

Cades Cove Campground

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cades Cove Camping Area



Campground Information and Regulations

Camping in
Bear Country



The black bear symbolizes the invaluable wilderness qualities of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, but bears are dying unnecessarily due to the improper storage of food, improper disposal of garbage and illegal feeding by visitors. A bear's remarkable sense of smell may lead it to human foods, such as a camper's cooler, garbage left in the open, or food scraps thrown on the ground or in the fire ring. While bears may at first be kept away by the presence of humans, ultimately the temptation of an easy meal will draw them in, especially during the night. A bear that has discovered human food or garbage will eventually become day-active and leave the safety of the backcountry. It may panhandle along roadsides and be killed by a car or it may injure a visitor and have to be euthanized. *Please* follow the food storage regulations listed below and do your part to help protect black bears and other wildlife in the Great Smokies.

Food Storage and Firewood

All food, drinks and equipment used to prepare and store food (stoves, pots, coolers, etc.) **must** be kept sealed in a vehicle (preferably the trunk) or in a camping unit constructed of solid, non-pliable material or as otherwise directed at all times when not in use. Dispose of garbage promptly in dumpsters. Unattended or improperly stored coolers and food may be impounded and stored at the campground office.

- **Firewood Restriction:** Only heat-treated firewood which is in its original packaging and bears a certification from the USDA or a state agency may be brought into the park. You may also collect wood which is dead and down in the park to burn at your campsite.
- **These regulations will be strictly enforced and violators are subject to fines.**

Registration, Reservations, and Site Limits

Registration: You must register and pay a fee. Check in at the campground office or follow posted instructions. Checkout or re-register by noon.

Reservations: Some campgrounds in the park operate on a reservation basis all or part of the time; others are first-come, first-served. Group and horse campsites *require* a reservation. Visit www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 to reserve a family, group or horse campsite, or a picnic shelter.

Length of stay/Occupancy: Your stay is limited to fourteen consecutive days. You may have up to six people per campsite. **Parking:** No more than two motor vehicles or one vehicle with trailer are allowed per campsite. Please keep wheels, including trailer wheels and guest cars, on the pavement. Park only in designated spaces.

Tents: All tents must be pitched on the pad, where provided.

Restrictions

Fires: Campfires are permitted only in fire grates. Do not leave fires unattended. Do not put food or waste in fire pits.

Pets: Pets are allowed in the campground but must be confined or on a 6' leash. Pets are not allowed on trails and should not be left unattended. Please prevent excessive barking and properly dispose of pet waste.

Wastewater: RV sewage must be drained at a dump station. Showers and utility hookups are not available in the Park. Showers may be available in nearby towns. Do not wash or bathe in streams or at water fountains. Portable showers require a catch basin. Dish and bath water must be drained in toilets or at dump stations, not on the ground.

Quiet hours and generators: Quiet hours are in effect from 10PM to 6AM. Generator use is prohibited

from 8PM to 8AM. Generator use and battery charging by engine idling is prohibited in generator-free areas. During quiet hours, noise-producing equipment should be turned off and entry to the campground is limited to registered campers.

Alcohol: Alcohol is permitted **only** in campgrounds and picnic areas, provided the person in possession is at least 21 years old.

Bicycles, inline skates and skateboards: Bicycle riders must comply with all traffic regulations including helmet laws, and are restricted to public roads, parking areas, and designated routes. The use of inline skates, skateboards or scooters is prohibited.

Prohibited items: Fireworks, traps, and the use of chainsaws are prohibited.