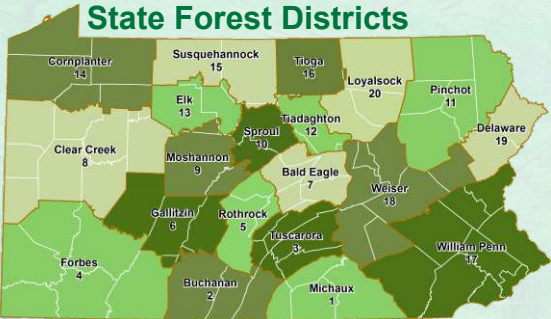


DCNR—Bureau of Forestry  
State Forest District Offices

#1 Michaux	10099 Lincoln Way East Fayetteville, PA 17222-9609	717-352-2211
#2 Buchanan	25185 Great Cove Rd. McConnellsburg, PA 17233-8204	717-485-3148
#3 Tuscarora	4455 Big Spring Road Blain, PA 17006-6173	717-536-3191
#4 Forbes	P.O. Box 519 1291 Route 30 Laughlintown, PA 15655-0519	724-238-1200
#5 Rothrock	181 Rothrock Lane Huntingdon, PA 16652-1100	814-643-2340
#6 Gallitzin	155 Hillcrest Drive Ebensburg, PA 15931-0506	814-472-1862
#7 Bald Eagle	18865 Old Turnpike Road Millmont, PA 17845-9376	570-922-3344
#8 Clear Creek	158 South Second Avenue Clarion, PA 16214-2404	814-226-1901
#9 Moshannon	3372 State Park Road Penfield, PA 15849-1722	814-765-0821
#10 Sproul	15187 Renovo Road Renovo, PA 17764-9521	570-923-6011
#11 Pinchot	1841 Abington Road North Abington Twp., PA 18414	570-945-7133
#12 Tiadaghton	10 Lower Pine Bottom Road Waterville, PA 17776-9678	570-753-5409
#13 Elk	258 Sizerville Road Emporium, PA 15834-3944	814-486-3353
#14 Cornplanter	323 North State Street North Warren, PA 16365-4867	814-723-0262
#15 Susquehannock	P.O. Box 673 3150 East Second Street Coudersport, PA 16915-0673	814-274-3600
#16 Tioga	One Nessmuk Lane Wellsboro, PA 16901-9700	570-724-2868
#17 William Penn	845 Park Road Elverson, PA 19520-9523	610-582-9660
#18 Weiser	P.O. Box 315 16 Weiser Lane Aristes, PA 17920-0315	570-875-6450
#19 Delaware	2174A Route 611 Swiftwater, PA 18370-7746	570-895-4000
#20 Loyalsock	6735 Route 220 Dushore, PA 18614-8101	570-946-4049



From frontcountry camping areas to trailside campsites, there are ways for everyone to experience a night in the forest!



8170-PA-DCNR3102  
G1857-Mar-23



A paid camping permit is always required for motorized, roadside camping. Reserve your site online 24/7 by visiting [dcnr.pa.gov](http://dcnr.pa.gov) and selecting the Reservations icon or by calling 1-888-727-2757, Monday - Saturday 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Primitive, trailside camping may require a free permit.

For more information visit the website or contact your local forest district office.

Enjoy your stay in PA state forests!



Many of the best hunting grounds, finest fishing streams, and grandest views in Pennsylvania are found throughout our state forests.

Pennsylvania  
Bureau of Forestry

Camping Guidelines and Ethics

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources

[www.dcnr.pa.gov/forestry](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/forestry)



Pennsylvania state forests are a wonderful place to sleep under the stars! There are numerous opportunities to spend the night outdoors.

Enjoy the beauty of the remote forests; clear, cool streams; and mountain vistas; and explore the many miles of trails and points of interest during your stay.

Remember to recreate responsibly!



## Pennsylvania State Forests



### Terms and Definitions

**Motorized**, or roadside camping, is overnight camping in or near a vehicle where the vehicle continues to be used for storage or transportation.

**Primitive**, or trailside camping, is overnight camping where all equipment is transported manually (by non-motorized methods, including watercraft, bicycle, horse), and where a motorized vehicle is not located near or part of the camping experience. Backpacking is the most popular form.

**Group Camping** is camping of any kind in a group of more than 10 persons. In addition to the permit, a Letter of Authorization must be obtained from the district forester.

**Designated Campsites** are relatively small, distinctly defined areas, accessible from a state forest road or trail. Each site is identified with a sign indicating the site number at its entrance. The use of designated dispersed campsites will reduce widespread soil compaction, loss of vegetation, negative riparian effects, and accumulation of trash and human waste.

Roadside camping and primitive, trailside camping can sometimes be confused. If you are camping close enough to your vehicle to access it to store gear and supplies, you are not primitive camping, but are roadside or motorized camping.

### General Camping Guidelines and Ethics

#### 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare:

- Camping without a current camping permit from the PA State Parks and Forests Reservation System is prohibited, unless you are primitive backpack camping at a site for no more than one night. There is a fee for roadside camping permits.

- A camping permit will not be issued to anyone under the age of 18.

- A camping permit will be valid for no more than seven consecutive nights. Individuals must then vacate a site for at least 48 hours.

- The permit holder must occupy the site listed on the camping permit within 24 hours of the arrival date listed on the camping permit.

- If more than 10 people are in your group, a Letter of Authorization (LOA) is required, in addition to a camping permit, from the district forester. Allow 30 days to process your request.

- The district forester or designee may revoke a valid camping permit if the camping permit holder is found in violation of State Forest Rules and Regulations or permit conditions. Camping privileges can be suspended. Applicants shall receive written notification following a permit denial.

- Check with your local forest district for additional guidelines.

#### 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:

- For primitive campsites, use of established sites is encouraged, or make sure your campsite is in a well-drained area and where you don't need to clear vegetation. Keep your campsite small. Motorized camping must be done at designated sites.

#### 3. Dispose of Waste Properly:

- Deposit solid human waste in cat holes dug 4-6 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cat hole when finished. Self-contained portable toilets are encouraged and may be required to be used at designated dispersed campsites.

- Wash yourself, your dishes, and your clothes using a container. Washing in a spring, lake, or waterway is prohibited. Dispose of waste water at least 200 feet from water resources.

- *All trash and refuse must be carried out. Leave the camping area better than you found it.*

- *Remember; It's Carry In—Carry Out.*

#### 4. Leave What You Find:

- Preserve the past; leave natural and cultural features undisturbed; avoid spreading non-native plants.

- Cutting, picking, digging, damaging or removing living or dead plant material is prohibited. Edible wild plants, nuts, and berries may be gathered for personal or family consumption.

#### 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Use of camp stoves or grills is encouraged. Charcoal fires are permitted in appliances designed for them, provided hot charcoal is disposed of in a facility designed for charcoal disposal.

- Campfires are permitted inside a non-combustible fire ring (constructed to be less than two feet in diameter), and fire rings or fireplaces provided by the Department for cooking and warming purposes EXCEPT when the fire danger is high, very high, or extreme and from March 1 through May 25, unless authorized by the Department. Attend to your fire at all times.



**ONLY YOU CAN  
PREVENT WILDFIRES.**

- Scatter stone fire rings at campsites before leaving. Leave stone fire rings intact at established and designated dispersed campsites.

- Put your fire OUT COLD. You assume the liability for damages, extinction costs, fines, and can face criminal charges if you cause a wildfire.

- Only downed and dead wood within the immediate campsite may be gathered for firewood. Collect only the amount needed for your stay. Power saws are not permitted without a fuelwood permit.

- Do not bring firewood with you. Use firewood that you gather or purchase locally. Burn any firewood before leaving. Do not take firewood with you. Help save our forests from devastating insects like the emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, and Sirex wood wasps.

#### 6. Respect Wildlife:

- Do not feed wildlife. Store food and trash securely.

- Observe wildlife from a distance.

- Avoid sensitive times and habitats.

- If you bring pets, keep them quiet and in control at all times.



#### 7. Be Considerate of Other Users:

- Respect other visitors and let nature's sounds prevail.

### Additional Primitive, Trailside Camping Guidelines and Ethics

- Primitive campers spending no more than one (1) night at a campsite do not need a camping permit. However, a camping permit is required if:

- (A) you desire an emergency point-of-contact;

- (B) you stay at a campsite more than one night;

- (C) a campfire is desired during spring fire season;

- (D) you camp using a vehicle for storage or transportation;

- (E) you are "group camping";

- (F) you camp within the Pine Creek Gorge/Canyon in Tiadaghton or Tioga State Forests; or;

- (G) you desire to camp at a designated campsite.

- All camping must be at least 100 feet from any stream or other open water source.

- All campsites must be at least 25 feet from the nearest edge of a trail, and the camp should be out of sight of the trail where possible.

### Additional Motorized, Roadside Camping Guidelines and Ethics

- Prior to your motorized camping trip, **you must acquire a camping permit from the PA State Parks and Forests Reservation System.**

- Campsite information can be found at [maps.dcnr.pa.gov/bof/camping](https://maps.dcnr.pa.gov/bof/camping) or by visiting [dcnr.pa.gov](https://dcnr.pa.gov) and selecting Reservations.

- Motorized, or roadside, camping must be done at designated sites and always requires a permit.

- There are five types of motorized campsites: roadside, roadside hike-in, state forest rustic, state forest equestrian, and organized group tenting areas. Note that some designated trailside campsites are also available in the reservation system.

- Some campsites do not receive routine maintenance and may not accommodate all types of camping. Check site details, notes, and photos to help determine if site is suitable for your equipment and desired experience.

- Campsites are often remote, isolated, and accessed by dirt and gravel roads. Be aware of conditions and carry a map.



**Some state forest campsites can accommodate larger units, but remember there are no modern facilities, water, dump stations, or utility hook-ups on State Forest lands.**

### Additional Equestrian Guidelines

- Camping with horses may be restricted to designated sites. Contact the forest district for details.

- Camping permit holders must not tie horses or mules directly to trees. Acceptable methods to tie your horse or mule include:

- High lines with tree savers
- Tied to your trailer
- Hitching rails, if provided, or
- Stalls, if provided

Exceptions to this list require authorization issued by the district forester or designee.

- **Manure must be removed from the campsite upon departure where disposal facilities aren't provided.**