try to level a site or dig trenches.
- Protect riparian areas by camping and parking at least 200 feet (70 adult-sized steps) from all water sources.
- Leave plants, rocks, and historical artifacts as found.
- Do not build structures or furniture.
- Use existing fire rings, fire pans, or stoves.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing provisions securely. Do not leave food out and unattended. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Do not allow pets to harass wildlife or other visitors.

Dispose of Human Waste Properly

The use of portable toilets is highly recommended and may be required in some dispersed camping areas. In areas where portable toilets are not required and if no portable toilet is available, solid body waste and urine should be buried in a hole six to twelve inches deep. The disposal site should be located well away from streams, campsites, and other use areas. Place toilet paper, wipes, diapers and hygiene products in a plastic bag and add it to your camp trash bag.

Washing

To wash yourself, dishes or clothing, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes. Use biodegradable soap. Strain dishwater and pack out food remnants. Scatter wash water away from your campsite.

Fire

Fires may be prohibited in some areas or during times of high fire danger. Follow posted regulations regarding fire use. Carry a lightweight stove for cooking. When and where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. If you use these carefully, it is possible to leave a campsite with no scars or evidence of your use.

Keep fires small, using sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Do not snap branches off live trees. Do not put items such as plastics, cans, bottles, or aluminum foil into a fire ring. Do not attempt to burn food, as it will not burn completely and will attract wildlife to your camp.

Before you leave camp, always douse your fire with water, stir it with a stick, and douse it again to make sure it is completely out.

Getting Along With Residents

Wild animals are the residents of this diverse terrain and vegetation. Campground visitors are likely to see squirrels, chipmunks, marmots, deer, elk, skunks, porcupines, raccoons, and many of the some 300 species of birds. Backcountry visitors may catch a glimpse of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, black bear, beaver, river otters, or even mountain lions. View wildlife from a safe distance and treat wild animals with respect—for your safety as well as theirs.

Unwanted Visitors

Don't attract unwanted visitors to your campsite. Small and large mammals may be lured into your campsite by the aroma of goodies or trash; they can cause a lot of damage. Some rodents have a taste for leather and anything sweaty or salty; store these items carefully. Never feed wild animals or encourage them to become unafraid of humans; this is as dangerous to you as it is to them.

Dogs and Wildlife DO NOT Mix!

Dogs must be leashed or otherwise physically restrained in campgrounds and should be under voice control at your side at all times elsewhere. Dogs can severely stress and endanger wild animals by chasing them. In addition, many wild creatures pose dangers to dogs. Your pet can be attacked by predators or suffer when a skunk or porcupine defends itself against curiosity or attack.

Store Food Properly

Black bears can cause a lot of damage to your belongings and if a bear is desensitized to humans by your behavior it may have to be destroyed. Food, containers, packaging, cooking utensils, garbage, and pet food or bird feeders must also be stored in a bear-proof manner. Store these items inside a hard-sided vehicle or camper; hung at least 10 feet above ground and 4 feet away from a tree or other support; inside an approved bear-resistant container; or within an electrified enclosure.



Motorized Transportation

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)

It is your responsibility to know and abide by regulations relating to motor vehicle travel. Federal law prohibits operation of any mechanical or motorized equipment within the boundaries of Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, or other special closure areas.

All OHVs and over-snow vehicles operated on public lands in Colorado must have a current Colorado State registration. For more information, visit <http://parks.state.co.us/OHVandSnowmobiles/Pages/OHVandSnowmobiles.aspx>.

Bureau of Land Management

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) designations on BLM administered public lands are: Open, Limited, and Closed.

Open: off-road use is allowed, as long as it does not result in significant, undue damage to or disturbance of soil, wildlife, wildlife habitat, improvements, cultural, or vegetative resources, or other authorized uses of the public lands.

Limited: vehicle use is restricted as defined in the appropriate land use plan. Limitations could include such designations as “limited to existing roads and trails,” “limited to designated roads and trails,” or seasonal limitations such as “no vehicle use during elk calving season”.

Closed: motorized vehicle use is not allowed.

Forest Service

Other than winter snowmobile use in unrestricted areas, motorized travel is restricted to designated roads and trails as shown on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The MVUMs are free to the public and available at all forest service offices and online at www.fs.fed.us.

National Parks and Recreation Areas

Motorized travel is allowed only on designated roads.

